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BENGAL DISTRICT RECORDS.

RANGPUR.

VOL. I.

1770-1779.

EDITED BY

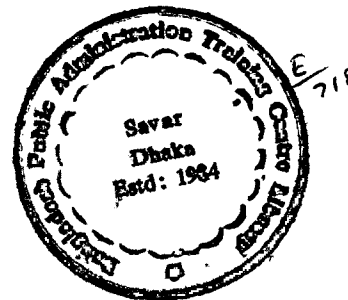
WALTER K. FIRMINGER, B.D., F.R.G.S.

ARCHDEACON OF CALCUTTA.

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PREFACE

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Letters Nos. 1 to 10 (inclusive) in the present volume do not form part of the collection of old records preserved at Rangpur, but were derived from some printed proofs of letters belonging to the Murshidabad Comptrolling Council of Revenue. These letters relate to the work done in the Rangpur District by Mr. John Grose. It will be remembered that Governor Harry Verelst, a short time before his departure from Bengal, instituted a tentative system of rural administration for that part of the country which had come under the East India Company's control by the grant of the diwani in 1765. The institution of the "Supravisors" or "Supervisors" has often been assigned to Governor Cartier, but the plan reality was Verelst's. Under this system, Grose came to Rangpur as "Supervisor" in April 1770. In an Appendix to this Preface I print a few more of Grose's letters, copies of which I made at the India Office Record Department during a recent furlough. Grose died at Rungpore in April 1771, and on the consultations of the Murshidabad Comptrolling Council of Revenue, 27th May 1771, I found the following reference to his fatal illness:—

DINAGEPORE:
16th May 1771.

TO SAMUEL MIDDLETON, ESQ.,
Chief and Council of Revenue.

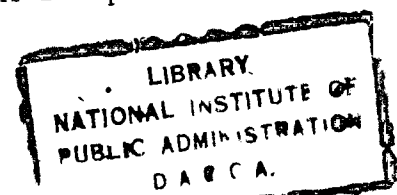
GENTLEMEN,

The sickness and death of my friend and neighbour, Mr. Grose, at Rungpore, has induced me to trouble you with a request that you will be so good as to use your interest with the Honourable President and Council that a Surgeon may be appointed to this station—which, I hope, cannot appear unreasonable considering the miserable situation we must be in here should we be attacked by illness without any prospects of relief, having no one to apply to for assistance within seven days journey of us.

I remain, etc.,
H. COTTRELL.

Letters from No. 10 onwards are preserved at the Collectorate Record-Room at Rangpur. The local archives contain a number of circular letters issued to all the Collectors and a large number of covering letters. The circulars should be dealt with in a separate volume: the covering letters will be dealt with in a calendar in such a way that no names of officers or offices, heads of accounts, etc., will be lost to historical research.

Writers of District Histories based on district records have often to confess that the records for certain periods are not to be found in the local record-rooms. The inference that the missing papers have perished is not



infrequently correct, but if a greater attention had been paid to the history of the evolution of the Rural Administration under the English in Bengal, it would have been found that the reason why Rangpur, for instance, has no locally preserved records for certain periods is because its affairs were in the hands of officials resident at Dinajpur. One most valuable series of Rangpur papers has recently been discovered at Dacca. The materials for district histories will not really be available until the records of the Controlling Council of Murshidabad and the Provincial Councils of Revenue have been dealt with, but the separate publications of station records will in the meantime be an enormous gain to students of history.

Sir William Hunter, in his volumes of *Bengal MS. Records*, in which that distinguished writer gives a far too brief précis of select papers preserved at the Revenue Department Record Room, adopts the scientific orthography of place-names and revenue terms,—a method which might suggest the idea that eighteenth century collectors anticipated Sir William Jones' system, and that George Boyle, for instance would have written *Khan* for *Cawn*, *Khanpur* for *Cawnpore*, *baghi* for *buggey*, etc., etc. The method of attempting to make writers in by gone times write what we think they ought to have written is not satisfactory. Mr. Richard Barwell used to call the place we now, by convention, accept as Allahabad "Elliabas." Something would be lost to history if we altered Barwell's word in an edition of Barwell's letters.

The late Mr. William Irvine in his Preface to Vol. II. Part II of Dr. C. R. Wilson's *Early Annals of the English in Bengal* has written that Dr. Wilson evidently held "as many others do, that for the time being the available sources for the purely literary treatment of history have been exhausted. To secure any profitable extension of our knowledge, at any rate in the Indian field, we must devote ourselves to the consultation of original records." With this expression of opinion the present writer desires to associate himself.

Mr. Glazier's valuable *Report on the District of Rungpore* has been included in the present publication as a *memoir pour servir*. It appeared in 1872. It has not been held necessary to include in this reprint of Mr. Glazier's *Report* the documents he reproduced, as they appear in the body of the present work.

WALTER KELLY FIRMINER.

APPENDICES TO PREFACE.

No. 1.

At Rangpur, the Supervisor, Mr. Grose, made, not from measurement, but from the papers of the preceding year, a complete hustabood, an account of which I borrow from Mr. E. G. Glazier's *Further Notes on the Rungpore Records*.

ASSUL JUMMA	...	...	...	6,22,917	2	14	3
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ABWABS, viz. :—

Chout, or quarter of the revenue agreed to be paid to the Mahrattas	...	...	...	1,55,769	0	0	0
Surf Sicca, or tax to bring the money collection to a full standard	...	...	...	1,16,796	9	0	0
Firary, or tax to make good deficiencies occasioned by desertion	...	...	...	66,765	4	0	0
Moorkafee Jurib, or tax agreed upon to avoid measurement	...	...	...	25,036	15	10	0
Mahatoot palataka, or tax to make good deficiencies occasioned by desertion	...	...	...	41,728	4	16	0
Derivillah, being tax levied to make up deficiencies	...	...	...	2,08,353	11	9	0
Total	...	...	...	12,37,367	14	13	3

Mr. Grose then granted the following deductions :—

Talook Abeer Sirdar belonging to Dinagepore	...	...	...	1,008	7	12	0
Subsistence to ryots	...	...	...	47,669	14	7	3
Loss by deduction	...	...	...	41,123	4	18	2
Sum twice inserted by mistake	...	...	...	3,382	7	16	3
Suranjamy mofussil	...	...	...	83,610	14	11	0
„ farmer	...	...	...	70,538	5	4	2
Canoongoe's dufter	...	...	...	7,757	0	4	2
Total	...	...	...	2,55,090	0	6	15
Remainder	...	...	...	9,82,277	7	8	3

Increase of 1178.

Tunkeebeshee, or increase by investigation	...	...	...	30,587	0	0	0
Nuzzeraulgy beshee, or arbitrary increase	...	...	...	81,960	0	0	0
Mahtoot foudary	...	...	...	6,919	0	10	0
Total	...	...	...	1,19,466	8	10	0

Jumma for 1178 fixed by Mr. Grose	...	11,01,743	15	18	3
Collected in 1178		9,14,615	0	3	1
Balance never realized	...	1,87,128	15	15	2

3

No. 2. SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE;
 20th April 1770.

SIR,

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 6th instant. The Accounts I transmitted you in my letter of the 1st June, you will observe are made out in Narrainy Rupees, in which species the Collections are made out throughout these Districts. The Bundeust I informed you was 9,17,250 of which only 6,32,797 were remitted to the City,¹ so that a Ballance remained of 2,84,453 sunk under the heads of Charges and Deductions Accot. Drought which I at the same time observed was very considerable, and informed you that as the Zemindars had petitioned me to settle a Bundeust I doubt not but I could add 1 Laak Rupees to the next Revenues, without interfering in the least with the preceding years. A certain it is, that so great an addition to 6,00,000 carries with it a very flattering prospect, more especially as it was meant to be saved by preventing abuses and curtailing many heavy and unnecessary charges, and I flatter myself that you will allow by the foregoing account, my hopes were not ill-grounded, as you may be assured I should be very cautious how I made such an assertion, before I saw a probability of making it good; for after that addition you will observe there will be 1,84,453 left for Charges, which will be more than sufficient for that purpose especially if the aumil was to be allowed a certain monthly salary in lieu of Commission and Seabundy which I then proposed, and even were these to be continued, I should not despair of being able to fulfill the promise, tho' last year these articles amounted to no less than 5,20,000.

That 10,10,000 were collected in the Moffussul last season is certain, but this sum was never received into the Sudder Cutcherry: if it had, it must have been brought to account. However the poor Ryots who are the people who should receive every encouragement, especially in such hard times, benefitted nothing by the allowance, made account the Drought; on the contrary, it was of prejudice to them, as the Zemindars and Farmers who were first excused the sum of 1,49,000 collected that amount from them as well as 92,000 which Mahomed Hussein put on under the head of Mahtoot account that deduction, not that I believe he, the aumil received any part of this, only the Zemadars and creatures of Government employed in the collections, I can imagine to have been concerned. The account of what was forgiven, as well as the Mahtoot, is fully particularized in the statement I transmitted you. Tho' this sum was last year collected from the Ryotts, I am of opinion, it is more than they at present can well afford

¹ i.e., Murshidabad.

APPENDICES TO PREFACE.

to have excluded in the stipulation of this year, and that the Bundeust they petitioned me to settle is the most equitable.

In a former letter I advised you of the arrival of Mahomed Hussein, that the Pooneah had been held, and the collection begun. As yet I am entirely unacquainted with the Bundeust settled at the City, for this District and Gobind Gunge, nor do I chuse to let these people know how ignorant I am of these matters by asking them. The aumil of this place has as yet given me no particular cause of complaint and tho' I am apt to imagine Mahsook may probably take this opportunity, in my not being able to reside on the spot, to continue his former malpractices. The Ryotts there have already suffered such oppressions, that owing to the numbers that have absconded and dyed, very few are now left to cultivate the grounds, and these greatly discontented : no less than one hundred arrived here two nights ago with a very heavy complaint against Gour Mohun the Aumil's Dewan for exactions, I have got them to go back, but with much difficulty, tho' I promised their complaints should be fully enquired into, when the height of the collections was over. I have wrote the Aumil on the subject desiring him to take the necessary measures to prevent a repetition of such arts : enclosed is a copy of the argee presented me. The complaints made against Houssein Riza Cawn for encroachments on the Government Lands under pretending of belonging to his Jaghur at Lalvary, I have great reason to imagine are not unjust and groundless. This is very certain, that his people who acted for him at that place behaved in a very insolent manner to those sent by Mr. Robertson, when at Govind Gunge in consequence of the complaints and to those sent by me from hence, whom they returned with a verbal answer that they know nothing of me and were only responsible to M. R. Cawn for their conduct. As I intend agreeable to your recommendations to issue an order for all Talookdars, Zemindars, Jaggidars, &c., to deliver in their sunnuds before some day in the month of February, I hope then to be able to judge more nicely of the nature of the present complaint. By what I learn I find this man before the Devannee fell into the hands of the Hon'ble Company recd. the annual sum of 3,300 Rs., in lieu of which he soon after that time received the Jaghur he now holds.

When Deby Chund, the late renter of Bahirbund, arrives your orders regarding him shall be put in execution, as far as the season will admit of : as the person who is to be intrusted with the collection of that district this year, will receive such a warning from you, I hope it will be the means of preventing the like oppressions.

Tho' such precautions have been taken for preventing Zemindars from harbouring Dekoits, they are yet extremely troublesome, not confining themselves to theft alone, but commit numberless murders. Owing to the great depredations they daily make in every part, what few seapoys are allowed for this District are employed against them, except a very small party that is kept for a guard here. Having received information two days ago of the route taking by Rehmat and Doulut, two of the most noted Dekoits in the country, we were for want of Seapoys forced to send Pykes under the Command of a Serdar. When these people approached, the Dekoits surrounded them, cut the Serdar and two of the Pykes to pieces, and committed other acts of cruelty, when they run off into that part of Radshai adjoining to this District, which I find is a great receptacle for those

people and that they receive the same encouragement as they do here, and by flying from one District to another when they cannot be followed with a particular Perwannah they make their escape. Whilst the Zemindars find it their interest to encourage these people, Muchalkas, I am afraid, you have taken will not prevent their continuing these hurtful practices. However they may prove of some service, if you think proper to charge me with them, as I may very soon have occasion to call on some of them on this score. If a proper number of Seapoys could be posted in every purgunnah, I doubt not of our being able to take or extirpate these lawless plunders from the face of the country. To effect this desirable end, an addition of two or three companies is absolutely necessary. Could such a number be sent, I should hope not long to have cause to make such complaints. Another advantage that would attend having an additional force, is that as this province being a frontier, we should be ready to receive the Sinasses or any other vagabund plunderers, that may make an inroad into this country—which is not improbable considering the success the Sinasses met with last year, which gives many people here reason to imagine, they will make another effort of this kind.

Agreeable to your desire I shall desist from pressing the Zemindars of Boda and Bycuntpore for any papers or accounts, tho' must beg leave to observe that these two places have long since been annexed to this District. They pay a certain sum annually without giving an account in what manner their collections are made, so that I imagine, was an examination to be allowed of, they would be found to be of considerable more value to the Company than they now are, besides, whilst they are to remain on this footing, I shall not be able to ascertain the real value of the country.

I am with respect,

SIR

Your most Obedt. H'ble Servt,

JOHN GROSE.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,

Res'dt at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :

30th August 1770.

SIR,

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 13th inst. ordering me to withdraw my people from Edrakpore and to desist from taking any accounts, in consequence of the Aumil's representation that it prevents him from making the collections. As the Accts, at the Sudder Cutchery are annually settled and laid by and only referred to at times for a guide to those who may have charges of the District, I could not think my people taking copies of these papers for my instruction, could be the means of obstructing the collections in the Moffussul. I therefore hope, that the falsity of the above assertion will appear obvious to you. This man has, ever since my arrival here, endeavor'd to thwart me in all my measures, and his complaint is now, not so much founded on a desire of forwarding the collections, as with a view of preventing me from gaining that knowledge which is so absolutely necessary I should have of that District, as well as every other under my charge. I hope this will appear to you in the same light, and

that my people may be allowed to continue taking these accounts, as they do not interfere in any respect with the collections. It is very astonishing that the aumil should prefer such a complaint to you, when he has wrote me that he has furnished my people with the accounts, which he says will be ready in a few days. Had he informed me that the collections were at a stand, or were likely to suffer in the least, in consequence of my orders, I should have applied to you for liberty to take them, but as he never made a representation of the kind, and as I imagined no harm could attend the execution of these orders, I did not chuse to trouble you on the subject. When you consider the repeated representations I have been found to make against this man, for the oppression he has been guilty of, and for the slighting manner, in which he has treated me throughout, the removal of my people will I think be attended with bad consequences, for when he finds there is no kind of check upon his actions, he will probably continue his old course, and take an opportunity of making a severe example of those who have dared to complain against them—these people finding so little dependance is to be placed in our words will be afraid to [make] their complaints, and, of course, must suffer the like oppressions as they have hitherto done. For these reasons I have postponed calling my people from thence, in hopes of your permission for them to continue on the footing they now are.

I am with respect

SIR,

Your most obedt. h'ble servt.

JOHN GROSE.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :
1st Sept. 1770.

SIR,

Having received information that a party of Seapoys were committing great outrages in the Govind Gunge District, orders were sent to a havildar belonging to Capt. Mackenzie's Battalion stationed at that place to apprehend and bring them here, which he accordingly did, but with much difficulty. Upon enquiry I find these people have long infested the country, and some time ago entered into the private service of Mansook the aumil, who was going to despatch them as they say to Rangamatty. As by your orders all Seapoys in these Districts are under the command of Capt. Mackenzie, I cannot help thinking but this man has some private view in entertaining these people in his service, without either acquainting that gentleman or me, as I should imagine was his duty, and his wanting to send them to Rangamatty only seems to confirm me in this opinion.

It is well known that this aumil has before entertained a large force at that place, the people who composed which receiving no pay, were forced to pillage the county for their maintenance, to which may be attributed the chief cause of the late disturbances there—besides Seapoys who are allowed to range the country in their manner, are the very people who commit the greatest outrages, for being in a manner under no country, or regulation, imbibe a false notion that the Coat and Muskit which they

carry are a perwannah for committing such acts of violence as best suit their purpose, and consequently they omit no opportunity of plundering the poor people, and are in fact much worse than the Dekoits, who are now so great a pest to this country.

The party apprehended is composed of two Subbadárs, two Jemardars, one of which stiles himself an adjutant, one havildar, one nasik and 4 Seapoys. I have thought proper to despatch them to you, that you may enquire further of them concerning their late behaviour. We made some enquiry here during which they equivocated to a great degree. However at last they were brought to confess the truth that they were employed by Maisook on his own private account. The person who attends them is the Havildar who apprehended them, and can give you some account of their ill behaviour, as well as of Maisook's, who threw every obstacle in his way to prevent their being apprehended.

I am with respect,

SIR,

Your very obedt. h'ble servt.,

JN. GROSE.

TO RICHARD BECHER,

Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :

20th Augt. 1770.

Under charge of Sergeant Major Koller, I now send you Batchand Buswa and Collan Sing Subadar, who commanded his troops and was a very active man in the engagement against Lieut. Nairne. Agreeable to your desire I should have sent these people sooner, but waited for the departure of Lieut. Nairne, who I was in hopes would have been able long ere this to have sett off for City, which he has been prevented from by a very severe fit of illness ever since his arrival from Rangamatty. He is at present in a very indifferent state. However as change of air was recommended as most necessary for his recovery, he set off yesterday for Dinagepore in his way down. Should you want to receive any further information concerning the behaviour of Batchand, that gentlemen is best able to furnish you with it, as he was witness to many of his bad actions.

I remain with respect

SIR,

Your very obedt. h'ble servant,

JOHN GROSE.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,

Resdt. at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :

The 23rd Aug., 1770.

SIR,

In my address to you of the 22nd ultimo I informed you of my having confind. two Seapoys, who said they were sent up by M. R. Cawn to protect

Anunderam Shaw in his trade, when I requested your orders regarding them. As sufficient time has elapsed for an answer, which not having yet been favor'd with the seapoys have remained ever since in the guard, which I cannot but deem rather a hardship upon them, as the fault is not so much theirs as the person, who sent them up. I have therefore taken the liberty of sending them to you under the charge of Sergeant Major Koller.

I am with respect
SIR,
Your very obedt. h'ble servt.,
JOHN GROSE.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :
The 13th September, 1770.

SIR,

I have rec'd your commands of the 23rd ultimo with the perwanah for Mahrook. I shall use my endeavours to have it as expeditiously complied with as possible, and shall lend every necessary assistance to the officer you have sent to transport the cannon from Rangamatty.

Having rec'd information that some straggling seapoys are committing great outrages at Chilmary in the Baharbund District, Capt. Mackenzie's commandant was sent with four seapoys, who were all we had in the Moffussul of the two companies station'd here to apprehend them. They were only able to secure a subudar and eight seapoys with 3 tom-toms, the others having made their escape. Upon enquiry of the Soubahdar what was their business at Chilmary, he inform'd me they were in quest of service, that they formerly belonged to the Nabob but had been discharged. As there are the people who do so much mischief to the country, I have sent them down under charge of Pulwan Sing Havildar with the other seapoys mentioned in my letter of the 1st instant. Accompanying you will receive the several accounts they gave of themselves in writing before their departure.

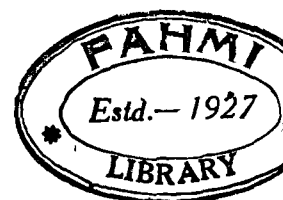
As repeated complaints have been preferr'd against Mahrook and others employed in the collections of Gory Gant for exactions, and as at this season of the year a great stop would be put to the cultivation as well as to the collections by such large bodies of ryots continually coming over to complain, I think my presence there necessary. I shall therefore, set off to-morrow, when I shall use every means to ascertain the truth of these accusations and shall take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the total desertion of the inhabitants, which is much to be feared if a speedy stop is not put to the present proceedings at that place.

I am, etc.,
JOHN GROSE.

THE DISTRICT OF RUNGPORE.

By E. G. GLAZIER, C.S.

PART I.—INTRODUCTORY.



I.—The Country.

RUNGPORE lies between north latitude $25^{\circ} 4'$ and $26^{\circ} 19'$, and east longitude $88^{\circ} 46'$ and $89^{\circ} 55'$. It is bounded on the north by the district of Julpigoree, on the north-east by the state of Cooch Bebar, on the east by the river Brahmaputra and the districts of Gowalpara and Mymensingh, on the south by the district of Bograh, and on the south-west and west by the district of Dinagore.

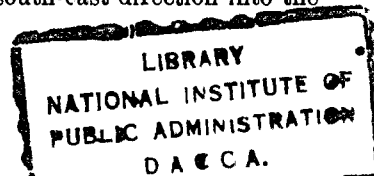
Its greatest length from north-west to south-east (the run of the district) is 96 miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west is 70 miles. Its area is 3,788 square miles.

The whole country is flat, there are no natural elevations of any kind. To the north are sandy plains of large extent, the remains of old water-courses, in the depressions of which are found loam and clay. The rest of the district is low, with alternate sandy and earthy soil, interspersed with small but numerous marshes, and quite half of the country is under water during the height of the rains. The dip of the land is from north-west to south-east, and the rivers all run or meander in that direction.

The following are the principal rivers :—

The Brahmaputra forms the eastern boundary of Rungpore, dividing it from Gowalpara and Mymensingh ; but some alluvial land belonging to this district lies on its left bank adjoining Gowalpara. It has been for some years steadily encroaching on its right bank. At Chilmari the police station has been twice removed further inland within the last five years, and at Kallygunge a large brick-house, belonging to a Calcutta firm, which was situated more than a mile from the river bank, has been washed into the stream, which is still breaking away westwards.

The Teesta or Trisrota, called by the hill people the Rungu, descends from the Himalayas between Sikkim and Bhootan, and enters Rungpore from Julpigoree. It has, at various times, traversed the whole of the district, and its old beds are to be met with everywhere. It has now a south easterly course of 110 miles within our borders and falls into the Brahmaputra, six miles north of Kallygunge. Previous to the year 1787, it had a south-west course, joined the Atrey river in the Dinagore district, and fell into the Pudda ; but during the great inundations of that year, which mark an epoch in the history of Rungpore, it forsook its old bed, burst into the Ghaghat river, overflowed the country, and, finally, forced an outlet through one of its old courses in a south-east direction into the Brahmaputra.



THE DISTRICT OF RUNGPORE.

Since that time it has had another change. In the early part of this century it forsook a westward bend of about forty miles in the upper part of its course, taking a less circuitous bend in the opposite direction. It has since adhered to its course then formed, but with alarming encroachments on its sandy banks in different places. A large mart, Ghoramara, on the western bank, has been pushed gradually backward, until not a vestige remains of the village from which it takes its name.

The Ghaghat passes through the centre of the district. It formerly branched off from the Teesta, and, previous to the change in the course of that river last century, was an important channel of communication in these parts; the residents' bungalows, the Company's factories, and the old capital, Mahigunge, stretched along its banks; but the rush of the great body of water in the new Teesta starved the Ghaghat, its opening from the Teesta has nearly silted up, and while it still exists as a sluggish stream-draining surface water, a western branch alone is open, leaving the bed of the old stream a stagnant marsh of five miles length through the station. The Ghaghat now, after a very circuitous course of 114 miles, passes into the Bograh district, and, there joining with other streams, finds its way into the Brahmaputra.

The Kurutiya skirts the west of Rungpore, and has a special interest from its having formed the boundary between the Kamrup and Bengal kingdoms at the time of the Mahabbarat, and since then been generally the boundary of the rule of the successive Bengal dynasties eastward. The several changes in the course of the Teesta have left in the west of the district a maze of old water-courses and stagnant *jheels*, and it is well nigh impossible to trace the course of the former river. Buchanan, who travelled in these parts in 1809, describes as the upper part of the Kurutiya what is now known as the Kurto river, which flows from the hills between the Mahanuddee and the Teesta, and, passing through the Julpigoree district, joins the Atrey in Dinagepore. The Kurutiya, as now known, takes its rise amongst marshes at the north-west corner of the district, and after forming for some distance the boundary between Rungpore and Dinagepore, crosses Govindgunge thannah into the Bograh district. It receives from the east two other streams of much more volume than itself—the Sarbamangla and the Juvaneshvari—the latter of which, separating Coondy from Sorooppore, represents, I imagine, the middle, while the Kurto stands for the upper, course of the ancient Kurutiya.

The other rivers to be noticed, are the Durlah, which for part of its course divides Rungpore from Cooch Behar, and the Sunkosh, which further to the east emerges from Cooch Behar. Both fall into the Brahmaputra, within the limits of the district.

Of our rivers, only the Brahmaputra and the Teesta are navigable for large boats throughout the year, but all are navigable during the rains.

None of the numerous *bheels*, or marshes, call for special notice. The largest is that of Burrobilla, thannah Pirgunge, which gives its name to a pergunnah. Several of the smaller *bheels* are situated in very inconvenient proximity to the civil station, forming its boundary to the north.

Main roads run to all the neighbouring district towns, to wit Dinagepore, Bograh, Julpigoree, and Cooch Behar, and also to Bugwah and Kallygunge on the Brahmaputra. The latter is the place of call of the

THE DISTRICT OF RUNGPORE.

Assam steamers, and a great deal of traffic passes between it and Rungpore town.

The roads are all of the 3rd class, unmetalled, and traffic is with difficulty carried on during the rains. None of the rivers are bridged; the culverts over the small streams and drains are of wood, and very rough structures. The amount allotted from the Road Fund was about a third of the sum the district contributed to the same by its ferry and road tolls, and was altogether inadequate to our wants. Under the new system, whereby we shall have the spending of all our toll proceeds, better results may be expected.

The country is well cultivated, and there are comparatively few wild animals. Leopards are met with in many parts, but tigers are confined to the tract lying between the Teesta and the Brahmaputra rivers, and on the *churs* of the latter. Last century, elephant, rhinoceros, bear, and wild buffalo, were to be met with. In 1789, the sum of Rs. 600 was estimated for the year as rewards for killing tigers. In 1871, only one item of Rs. 25 was paid for killing a man-eating tiger. During the twelve months of 1871, 31 persons were killed by wild animals, i.e., 22 by tigers, 2 by pigs, and 7 children eaten by jackals; while 64 died from snake-bite.

II.—The People.

The census returns of this year* show our population to be 2,150,179. Of these, 1,291,791 are Mahommedans, 857,179 are Hindus, and 1,209 of other religions; so that the proportion of Mahommedans to Hindus is as 3 to 2. The population per square mile is 567, and the number of people per house is 6.68.

All previous estimates of the population have been very wide of the mark. Our police returns before the census give only half the actual numbers, and those collected from the survey maps (1854-1860), from which something distantly approximating to accuracy might have been looked for, give a result very little nearer. The amins reported the number of houses in each village, and the total for the district (compiled in this office from the maps) is, not including thannah Govindgunge, which was surveyed in Bograh district, 206,150 houses and an estimated population of 1,001,116, against our present returns, Govindgunge excepted, of 287,650 houses and a population of 1,962,905.

Of earlier estimates we have the following:—

In 1789, the Collector returned the population (including Cooch Behar) as 459,512. This I have calculated would give for our present district, by striking out the figures relating to redundant and adding proportionately for deficient tracts, a population of about 400,000.

Buchanan, in 1809, calculates the population for the district under the Magistrate, which included present Gawalpara and Julpigoree, to be 2,735,000, or 2,084,000 for the district, according to its present limits. It is difficult to come to any definite conclusion as to the increase of population in this district from these discrepant data. For purposes of comparison, the survey and the police returns must be set aside as absolutely useless. Further, it is clear that Buchanan's estimate is very much beyond the truth.

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According to it, the population was almost the same in 1809 as that of the present time, after a prosperous period of over sixty years. When Buchanan went over the land it was fairly cultivated, but there was still a large quantity of good land left that had not come under the plough; and it is out of the question to suppose that there has been no increase of population since his time. Very little land is left uncultivated now; the complaint all over the country is that there is not enough grazing ground for the cattle.

Buchanan arrived at his figures in the following manner. He passed through a great part of the district, and from his personal observation and enquiries in every direction, he made a calculation of the quantity of cultivated land—then assuming that a plough would cultivate fifteen beegahs or five acres, for every plough he counted five persons of agricultural population—and added to his results certain proportions for the non-agricultural portion of the people. Now, taking as correct his calculation of cultivated land a very large assumption, it seems to me that the apportionment of five persons, agricultural population, to a plough is excessive. The families in this district are small; the boys begin early to follow the plough, and many are compelled to remain unmarried to a comparatively late age, because the well-to-do classes of the agriculturists monopolize more than their fair share of the women. I think a calculation of three to a plough would be much nearer the truth, and this would give the population in 1809, on Buchanan's data, at 1,200,000, which number tallies very fairly with the other facts of the case to be noticed.

Bykuntpore, a pergunnah at the extreme north of the district, (now in Julpigoree), had never come under Mahommedan rule, and all accounts tend to show that at the time of the permanent settlement the number of Mahommedans in the pergunnah was numerically of no account; yet here Buchanan reports that he found half of the population to be Mahommedans, and his return of the two thannahs comprised in the pergunnah would indicate that the Mahommedans outnumbered the Hindus. The explanation is, that the Bykuntpore Rajah after the settlement brought in a large number of Mahommedan immigrants from Dinagepore to cultivate the waste lands, so that, as regards this part of the country, the population had more than doubled in twenty years. The same was the case with other parts also. The generally disastrous period for years preceding the permanent settlement had depopulated the country. The zemindar of Munthona, chakla Futtehpoore, on whose estate the town of Rungpore stands, represented in 1790 that large tracts had become depopulated and overrun with jungle, in which there were tigers, buffaloes, deer, and wild beasts of all sorts.

Buchanan estimated that the population had increased one-third during the preceding twenty years. I would estimate the increase to have been such, mainly by immigration, as in many parts to double the population, and, taking the district as a whole, to give an increase of two-thirds on the population of 1789. If then we calculate a further increase of two-thirds for the sixty-three years, between 1809 and 1872, which seems a not excessive estimate, the figures would stand thus in round numbers :—

Population in 1789	...	720,000
Ditto 1809	...	1,200,000
Ditto 1872	...	2,150,179 (census figures.)

That the Collector should, in 1789, understate the number of the people was inevitable, since it was the interest of the zemindars to show as poor a state of the lands as possible; but one manifest error in his return may be corrected. The proportion of children to adults given by him is as 1 to 4. Our census returns give the proportion as nearly 1 to 2. The same proportion, no doubt, held eighty years ago. If then we add one-fifth to our number given above, we have a population in 1789 of 480,000, or two-thirds of the number obtained as the result of our deductions: and with the example of how far the police and survey returns were short of the truth, this estimate of 1789 does not appear wrong in any inconceivable degree; and the figures 720,000 we have arrived at above for that year are probably as near an approximation to the truth as can be obtained.

Rungpore contains one municipality at head-quarters stretching from Dbap on the west, to Mahigunge on the east; seven miles long, and with a varying width of from half a mile to a mile; pressed close between marshes on the north and the stagnant Ghaghat on the south. It was formed in 1869, and has an annual income of Rs. 6,000 to 6,500, with a population of 14,400. Buchanan, with the excess which characterized all his estimates, put down the population of the town of Rungpore at 15,000 to 20,000.

The relative proportion of Hindus and Mahommedans is the same now as it was in 1809. The former outnumber the latter in the three north central thannahs, Forunbari, Dimla, and Jaldaka, comprising chaklas Cazeerhat and Kankina; while the Mahommedans outnumber the Hindus in the other thannahs, and mainly in all that part of the district, and especially in Govindgunge, to the extreme south, which was first conquered by the Mussulman forces.

In thannah Borobari, pergunnah Panga, a stronghold of the Koch race—the Mahommedans—now exceed the Hindus in number; whereas in 1809 the latter had the preponderance; and also in Dimla thannah, the Hindus no longer have the same superiority in number to their rivals as they held at that time. On the other hand, the preponderance of Mahommedans in the central thannahs, Mahigunge and Nisbetgunge, chakla Futtehpore, has been reduced by immigration of Bengal Hindus from other districts.

The indigenous inhabitants of Rungpore are the Koch and other allied Kamrup tribes, who founded the last local dynasty previous to the irruption of the Mahommedans, and their marked Mongol physiognomy is unmistakable in all that portion of the district which lies round about Cooch (Koch) Behar. In Buchanan's time, the Kamrup tribes numbered half of the Hindu inhabitants of Govindgunge; but the line of demarcation has now been pushed further north. Above a line drawn about thirty miles north of Rungpore town, west of the Teesta, the women of the common people wear the old Kamrup dress, which offers a marked contrast to the common *saree* of Bengal. It consists of a square piece of colored cloth, indigo-striped, passed under the arms and round the back, so as to cross in front, where the upper corners are tucked in, leaving the head and shoulders bare, and reaching to the knees below. All the women, Hindus and Mahommedans alike, dress in this fashion; and they also attend the markets and transact the buying and selling, to the almost total exclusion of the men.

A long list might be procured, giving terms peculiar to the district, which are probably derived from Assam dialects. The main peculiarities in the pronunciation of the people are the elision of initial R, and the substitution of the aspirate H for the initial S. A very common practice is the use of the Hindustani verb *kharid karite*, to express 'to sell' as well as 'to buy.' Among the common people who register deeds of sale, a great number will in this way declare that they have bought their land, when they mean just the opposite.

The people, generally, are of a low type of intelligence, and morals are among the Mahommedans at the lowest ebb. This is mainly owing to the prevalence of polygamy. Every Mahommedan, who can afford it, has two or more wives; and since the proportion of the sexes is nearly equal, the males outnumbering the females slightly, there are not women enough left for the poorer classes, and a system of practical polyandry prevails, and incest is not uncommon. No man's wife is safe: the young (unmarried) men seduce even mothers of families away from their homes; and men, who have one or more wives, of their own will deprive a poorer man of his single wife. Fathers and other male relatives, taking advantage of the scarcity in the marriage market, will, after giving away a woman in marriage and taking her price, get possession of her on occasion of a visit home, and marry her to a second husband, obtaining by this means a second time the purchase-money. Even the women will go through what passes among them for the ceremony of marriage with any number of men in succession in whose possession she may be for the time being, and a wife often runs away more than once from the same husband, who is only too glad to get her back.

Our criminal returns show an average of one hundred cases per year under the marriage sections of the Penal Code; but this does not include one-half of the charges brought, in the greater number of which no processes are issued; (during the month of September last there were 26 cases of this kind out of a total of 244 cases instituted by petition;) nor, probably, a fifth part of the cases that would be brought, if there were a reasonable prospect of securing the conviction of the offender. But the evidence is always very unsatisfactory in these cases; and it is often difficult to decide whose wife a woman is, or whether she is the legal wife of any, who has, perhaps, married man after man in succession, and between times lived in the bazar, and has probably never been regularly divorced from any one of her husbands; so that convictions can rarely occur. In 1871, of persons tried for these offences, forty-five were released to seven convicted; and of the latter, one was released on appeal. These causes naturally tend to prevent any great increase of population, and I consider that our numbers have been recruited mainly from immigration.

Petty thefts, burglaries, and simple dacoities, are numerous; but there is little or no professional crime properly so called. The number of men who are denounced as living by dishonest practices are legion; but there are, as far as my experience serves, no known gangs who hold together, make raids for plunder, and carry on their occupation systematically. Dacoities with murder seldom occur; and equally rare are severe riots, attended with loss of life. In fact, though there are murders and crimes of violence from private malice here as elsewhere, the crime of this district, generally speaking, is of a pettifogging, rather than violent,

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character ; and litigiousness is largely developed, false cases counting by the hundred.

The number of prisoners confined in the jail on the last day of 1871, were 138 men, 1 woman Mahommedans, and 73 men Hindus ; or nearly 2 Mahommedans to 1 Hindu.

Though Rungpore holds a low place among other districts with respect to the higher education, yet the experience of all who have been brought much into contact with the people, and who have had means of comparing this with other places, coincides to the effect that the simple elements of education are more generally diffused among the lower classes here, than is the case in districts that are considered to be far more advanced.

The Rungpore English school has been established for forty years. It was founded, in 1832, by the zemindars of the district, under the auspices of Mr. Nathaniel Smith, the Judge, who, in various capacities, remained over forty years here, and it was opened by Lord Bentinck, the only Governor-General who has visited our part of the world. For the establishment of the school the zemindars raised a voluntary subscription of Rs. 25,000, the quota of each having, it is said, been apportioned in a list in the form of a round robin ; and they were made to understand that whoever did not contribute his share would not be provided with a chair when he came to visit the authorities. The Rajah of Cooch Behar gave over for the use of the institution a very commodious brick house, the erection of which dates back to Mahommedan times, and which has only lately been vacated by the school, because the Public Works Department would no longer undertake to keep it in repair. A tablet over the entrance door commemorates the fact of the Rajah's gift in the year (Cooch Behar era) 323.

PART II.—ANTIQUITIES.

I.—Bhagadatta and Prithu Rajah.

For the greater part of the information contained under this head, I am indebted to the account of Buchanan. (Edited by Montgomery Martin, published by Allen, 1838.)

In the dim mist of the past, where mythology and history coalesce, Rungpore was included in the kingdom of Kamrup, and the Kurutiya was the boundary between Kamrup and Matsya or Bengal. The Rajah Bhagadatta, in the war of the Mahabharat, espoused the side of Dharjyudhan, and was killed by Arjuna. Besides Rungpore, Kamrup included Assam, Munipore, Jyntea, Cachar, and parts of Mymensingh and Sylhet.

The derivation of the name Rungpore is said to be *রঙ্গপুর* (Rangapur), the place of pleasure or abode of bliss—Bhagadatta having here a country residence on the Ghaghat. There is another Rungpore in Assam, west of Gowhatty, the Kamrup capital, which also lays claim to the same distinction. Pergunnah Pyrabund, which lies south and west from the Ghaghat, a few miles only from Rungpore town, is called after Pyravati, the daughter of Bhagadatta, who held it as an estate.

According to the doubtful authority of the Ayeen Akbery Bhagadatta had twenty-three successors in his dynasty ; and the Yagini Tantra

gives some very misty accounts of subsequent kings. Among them is Jalpeshvar, who built the temple of Shiva at Jalpesh, in the Dooars ; but putting aside these legends, made up according to the fancy of the annalist, we have genuine local traditions of three dynasties that reigned in Rungpore previous to the close of the fifteenth century.

Of the earliest dynasty, there is trace only of one Prithu Rajah. The ruins of his city lie half in chakla Boda, half in pergunnah Bykuntpore, in the present district of Julpigoree. The city consisted of four enclosures, one within the other ; the innermost containing the Rajah's palace. In both the inner and middle cities were sub-divisions, separated from each other by ramparts and ditches, dividing each city into several quarters. The outermost city of all was tenanted by the lowest classes of the populace. The place was strongly fortified for the times in which it was built ; the defences were lofty earthen ramparts, with wide moats on the outer sides, and advantage was taken of a small river, the Talma, to form a deep fosse under the embankment, between the middle and outer cities. In some places the earthen defences were faced with brick, and surmounted by brick walls ; the Rajah's house had also a wall around it. The only remains left are portions of the ramparts and heaps of bricks in various places.

This Prithu Rajah met a tragical fate. He was attacked by a tribe of Kichoks, or impure feeding gipsies, and afraid of having his purity sullied by contact with them, he jumped into the large tank near his palace, whither he was followed by his guards, and the town was given up to plunder. His spirit was supposed to occupy the place, and when Buchanan visited it a flag was hoisted on the ground between the tank and the palace, which was overgrown with trees and bushes, to indicate that the spot was holy, and the guides bowed down low and called on the Maharaj Prithu by name.

II.—The Pal Rajahs.

The next dynasty is that of the Pals, of which we have notices of four kings, Dharma Pal being the first. There seems reason to suppose that he was descended from, or connected with, the Pal princes, who preceded the Vidya dynasty in Bengal, and reigned in parts of Dinagepore and Bograh. One of this family was reigning in Kamrup, Assam, in A.D. 1175. (See Westmacott's "Dinagepore," *Calcutta Review*, No. 110.) A few miles south of Dimla are the remains of a fortified city, which retains the name of Dharma Pal. It is in the form of an irregular parallelogram, rather less than a mile from north to south, and three quarters of a mile from east to west in the centre, diminishing towards the north, and increasing in breadth towards its southern extremity. It consisted of an inner and an outer city, with raised ramparts of earth and ditches on the outer sides.

Dharma Pal's domain must have been extensive, and have included the greater part, if not the whole, of Rungpore ; for there were in Buchanan's time traditions of a house of his successor, Gopi Chandra, at Oyari, east of Olipur, near the Brahmaputra, and there are still the remains of the palace of Gopi's son, Bhava Chundra, at Udaypur, in pergunnah Bagdowar, far to the south.

Dharma Pal had a terrible sister-in-law, Minavati, the remains of whose fort, consisting of an inner and an outer enclosure, still exist two

miles to the east of Dharma Pal's city. Her husband was dead, but she fought against her brother-in-law on behalf of her son, Gopi, and defeated his troops in a battle near the Teesta, after which Dharma Pal disappeared. It seems a peculiarity of Rungpore kings not to die or be killed, but simply to disappear. The ruins of Dharma Pal's house, distant about a mile from his city, have been adopted by the Mahommedans as sacred to a parcel of thirteen of their saints, with that easy facility with which they adapt themselves to Hindu usages in these parts, but they do not venture to live within the precincts of the city where only Hindus have their hamlets.

Gopi Chandra succeeded to the vacant guddee, but he did not govern : Minavati would not so readily part with her authority. She provided him with a hundred wives, and when he grew tired of their embraces, his mother persuaded him to dedicate his life to religion. He accordingly accepted as his spiritual instructor a Yogi, or religious mendicant, and the two are still wandering about in the forests. A poem called Sibergit, sung by Yogi bards, and recounting the lamentations of Gopi's numerous wives at his departure, was said to be popular in Kamrup at the beginning of this century ; an indication that the rule of the Pals included that province as well as Rungpore.

Gopi's son, Bhava Chandra, succeeded him : he is also called Uday Chandra ; whence the name of his city Udaypur.

Babu Bipin Chandra Ray, a schoolmaster of Bagdowar, in the neighbourhood, has lately made some investigation among the ruins which are situated in well nigh impenetrable jungle. Nothing of special interest was lighted on, ruins of the palace and other buildings and tanks being the main features. The Babu, however, collected some traditions of the place, from which I cull a few details.

Rajah Bhava Chandra and his mantri, or minister, are the heroes of the Hindu nursery version of the wise men of Gotham, and are renowned far and wide throughout Bengal. The Rajah and his minister were bereft of their common sense by the curse of the Rajah's favourite Debi, whom he offended by visiting her temple at a forbidden time. They did nothing like other people, slept by day, and were wide awake at night. The mantri took to live in a box, and stuffed all the avenues of communication with the outer world, such as eyes, nose, ears, with wool, and he emerged from his retreat and opened out his faculties only when called on by the Rajah to deliberate with him on some hard matter. One or two of these judgments may be noted. The Rajah and his minister, in the plentitude of their wisdom, sentenced the potters to compensate merchants for loss by wreck, on the ground that the high mounds raised by the former brought the clouds, which caused the storms. On another occasion the people brought a fine wild hog to them, that they might decide what strange animal it was ; and after deep cogitation on the knotty point, they concluded that it must either be an overgrown rat, or else an elephant gone into a consumption.

But their last judgment gives the climax to their fame. Two travellers were discovered one afternoon digging a cooking place in the ground beside the tank for the preparation of their evening meal. The Rajah who had found them—he having risen very early—at once concluded that the men were engaged in effecting a burglarious entry (sind kata), in

order to steal the tank, and he sentenced them to be impaled as robbers. The poor travellers, driven to desperation, made each of them seemingly frantic endeavours to be impaled on the taller of the two impaling poles: and when the Rajah enquired the reason of this unseemly altercation, they informed him that they had learned, by the power of their enchantments, that whoever was impaled on the taller pole would in the next birth become the sovereign of the whole earth, while the other would be his minister; and they were each urgent in their entreaties to be allowed to attain to the higher post. Bhava Chandra, however, thought it would be far from consistent with justice that such low ruffians should acquire such supreme dignity, and had himself forthwith impaled on the coveted pole, and his faithful mantri followed his master and expired on the shorter one.

Some coins were found in Pyrabund, in the eighteenth century, in the time of Ramnath, Rajah of Dinagepore, (Pyrabund at that time was included in Dinagepore); and an old man told Buchanan that he had seen on one of them the name of Rajah Bhava Chandra, and on the obverse that of Vageshvari, his household goddess.

Bhava Chandra's successor, Pala, was the last of the line. A state of anarchy followed. Kamrup was overrun by rude tribes, the Koch, Mech, Garo, Bhot, Lepcha (who now inhabit Sikkim), and others.

III.—The Komatapur Rajahs.

The next dynasty had three Rajahs, Niladhvaj, Chakradhvaj, and Nilamba. The first Rajah founded Komatapur, the ruins of which lie in Cooch Behar territory, on the eastern bank of the Durlah river. They have been fully described by Buchanan, and their present state was, I believe, noted during the late survey of Cooch Behar. The city was very extensive: Buchanan found it to be nineteen miles in circumference, five of which were defended by the Durlah, and the rest by a rampart and ditch. These old cities all present the same features; enclosure within enclosure, wall within wall, the King's palace occupying the centre of the whole. The plan of Pekin, given in Yule's Marco Polo, where the Emperor's palace is the innermost of three walled cities, has a remarkable correspondence with our Rungpore cities, and especially with that of Prithu Rajah.

The third king of this dynasty, Nilamba, attained to great power. His dominions included the greater part of Kamrup, the whole of Rungpore, as far as Ghoraghat to the south, where he built a fort, and part also of Matsya or Bengal. The struggles of the Affghan kings of Bengal, to retain their independence of the Delhi emperors, must have afforded opportunity to this energetic prince to extend his dominions in that direction. He laid out a magnificent road from Komatapur to Ghoraghat, much of which is still in good preservation, and forms part of the main road between Cooch Behar, Rungpore, and Bograh; and several isolated forts, scattered over the district, are called by Nilamba's name.

Nilamba's fall is attributed to the vengeance of his prime minister, a Brahmin, named Sochi Patra, whose son he had killed for some misconduct, dressed up his flesh for food, and caused the father in ignorance to eat of it. The Brahmin went to the court at Gour and procured the invasion of Rungpore by the Mahommedans, which is their first appearance in this direction. The city of Komatapur stood a long siege, and was

at length taken by stratagem. The Mahommedan commander gave out that he despaired of taking the place and proposed a peace, and he asked and obtained permission for Mahommedan ladies to go and pay their respects to the Hindu queen; but in the litters were armed men who took the town. Nilamba was taken prisoner, and put into an iron cage to be carried to Gour; but he escaped by the way, and has ever since remained concealed. The people of Kamrup, says Buchanan, look for his restoration when the usurpers, Bhootas, Assamese, Koch, and Yavans (western barbarians), will be driven out of the land.

The Affghan king, who made this conquest, is supposed to be Hossein Shah, who reigned A. D. 1497-1521. There is an account of a disastrous expedition made by him into Assam, which probably slackened the hold of the Mahommedans on the whole of the country they had occupied in Rungpore; for we subsequently find the limits of their possessions northward to be an irregular line, drawn from the Kurutiya on the west, crossing the Ghaghat and Teesta midway, and extending to the Brahmaputra on the east, and including Pyrabund and other pergunnahs that were comprised in Sarkar Ghoraghat. The succeeding Rungpore dynasty, the Koch, built a line of fortifications all along this boundary, many parts of which are still in excellent preservation.

The possessions of the Moslems south of the boundary were consolidated in the time of Hossein's successor, Nusrut Shah, by Ismail Gazi, the Governor of Ghoraghat, who is famed for having made converts of the zemindars to Mahommedanism by the usual argument—that of force. He forbade them to sleep on *khats*, or rope beds; so they took to *taktaposhes*, or planked ones. At Buri Durga, nineteen miles south from Rungpore, on the road to Bograh, is an old building of very rude construction, which is said to have been erected over the staff of the saint, and offerings are made on the Burrobilla lake or marsh adjoining, to his spirit, at a place where a flag pointed out that some of his relics were deposited.

IV.—The Koch or Cooch Behar Dynasty.

Among the wild tribes that had overrun Assam and driven back the Affghan Hossein Shah, the Koch came to the front, and, united under Hajo, founded the Cooch Behar dynasty, which exists to the present day. Hajo had two daughters, Hira, who married a Mech, had a son, Visu or Bissoo; and Jira, the other sister, had a son, Sisu or Sissoo. Visu is reckoned as the first of the Cooch Behar Rajahs, and Sisu is the ancestor of the Bykuntpore family, otherwise the Julpigoree Rajahs, who obtained Bykuntpore as an appendage of Cooch Behar.

A.D. 1509 (916 Bengal era) is given as the date of the commencement of Visu's reign; but his son Sukladage was reigning in Assam when Fytch travelled in India, 1583-91, (Genealogical Table, Cooch Behar Records, Vol. II., J. C. Haughton), and the fall of the preceding dynasty did not take place before the close of the preceding century at the earliest computation, for Hossein Shah began to reign in 1497; so that the date 1509 is probably that of the rise to power of Hajo, the grandfather of Visu, and the real founder of the family.

Visu introduced Baidiks from Sylhet, and by their help his Mech father was thrown aside and a divine origin was manufactured for both him

and his cousin Sisu, and their descendants adopted the title of Narayan Deo. The Koch also give up their name and took that of Rajbanshi, the royal race. The race speedily became effete, and offered an easy prey to the Moguls when they had leisure to turn their attention to this quarter.

Visu divided his realm among his two sons, giving to Sukladage all east of the Sunkosh and both sides of the Brahmaputra; and to Nar Narayan the western portion, lying between the Sunkosh and the Mahanūddee rivers. Division brought weakness in its train, and Parikshit, the grandson of Sukladage, became tributary to the Dacca Soubah; and in 1603, twenty-seven years after Bengal had been wrested from the Affghans by Akbar's generals, the Mahommedans conquered and annexed Parikshit's dominions for arrears of tribute: Parikshit retained a small subject state, and his brother Ballit was confirmed in the Government of Durrung. The rest of the country was divided by the conquerors into four Sarkars, which they retained for over half a century; but in 1662, in the reign of Aurungzebe, Meer Jumla met an overthrow in attempting to penetrate further east into Assam, and he had to cede much of the land previously occupied. The Moslems retained one Sarkar, Bengal bhoom, comprising Baharbund and Bhiturbund, and portions of two others, Gowalbari in that of Dhenkiri or Uttarkul (north bank of Brahmaputra), and Gowalpara and Rangamatty in that of Dukhin-kul (south bank). A Mahommedan officer was stationed at Rangamatty, whose duty it was to encourage the growth of forests and reeds that the fierce Assamese might not penetrate further east and south. The reduced realm held by Parikshit's descendants is known in our records of the close of last century as the state of Bijnee, tributary both to the English as successors of the Mahommedans, and to the Bhooteas, who about this time (seventeenth century) began encroaching all along the country south of their hills; while Ballit's descendants still held, under the Assam Government, Durrung; to which had been added Kamrup, as we shall find in our notes on Assam further on.

As regards the western division of Visu's dominions, the line of fortifications, erected all along the southern border over against the Mahommedan possession, has been already referred to; they consist of lofty earthen ramparts, with wide moats on the outer sides. I consider they must have been erected soon after the division of the kingdom, probably during the time of Nar Narayan or his successor. The eastern extremity was turned, when pergunnah Baharbund and the rest of the dominions of Parikshit were taken possession of; and, in like manner, at some time preceding the final conquest of Rungpore, the Mahommedans turned the western extremity and took pergunnah Coondy, lying north of Pyrabund, between the Ghaghat on the east and Sorooppore on the west. From some accounts, which will come under notice later, it would appear that Coondy was, in the eleventh year of Aurungzebe, in A.D. 1669, included in the zemindaree of Ghoraghat, and it was most probably conquered in the early part of that century at the same time as Baharbund. When the English became masters of the country, Coondy was in Sarkar Bazuhahi. Rennell's Map of 1779 wrongly locates Bazuhahi, *i.e.* Coondy. It should be placed due west from Rungpore, north of the rampart, between the Ghaghat and Sorooppore.

The account of the occupation of the rest of Rungpore will be given in the next part, as it is closely connected with the administration.

PART III.—ADMINISTRATION, A.D. 1687-1793.

I.—The Mahomedan Conquest and Settlements.

Rungpore Proper, otherwise Coochwara or Sarkar Cooch Behar, is that portion of the old province of Rungpore which was last conquered by the Mahomedans from the Cooch Behar Rajahs. It included six chaklas or divisions; the three smaller ones, those of Boda, Patgram, and Purubbhag, from the zemindary of the Cooch Behar Rajah; the other three, to wit, Futtehpore, Kankina, and Cazeerhat, are, with the exception of Kankina which is undivided, parcelled out among a number of zemindars.

An old suit, the first recorded in our books, decided by Charles Purling, Collector, in June 1778, contains much fragmentary information relating to the Mogul incursion. From this account the following narrative is mainly derived:—In the Bengal year 1094, A.D. 1687, in the reign of Aurungzebe, the Moguls, under the leadership of Ebadatkhan, advanced from Ghoraghat, the head-quarters of a Soubah, and occupied the three central chaklas of Futtehpore, Cazeerhat, and Kankina. The name of the market-place, Mogulhat, in chakla Kankina, on the road to Cooch Behar, situated on the west bank of the Durlah—here the boundary between Rungpore and Cooch Behar—marks the limits of the encroachments of the invaders in that direction. Ten miles on the Rungpore side of Mogulhat the road passes through a “Gurh,” a three-sided fort with rampart; two sides rectangular, the third an irregular curve. It is probably the site of the centre of a fortified camp, though local tradition ascribes it, as it does all remains of any magnitude in the district, to the agency of the Hindu hero, Bhim.

The three above-mentioned chaklas seem to have been conquered without much difficulty; they consisted of open country, fairly populated, and offering no natural obstacles. The main current of the Teesta did not then divide Kankina from Cazeerhat and Futtehpore, but ran south-west, separating Boda from the rest of Coochwara. The other chaklas, Boda beyond the Teesta to the north-west, Patgram to the extreme north-east, and Purubbhag beyond the Panga jungles and across the river Durlah to the east, offered desperate resistance. Foujdar after foujdar was appointed to Rungpore in quick succession; the struggle lasted for twenty-four years, and towards the close became a three-cornered fight. Jag Deo and Bog, or Phoje Deo of the Bykuntpore family, invaded Cooch Behar on the death of Rajah Mohindra Narayan; they laid waste the country where the war was going on, and kept the Mahomedans at bay; but Shanta Narayan, a cousin of the new Rajah, Rup Narayan, assisted by Pathan generals, who were subsequently killed in battle drove out the Roycuts, as the Bykuntpore line were called, and forced the Mahomedans to a peace in 1118 B.S., A.D. 1711. The three chaklas were nominally ceded, but were still held in farm by Shanta Narayan on behalf of the Cooch Behar Rajah.

The plaintiffs in the suit in question were descendants from the servants of the Cooch Behar state, who had acted as gomastahs, patwarries, and in other similar offices, (the Mahomedan claimant's ancestor had been a pyke) and they were appointed by the Mogul foujdars as zemindars or chowdhries of the tracts while the struggle was going on; but they do not seem to have ever obtained more than nominal possession of their zemindaries, and the peace with Cooch Behar ousted them completely.

The fact, that though the Moguls forced the cession, they never wrested the chaklas out of the hands of the Cooch Behar Rajah, accounts for the irregular nature of the boundary which exists between them and Cooch Behar Proper. A long, narrow slip of Cooch Behar territory extends from the north of Patgram, crossing the present Teesta, and divides Cazeerhat from Boda; this would, no doubt, have been included in the ceded tract, if the boundary had ever been regularly laid down: and in Patgram the very fields are intermixed, one forming part of the chakla, the next belonging to Cooch Behar, to the great confusion of present administration.

In the larger chaklas first occupied, the conquerors seem to have pursued the same policy of leaving in possession, as chowdhries, the persons who had been in charge of the collections under Cooch Behar; and no change, as far as is known, occurred up to the time of the acquisition of the Dewanny by the East India Company in 1765. Cazeerhat was then divided among five sharers—one, the only Mahomedan zemindar among the lot, held $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas of the chakla; and another, who held the two annas share, the Tooshvanda zemindary, was descended (by adoption) from one Murari Bhattacharjya, who had migrated into Cooch Behar from Jaynagar, south of Calcutta, in 1634, fifty years before the conquest, and obtained an Uponchakee talook from the Cooch Behar Rajah, and his son, on the conquest, got the zemindary from the Mahomedans. Futtehpore had four sharers, but with three separated estates in addition; among them the pergunnah of Panga, jungles of which have been referred to and continue to the present day, is held by a family related to the Rajah of Cooch Behar. Local tradition asserts that at the time the Moguls invaded the country, the dewan who had governed Rungpore under Cooch Behar fled to the jungles, and there formed the estate of Panga.

The Mahomedans appear to have at first called their new conquest Fakhar Coondy, from the name of the pergunnah which confronted them across the Ghaghat, opposite Coondy, which they already held, and where the town Mahigunge now stands. They probably made here their first entry; an old Hindu temple was destroyed, and the suburb of Nawabgunge founded on or near its site. The new possessions, when consolidated, became Sarkar Cooch Behar; the names of the chaklas, Futtehpore (the city of victory) and Cazeerhat (the market-place of the Cazeé), were evidently bestowed by the conquerors.

Information of the earliest settlements of Coochwara are derived from a report of the Canoongo, given to Mr. McDowall, Collector, in October 1787. The Moslems always farmed the district; the zemindars never paid their revenue direct to the Government. The first year's settlement, of which we have any note, was that of 1147 B.S. (1740-41 A.D.), which amounted to Rs. 3,36,000, and it continued much the same with slight increase for twenty years. But the farmers must have collected much more than this sum; for, in 1168 B.S., we find a Hindu dewan, Subak Chand, taking the farm for Rs. 11,48,986, though he was not able to collect more than Rs. 7,91,000.

This is the highest nominal rate at which the revenue of this tract has ever stood. For the year 1171 B.S. (1764-65 A.D.), that preceding the commencement of the English management of the revenues, the demand was Rs. 5,09,182; the collections were Rs. 4,87,882.

II.—Early English Settlements and the first Collectors, A.D. 1765-81.

A table dated October 24, 1787, shows the demand and collections for twenty-five years, 1169-1193 B.S. (1762-87 A.D.). In these accounts, besides what is properly Coochwara, are included the revenues of pergunnah Coondy, from 1172 B.S. (date of acquisition of the Dewanny), and those of pergunnah Bykuntpore, from 1179 B.S.

Under the Mahommedans Coondy appertained to Sarkar Bazuhahi. Bykuntpore, otherwise Battishazari, was never subject to the Moguls; it lies to the north, beyond Boda and Patgram, and at the time of our occupation of the country it had Bhootan on its east and Nepaul on the west. In A.D. 1772, when the Cooch Behar Rajah sought the protection of the Company from the hostility of the Bhootas, who had been treacherously incited to the attack by the Bykuntpore Rajah, the former engaged to pay tribute as a feudatory state, but the smaller vassal of Bykuntpore had to take his lot with the other zemindars of the district.

To recur to the accounts, the most noticeable feature in the list is the large demand for 1178 B.S., Rs. 11,01,742, which nearly reached that of 1171 B.S., during the Mahomedan period; while the realised collections, Rs. 9,14,615, were the highest ever made in the district. John Gross, the first Collector of Rungpore, of whom there is any trace, made this settlement. The particulars regarding it, extracted from our Canoongo's report of October, 1787, show the very casual way in which the first settlements were formed. While two items, under the similar names of *Feraree* and *Palatacka*, aggregating over a lac of rupees, were added to the demand to make up for deficient resources caused by the desertion of ryots, and a counter-deduction of nearly half a lac was allowed, probably in anticipation of fresh desertions; a tax of over two lacs of rupees was put on, under the name of *durreevilla*, the nature of which does not clearly appear, unless it was a gross sum added in order to bring up the demand to an arbitrary standard. To cap all there is a lump sum of Rs. 81,960, under the denomination of *andazee beshi*, or probable increase. In the following year's settlement, this last item, those for desertions of ryots, and one of a quarter of a lac for suspension of measurement, was taken out of the demand, which stood at Rs. 8,92,425; but of the amount paid, two lacs were only in paper—that is, bills on shroffs or native bankers, which finally resulted in a balance of Rs. 2,71,008 for the year 1180 B.S. Charles Purling succeeded Gross as collector, but both before and subsequent to 1178 B.S., the settlements appear to have been made by the Committees of Circuit.

Our regular records commence only with A.D. 1777, when Purling, who had left four years before, was a second time appointed Collector. In 1184 B.S. (1777-78 A.D.), the zemindars were, for the first time, admitted to possession of their lands. Hitherto these had been let in farm, and the zemindars had received a maintenance allowance of 10 per cent. on the revenues. An incidental notice of a five years' farm, from 1179 to 1183 B.S., appears in the books; this fills up the interval between Gross's settlement and that of the year 1184, which Purling made.

The Shroffs.—When the Collector set to work, carrying out the settlement with the zemindars, a curious custom obtruded itself into notice. The farmers being unable to pay punctually into the treasury the stipulated

instalments, owing to their being obliged to allow the ryots a longer time for the settlement of their rents than the Government would grant to them, a custom had grown up, which the oldest revenue officers in Rungpore declared had existed before their time, of paying in pants or bills of shroffs, at 15 or 20 days' date. When these pants became due, sealed bags were deposited by the shroffs in the treasury, said to contain the amount of the pants in old narainy or kazana shi rupees, coined at the Gooch Behar mint, and current in that state, Bhootan, Assam, and Rungpore. At uncertain periods these bags were taken back, unopened, in exchange for their value in French arcot rupees, the commercial currency. Mr. Purling states in his report on this subject that the shroffs were averse to the opening and inspecting of the bags, declaring it to be contrary to the established custom of the country and destructive of their credit. There were found in the treasury pants and bags representing three lacs of rupees, of the revenues of 1183 B.S.; the two lacs and three quarters which we have seen at the close of 1180 B. S. having increased to that amount.

The Government at once set its face against the continuance of this custom, which caused the whole of the revenues to pass through the hands of the shroffs, and towards the close of 1185 B.S. pants were completely abolished. There still remained the difficulty of realizing the large amount due from the bankers. On enquiry some were found to be dead, others bankrupt, and the sudden collapse of their business brought the rest into the latter category. The bags were at length, after long and fond delay, opened, and a few, of which we have the particulars, gave the following result:—

French arcot rupees	...	...	890	0
Old narainy ditto	...	...	1,048	8
New narainy ditto	...	...	1,453	8
Copper and base coins	...	...	2,598	8
•Lead	...	...	17,511	0
Deficient in tale	...	...	1,928	8
Total Rs.				25,430 0

Of the rest of these sealed bags there are no detailed results; but Richard Goodlad, Collector in 1872, reports that when they came to be opened, 19 in 20 of the coins were of a spurious metal of Toothanagur (?), copper, brass, tin, &c., which the shroffs said they could sell at the foot of the hills at a discount of 80 per cent.; but Mr. Bogle, (Collector, 1779-81), not deeming it right to suffer so base a coin to be issued, in order to prevent their circulation, melted them down into large lumps. Such of the lumps as seemed to have any silver in them were sent to the mint, and produced Rs. 2,500, which, with the few good rupees that were found in the bags, amounted in all to a sum of Rs. 9,824. This result for bags, which, according to an account, should have held Rs. 1,71,832, shows that the shroffs had good reason to be averse to the opening of them: some small amount seems to have been obtained by confinement of the defaulters and the sale of their property, but a total loss of about or over two lacs of rupees appears to have been the final result.

The Nacauds.—Another matter which it fell to Mr. Purling's lot to settle, was the relation between the Nacauds, or silk-winders, of the Company's factory at Rungpore and their zemindars. Previous to the year 1769, the silk-winders had been inconsiderable in number, and the zemindars "used to flog them, as they did their other ryots," to enforce the payment of their rents; but they soon availed themselves of their position as workers for the Company, and by threats of desertion from the factory, to relieve themselves from all coercive measures on the part of the zemindars; and they established an exemption on their part from the payment of all cesses, over and above the ground rent or tukseem jumma of their lands, which amounted to about one-half of the aggregate rent paid by other ryots. Naturally the evil increased. The making of Nacauds became a trade with the sardars of the factory. It one member of a family walked daily to the factory, whether he worked or not, the whole of the members of the family claimed the abatement of half their rent in consequence. Mr. Purling instanced three or four suits which had been brought in his court against the sardars, for not performing agreements to enter children as weavers on the factory books, for which they had received consideration. Brahmins, patwarries, paramaniks, and the peons and pykes of the factory, all availed themselves of this easy means to evade payment of their just debts. The loss fell principally on one of the Coondy zemindars. In one village where there were 308 houses, and there had been 17 Nacauds, the whole of the 308 had become houses of Nacauds. At length he cried out loud enough to be heard. Purling, in reporting the matter at length to Government, remarked that the Nacauds did not frequent the factory for what they earned, for a good workman could not earn half a rupee a month, and argued forcibly that the weaving should be conducted on a sounder basis. Warren Hastings, in a holograph letter, asked the Collector to suspend the matter until the Board should meet, who were then occupied with the despatch of a mail to England; and the Board at their meeting decided that the Nacauds would not in future be entitled to any exemption different from other ryots. I presume the wages in the Company's silk factory had to be raised.

Bykuntpore, 1779.—An episode of the settlement of 1186, B.S., the fictitious rebellion of Bykuntpore, shows the untrustworthy character of the agents, sezawals, and others, with whom the Collectors had to work. When Bykuntpore was annexed, the zemindar paid an annual tribute of Rs. 10,000; but after an inquiry was made into the resources of the country in 1774, the revenue payable was increased to Rs. 25,000, with a further increase for the following year of Rs. 5,000, bringing it up in all to Rs. 30,000. This was maintained in spite of the Rajah's energetic remonstrances; balances accrued in the demand for 1184, 1185, 1186, B.S., and a sezawal was appointed in August or September 1779 to collect the revenues from the country direct. No sooner had this Kinkar Kishor Das gone to the spot, than he sends back a flaming and circumstantial account that the zemindar had employed dacoits to murder him. He himself prudently retired with two 'kidmatgars' to Maria, in pergunnah Boda, where an old Prussian sergeant, retired from the Company's army, was residing; but his people were attacked, one burkundaz was murdered, others were wounded, and some thrown into the river. The Collector took vigorous measures; sent a guard of 25 sepoy to protect the sezawal, and issued a proclamation, threatening the zemindar that if he

did not deliver himself up within fifteen days, he would be for ever excluded from the possession of his land, which should be made over to his brother. The Rajah was caught without any difficulty, and brought to Rungpore, and two ameens were sent out, one from the Collector and the other from the Foujdar, to enquire into one matter. Then the tables were turned. The ameens reported that the sezawal himself had sent dacoits into Bykunt-pore, who had plundered the country. The zemindar was released, and the sezawal was made over to the Foujdar for trial. The final upshot, or whether the murdered man was altogether a myth, does not transpire.

III.—Settlements of 1188-1193 B.S., and the Insurrection of 1783 A.D.

The administration of the district, after the introduction of the zemindars to engage for their lands, cannot be called successful. The collections of 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, B. S., decreased from year to year. Several circumstances contributed to this result. The abolition of the shroffs, though no doubt necessary, had two effects, both disadvantageous to the ryots. The zemindars, no longer enabled by means of fictitious payments in pants and sealed bags to get extra time for the instalments, pressed the ryots for rent in their turn, who were thus compelled to dispose of their crops on unfavorable terms. A second result was, that the narainy rupee suddenly lost currency. The shroffs had been in the habit of selling those rupees they received from the treasury at a value nearly equal to sicca rupees; but they fell now in a short time to a discount of 15 to 20 per cent., to the great loss of all who held them, and the ryots had to pay this discount in additions to their rent.

The Zemindars.—But the main cause of all the difficulties that beset the paths of the first Collectors was the incapacity of the zemindars and the venality of their gomastahs. Mr. Goodlad writes thus to the Committee of Revenue in 1781:—"A short time before the abolition of the shroffe, Rungpore was given in charge to the zemindar; a system however human (sic.) and salutary it may prove in other places, is to Rungpore the most destructive, both to district and zemindars, that could possibly be devised. I will enumerate the various objections to a zemindary settlement in Rungpore. The first that occurs, is the entire ignorance of the zemindars, either as to their own interest, or the nature of their business; this arises from their never having had charge till the Bengal year, 1184. This has given them an indifference to their zemindaries, which lays them open to the hands of their gomastahs and servants, who, as long as they supply them with money for their expenses, are left without control. The next circumstance is, their total want of property and credit. The consequences attending this are very evident. In the first place, the zemindars from the want of property cannot assist the indigent ryots at the beginning of the year to enable them to cultivate their lands. The want of credit will not suffer them to come forward on behalf of their ryots to give them time to dispose of their produce to advantage."

Mr. McDowall echoes the same cry five years later. He says:—"The zemindars of this district, either from sex, age, or long habitual indolence, are never known to interfere in public business, and are in such a state of dependence on their gomastahs, that I have known a zemindar day after day attend the durbar of his gomastah, thereby reversing the distinction of their respective ranks in life. It is true that the

zemindars have the power of dismissing their gomastahs, but this power is rarely made use of otherwise than as a means of exacting money, either from the party in possession of the office, or from the person who is striving to supplant him; and the amount of this exaction falls ultimately upon the ryots." The class of zemindars is not even now extinct, who will be thankful for a bribe from their agents taken out of their own treasury.

The zemindar of Panga is described as an obstinate and perverse old man, upwards of sixty years of age, who was bringing up his son to be like himself. When sent for, he would betake himself to the woods with which his house was surrounded; and when, in 1788, the Collector visited the pergunnah, he found that the zemindar had forbidden the cultivation of many lands from fear that the revenue assessment might be raised. The one Mahomedan sharer in Cazeerhat was reported on by Mr. Lumsden in 1791, as not so decidedly an idiot as to necessitate that the management of his zemindary should be taken from him.

The Insurrection.—The district of Rungpore, Dinagepore, and Edrakpore, were given in Calcutta in farm for the years 1188-89 B.S. (1781-83 A.D.), at an increased revenue, to a Mahomedan. The Dewan of Dinagepore, Rajah Devi Singh, of whose atrocities* Burke gives such a glowing account, became surety, and in the end himself appears as the real farmer. From bad management large balances accrued in 1188 B.S., and in the following year the ryots, aided by the ousted zemindars and their gomastahs, forced on deductions of nearly four lacs of rupees, so that in the end there arose a balance of about six lacs; to realise which before the expiration of his lease, the farmer had recourse to every means, fair or foul, that lay in his power.

In January 1783, the ryots of chaklas Cazeerhat and Kankina, and Tepa, chakla Futtehpore, suddenly rose in rebellion, and drove out the collecting officers. Their grievances are set forth in a statement they sent to the Collector, who, on first hearing of the rising, had made an attempt to appease them. They complained of the levy of the durreevilla tax, which we have noticed in Mr. Gross's settlement of ten years before, and which now amounted to 5 annas on the rent; and, secondly, of the discount which they had to pay for the exchange of narainy rupees into French arcots, which was another 3 annas. The Collector agreed to revert to the demand of 1187 B.S., and the ryots expressed themselves satisfied, and apparently dispersed; but this adjustment did not dispose of the question of the large balances, and the malcontents soon again assembled in larger numbers than before. The revolt now extended throughout the whole of Futtehpore, and the insurgents forced the ryots of Cooch Behar to join them, and sent parties into Dinagepore to bring over the people there. They murdered at Dimla, in Cazeerhat, an under-renter, and the naib of Tepa with seven or eight of his people, and issued a proclamation that they would pay no more revenue. One of the leaders assumed the title of nawab, and another became his dewan, and a tax, called dingkhurcha or sedition tax, was levied for the expenses of the insurrection.

Matters now looked serious, and active measures were taken to put down the rising. Forces of burkundazes were sent out in various directions. To the southward 800 prisoners were taken, who, being ryots of

* These alleged atrocities will be discussed in a further issue of *Rungpore District Records*. W. K. F.

Dinagapore, were sent back to their homes. Several engagements occurred in other parts. In an attempt to burn Mogulhat, the nawab's forces were defeated, his dewan was killed, and he himself was wounded and taken prisoner. A party of sepoys, under Lieutenant Macdonald, marched to the north against the principal body of insurgents. A spy caught by the Lieutenant was hung in open market, and a jemadar was despatched against the retreating enemy. The decisive battle of the campaign was fought near Patgram on the 22nd February; the sepoys disguised themselves as burkundazes by wearing white cloth over their uniform, and by that means got close to the insurgents, who were utterly defeated; sixty were left dead on the field, and many were wounded and taken prisoners. The numbers engaged are not given.

Mr. Goodlad's final report on this outbreak is in its naive simplicity sufficient by itself to clear the Collector's character from the aspersions cast upon it by Burke in his reckless eagerness as prosecutor to catch at anything that might tell against Warren Hastings. Whatever Devi Singh's enormities may have been, nothing is clearer from the whole history of the transaction than that Mr. Goodlad knew nothing of them. The Collectors did not leave their stations. It was not until six years later that the first orders were passed for them to go on circuit in their district and while they remained stationary at head-quarters, they could see nothing but what their native subordinates chose to show them.

Two commissions sat on this insurrection, and in February 1789 in the time of Lord Cornwallis, the final orders of Government were passed. Devj Singh got off scot-free, with the exception of the loss of his money. Har Ram, a native of Rungpore, who had been the sub-farmer under him, and whose oppressions had brought about the rising, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and after that time to be banished from the districts of Rungpore and Dinagapore. Five ryots, the ringleaders of the insurgents, were also banished; two of them, men of Dimla, had apparently been in confinement since the time of the insurrection, six years previously. Har Ram had further to give money douceurs to nine persons, gomastahs and others, on whom he had inflicted what is called corporal punishment to wit, torture; and great quantities of land of the zemindars which had been put up to sale and bought by Devi Singh and Har Ram were given back to the former owners. Among the proceedings of the decennial settlement appears a statement, to the effect that the dewan of Devi Singh, probably this same Har Ram, sent women to the house of the zemindar or chowdhranee of Tepa (a woman), who committed much violence there, until they had compelled her officers to execute the agreements for increase of rent they wanted.

The Cazeerhat ryots, mostly Hindus, always evinced a spirit of turbulence or resistance to oppression, for the terms are in many cases synonymous.

We find (Vide Canoongoe's Report, October 1787) that they rebelled once under the Mahomedan rule in 1169 B.S., twenty years previously, on account of the severity of the collections. They were in the habit of going to Calcutta to make complaint if they were ill-treated in any special degree; and Mr. Goodlad, at the commencement of the present insurrection, argues that the ryots could not have much to complain of, or they would have gone off to Calcutta to obtain redress. Three years

later, at the close of the year 1192 B.S., a large body of ryots again left their habitations, encamped in a body on a plain twenty miles from Rungpore, refusing to pay any more revenue, and some who had set out for Calcutta were brought back from Moorshedabad. The cause in this instance was a tax of two and a half annas which had been laid on Cazeerhat, to provide resources for the increased revenue demand which had been put on that year. One more instance of insubordination occurred two years later. The Collector ascertained that the ryots had been incited to disturbance through the intrigues of their headmen or bosneabs, who were the chief in all the risings; so he imprisoned the two leaders, and flogged one of them, which, as he reported to the Board, had a very good effect in quieting the rest. The Dimla ryots, now two-fifths of them Mahomedans, appear to have kept up the old traditions. They are even now engaged in a contest with their zemindar, (who holds an estate carved out by auction from the $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas share of Cazeerhat), resisting the levy of an illegal cess, and it is said that the other ryots of the district are awaiting the result of their endeavours quite ready to follow their lead.

The loss of the large balance, which appears against 1188-89 B.S., fell principally, if not wholly, upon Rajah Devi Singh. Mr. Goodlad, in hoping that his conduct will meet the Committee's approbation, begs that they will keep this "ground point in view;" that *their revenue is secure*.

After the collapse of the farming system in the insurrection of 1783, the settlements were again made with the zemindars: great reductions were made in the demand for 1190 B.S., and to recover the standard of 1187 B.S., became the aim in succeeding settlement. The Committee at first proposed to hold the settlement of 1191 B.S. in Calcutta, and the zemindars were directed to repair there; but a new Collector, Peter Moore,* having been appointed to Rungpore, he was entrusted with the settlement. Zemindars who arrived at Calcutta were sent back to Rungpore in charge of Government peons, and a jemader and peons were despatched to catch any that might be found loitering on the way, and to carry them safely back. A moderate increase of the revenue was obtained, but in the following year (1192 B.S.) a large addition was put on, making the demand from Cazeerhat higher even than Devi Singh had assessed it. This nearly caused, as we have seen, another rebellion, but notwithstanding it was collected without much balance. A deduction was made in the settlement of 1193 B.S., but still the revenue for Cazeerhat was higher than it had stood in 1187 B.S.

The revenue demand from Coochwara for 1193 B.S. (1786-87 A.D.) was Rs. 7,39,244, which was realised without a balance.

IV.—Settlements of 1194-96 B.S., and the Floods and Famine of 1787 A.D.

1194 B.S. was a disastrous year. The rains commenced in March (1787 A.D.), nearly three months before their usual time, and continued until the middle of July, during which period the rivers three times overflowed their banks and inundated the whole country. Mr. McDowall reports in July that "the ryots have, in almost every part of the district,

[* Uncle and Guardian of W. M. Thackeray and the patron of W. B. Sheridan. W. K. F.]

been obliged to raise platforms to preserve the lives of themselves and their families ; while others, from previous indolence, or from not having had time to make their escape to places of safety, have been overwhelmed by the sudden torrents caused by the breaking in of the rivers." The spring crops, the principal one that of tobacco, were almost wholly destroyed. A break in the rains took place in July, and as the waters subsided, the ryots attempted to carry on the autumn cultivation ; but the rains again returned early in August, the country was again flooded, and even in the station of Rungpore the people had to raise platforms within their houses, and the Collector had great difficulty in getting his ministerial officers to attend cutcherry for carrying on the public business. Towards the end of the month of August, the Teesta river, which had flowed south-west into the Dinagapore district, finding its way to the Ganges, met with some obstruction in its course, and turned its mass of water into a small branch running south-east into the Brahmaputra, forcing its way among the fields and over the country in every direction, and filling the Ghagat, Manas, and other rivers to overflowing. The Collector writes early in September : " Multitudes of men, women, children, and cattle, have perished in the floods, and in many places whole villages have been so completely swept away, as not to leave the smallest trace whereby to determine that the ground had been occupied."

These calamities culminated in a famine, all the crops had been destroyed, and there could be no communication with other districts except by water. Rice, which had been extraordinarily cheap, selling at three to four maunds per rupee, daily rose in price. The Collector did all that lay in his power to keep down the rapidly rising rate. When in June rice sold at only one maund a rupee, and by a combination of the merchants it was for a few days sold at 30 seers a rupee, he, as he reports to the Board, threatened by public advertisement to open the merchants' golahs and expose them to plunder, and thereby caused the combination to cease. But in spite of all he could do, the price nevertheless rose, till in September rice was selling in Rungpore at 23 to 25 seers a rupee, and in some parts of the district at only 18 seers a rupee. Mr. McDowall also stopped all exportation from the district ; but this embargo was taken off by order of the Board.

Numbers of people escaped the flood only to die of starvation. In a letter of May 1788 the Collector states that he had frequently, on enquiry, " found that out of a large family, who at the beginning of the season possessed numbers of cattle, many ploughs, and abundance of grain ; only one miserable and emaciated wretch had remained to tell the fate of his friends." A petition of the zemindars paints the following picture :—" Many ryots either died or deserted, and numbers of those who remained in the district, being unable to procure a livelihood, betook themselves to the commission of thefts and robberies, plundering and setting fire to houses ; many frequently putting to death such ryots as had reserved a quantity of grain for seed or for their subsistence. Others were reduced to the necessity of bartering their wives and children for a few seers of rice ; whilst some, still more unfortunate, were compelled to leave their offspring on the highways, where they were devoured by jackals. Being at last reduced to the utmost want, vast numbers of them came as beggars to Rungpore for support ; but many were so reduced by famine, that they died on the

road, and numbers are still, by the bounty of the Company, taken care of and supplied with food." The Collector hastens to note on the margin, under date of May 1788 (for these proceedings went to the Board), that "the Company's expense on this account ceased many months ago." From 5,000 to 6,000 people were fed at Rungpore, at first from private funds, and then at the Company's expense. The quantity of rice used on Government account for this purpose was 1,330 maunds, purchased at prices varying from 22 to 25 seers per rupee, at a total cost of Rs. 2,053. This quantity, at the allowance proposed to be given, of one-third of a seer per each person per day, would feed 5,320 people for one month, so that private charity must have borne a far greater share in the work of feeding the starving than the bounty of the Company.

Calamity followed calamity during this terrible year. A cyclone swept over the stricken country. On the morning of the 2nd November, about 4 o'clock, the wind began to blow from the north-east with great violence, attended by a very heavy fall of rain, which continued gradually to increase until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when changing suddenly to the east, there came a most furious hurricane, that lasted with different degrees of violence for the space of ten hours. Trees were torn up by the roots, the residents' bungalows were almost all unroofed, and there was scarcely a thatched house left standing in the place. Of the six thousand poor people that were at that time daily supplied with rice, forty died near the Collector's house. It was estimated that Rungpore during this single year lost one-sixth part of its inhabitants. In pergunnah Panga alone, half of the whole had gone.

Not among the least of the difficulties by which Mr. McDowall's path was beset, was the harassing and unsympathetic treatment he received from his superiors, in lieu of the support he so much needed. They could not, and would not, understand the necessity for the repeated suspensions of revenue, and it needed to be dinned again and again into their ears that the district could not bear rack-renting during such a season of calamity. Not only the Board but the Governor-General in Council bullied the unfortunate Collector.

Rungpore has always been a fertile rice-producing district. In 1781 a lac of maunds were delivered by Mr. Goodlad in Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 50,000, for the relief of Madras; the quality, however, was disapproved of and the investment was thrown over on to the Collector's hands. The cheapness of grain was a fertile excuse with the zemindars, for failure in the punctual payment of their revenue; and the low price of produce is even given as one of the causes of the insurrection of 1783. Here, therefore, the famine prices were the more severely felt. From a comparative statement of the price of grain during several years taken from Mr. McDowall's returns, it might appear that, in remarking in June on the rise of price from three to four maunds per rupee to one maund or 30 seers only, he had in the first instance quoted the price of paddy, and in the latter that of husked rice; for, according to the table, the price of husked rice does not appear to have ever been cheaper than two maunds twenty-four seers for the rupee. But the particularity of the statement altogether forbids the supposition that there can be any such egregious mistake; and the explanation, no doubt, is that the prices quoted in the table are those of the Rungpore bazar retail rates, while in the country markets at first hand,

the prices would naturally be more favorable for the buyers. The rate of three to four maunds per rupee is also reported as the price of grain in a letter of January 1786. (Magh 1192 B.S.) So likewise our price current does not show the dearest price which was reached, which we have seen was 18 seers per rupee.

The famine rate of 1787, 18 to 25 seers per rupee, is now about our normal price, and that was doubled during the year of the Orissa famine, 1866-67.

The Teesta.—The rest of the tale regarding the change in the course of the Teesta may be conveniently told here.* The new river overflowed the country for the two following seasons before it had worked a channel sufficient to hold it. There are many accounts of sudden inroads by the water; and the drowning of large numbers of persons. One instance may be noted as a sample of many. A peon had been despatched to fetch some ryots who were in arrears with their rent, the village was overwhelmed during the night, and all the houses were swept away, the peon was the only living creature that escaped, and he remained for three days on a stack of straw in the midst of the waste of waters, when he was picked up by a passing merchant boat.

At length the Government, alarmed at the constant loss of revenue, entered on a notable scheme of forcing the river back into its old course. In June 1789, they asked the Collector whether it would be worth while to spend two lacs of ruppes in doing this; and he replied that it certainly would, if it could be done for the money. So an engineer, Mr. Lyon, was told to do it, and the Collectors of Dinagepore and Rungpore, Hatch and McDowall, held a conference on the borders of their respective domains, and became very busy in collecting men and materials. Three thousand *kodalees* were collected, but Mr. Lyon wanted pickaxes, which put our Collector rather about. He wrote that a pickaxe had never been seen in the district; he had therefore given a muster of one from memory, and hoped the result might be successful. Mr. Lyon, however, brought his pickaxes with him. Twelve thousand men were collected at the place where the new river had broken in: an assistant to the Collector had put up houses for the men, and was on the spot to superintend and pay them; and timber dredgers, *kodalees*, pickaxes, and rupees, were there in abundance. But a short period of work appears to have convinced the engineer that even he could not stop the Teesta, for early in January (1790) came an order from Government to suspend the works. How much of the two lacs of rupees was unexpended, there are no accounts to show. The Teesta still flows on. The old course is still traceable in a broad sandy belt, which the road from here to Jukpigoree traverses for twelve miles.

Large remissions had to be made in the revenues of 1194 B. S. They appear to have amounted to about one and three-fourth lac of rupees. During the two following years only a slight increase was obtained, as the overflows of the Teesta were repeated in those years. The revenue for Coochwara and its allied mehals of Bykuntapore and Coondy for 1196 B.S. (1789-90 A. D.), the last settlement preceding the decennial, was

* [This history will be made complete when the *Dinagpur Records* Volumes, now in course of preparation, are published. W. K. F.]

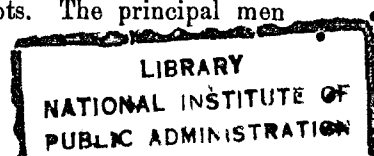
French Arcot Rs. 6,20,624, or Sicca Rs. 5,68,077. The other districts comprised in the province of old Rungpore, Baharbund, Edrakpore, the sicca mehals, Sorooppore and Rangamatty, will now be shortly noticed.

V.—District Baharbund, Sarkar Bengal Bhoom.

The conquest of Baharbund, with other tracts from the Kamrup Rajah Parikshit, by the Mahomedans, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, has been narrated. Baharbund came into this district in 1772, where it has since remained, with the exception of one year, 1786-87, during which it, with Edrakpore, formed the small district of Ghoraghat. It includes the pergunnahs of Baharbund and Gowalbaree or Gyebaree; the latter separated from Baharbund by Bhiturbund, and also a portion of Bhiturbund. Rennel's map wrongly includes Gyebaree within the limits of Cooch Behar. Baharbund, with Bhiturbund, had been part of the Nattor Rajah's estate; but the latter did not come into this district from Rajshahye until after the permanent settlement. From an account sent to the Committee of Revenue by Mr. Goodlad, when Collector of Ghoraghat, it appears that Baharbund, though nominally entered in the name of the Nattore zemindar, was from time to time held as a jaghir by Mahomedans; and in 1782, Bissen Churn Nundy, probably a benami for Cantoo Babu, Hastings' banian, obtained a five years' farm of it. His successor, Lookenaut Nundy, Cantoo Babu's son, from whom the present owner, Rane Surnomohee of Cossimbazar, Moorshedabad, is descended, is spoken of as the zemindar, thus ousting the old nominal possessors. It does not appear whether any purchase-money was paid for the property.

Lookenaut was the first of the zemindars of the district who obtained a permanent settlement which came to pass in this wise. The average collections during the five years' farm were Rs. 95,781, and at its expiration the settlement was offered to Lookenaut at the average of the three preceding years' collections; but this he declined, and for two years, 1184-85 B.S., the estate was managed by a sezawal, who only collected Rs. 80,525 the first year, and Rs. 82,639 the second. Then Lookenaut with great astuteness came forward, and offered to take the estate at the latter rate on a permanent lease, which offer was accepted by the Governor-General in Council, in a letter of October 20th, 1779, signed by Hastings, Barwell, Francis, Wheler, and Coote. The sunnud, a translation of which I have culled from settlement proceedings of eight years later recites Baharbund, Bhiturbund, and Gyebaree, as included in the grant.

The Directors in London were very wrath at the granting of these permanent leases to Baharbund and a few others, and sent out peremptory orders that they were to be forthwith cancelled; but nothing of the kind was done. The Baharbund zemindar was the only one in Rungpore who had a large private fortune, and he began at once that course of scientific administration which has rendered this zemindary one of the best managed in the district. During 1189 and 1190 B.S., he carried out a new measurement and assessment. This relieved the lesser ryots at the expense of the more powerful ones, who had in various well-known ways got into their possession the best land at the least rent, or none at all; and the deficiency caused by their unfair practices used to be made up by taxes, which fell most heavily on the poorer ryots. The principal men



went to Calcutta to complain of the new assessment which bore on them so heavily ; and the decision of the Committee is interesting, from the following delivery on the position and rights of zemindars :—

“The Committee, adverting to the nature of a zemindar’s office and the deed by which he is vested with the superintendence and collection of the revenues of a zemindary, are of opinion that he does not derive a right from either of making a hustabod of a zemindary by measurement, or of changing the ancient mode or rate of collecting the revenue without the previous permission of Government.” Notwithstanding this apparently adverse ruling, the zemindar in the end made good his point.

In 1862-63, the test year of Act X, when the three years’ limitation began to run out, of a total of 3,133 suits for arrears of rent for the whole district, 959 appertained to this estate.

VI.—Edrakpore, Dinagepur, and the Sicca Mehals, Sarkar Ghoraghat.

Edrakpore and Dinagepore, known respectively as nine annas and seven annas Ghoraghat, were the remains of the large zemindary of that name, and the sicca mehals, five jaghir estates held at fixed rates thus denominated, were separated talooks of the same zemindary, which at the time, of which we write, comprised in its two shares the greater part of the Dinagepore district, a portion of Rungpore to the south, and nearly the whole of the present districts of Maldah and Bograh. It had a century before, in the time of Aurungzebe, included Sorooppore and Coondy ; but the former pergunnah had now become a portion of the Nattore zemindary, and Coondy was a separate estate divided among several sharers. The city of Ghoraghat was once the seat of the eastern Mogul Government, with a circle of collection of ninety lacs of rupees, but the seat of Government was removed to Dacca in the reign of Jehanghir. We have seen that Ghoraghat was the basis whence the Rungpore chaklas were overrun at the close of the seventeenth century. The site of the city is in the Dinagepore district, as it lies in the west bank of the Kurutiya, and I am informed that extensive ruins still exist, imbedded in thick jungle. Mr. Goodlad’s account of Ghoraghat, gives a long list of fifteen successive Rajahs, who are names and nothing more ; and according to the story which he cites, but doubts, it seems to me, without good reason, the division into the two shares of 9 annas and 7 annas was brought about by foul dealing. One of the zemindars, Rajah Bhagawan, being an idiot, his dewan, who held the same name, took advantage of this fact, and by judicious management obtained a grant of the zemindary from the Dacca Soubah, and a long contest which ensued resulted in the division above noted, the usurper retaining the 7 annas share, that of Dinagepore.

Dinagepore was put under general charge of the Rungpore Collector during the two years of Devi Singh’s farm—1781-83, and the Collector was directed to reside occasionally at Dinagepore to be a check upon the farmer. Then Mr. McDowall was Collector for one year (1782-84) before he came to Rungpore, and after his incumbency Dinagepore was again under Rungpore for two years more, 1784-86. In May 1786, Mr. Hatch was appointed Collector, and the districts have ever since remained distinct.

The Rajah of Dinagepore, Radhanath, was a minor, and Devi Singh was appointed as the dewan of Dinagepore at a salary of Rs. 1,000. The

zemindary had been let to the Rajah for life, and the Directors approved of this arrangement as an experiment. A letter of Mr. Goodlad's is interesting, as showing how the institution of the Court of Wards was let out; the Dinagepore estate was encumbered with debt to the amount of over a lac of rupees, more than half of which was owing to the Company; and a large number of elephants, horses, and camels, were entertained at great and useless expense. Measures were taken for selling them, and for liquidating the debt in other ways, and also for educating the young Rajah; but Mr Westmacott's account shows how successfully the old Ranee baffled all attempts in this direction, and the consequent collapse of the estate.

Edrakpore, the 9-anna share, had been under Rungpore in 1773, when Mr. Purling was Collector; where it was subject to subsequently does not appear; but in 1781 it was again brought into this collectorate, and remained so since, with the exception of the one year, 1786-87, of the Goraghat collectorate. The revenue assessed on this zemindary fluctuated between Rs. 1,85,612 in 1178 B.S., Rs. 1,30,529 in 1181 B.S., and Rs. 1,60,196 in the time of Devi Singh, at which last amount it continued. After the inundations of 1787, a deduction of Rs. 15,000 was allowed up to 1196 B.S. (1789-90 A.D.), but this allowance was resumed the first year of the decennial settlement. Edrakpore has now disappeared from the map. Its 69 pergunnahs were sold in lots early in the present century for arrears of revenue; only a few small portions remain to the descendants of the former Rajahs, not paying more than Rs. 2,000 to Government as revenue. The Dinagepore Rajah still retains a considerable, although much reduced, estate, paying a lac and three quarters of revenue.

The sicca mehals merit no special mention, their revenues having always remained fixed. After the decennial settlement, the most southerly, Bullehar, was transferred to Rajshahye, and portions of the others go to form the district of Bograh.

VII.—Sorooppore and Rangamatty.

Sorooppore formed part of the Nattore zemindary under Rajshahye, and lay as an Alsatia on the road between Rungpore and Dinagepore, a convenient refuge for evil-doers. It was sold at Calcutta for arrears, and purchased by Darpa Narain Thakur, and was then transferred to this district, 1787. An ameen, appointed to make a local measurement and enquiry into the resources of the pergunnah, brought in false returns, and an English commission was therefore sent from Calcutta, who made very minute enquiries, which encumber several volumes. The revenue assessed on Sorooppore was Sicca Rs. 45,000, increasing to Sicca Rs. 58,680.

Rangamatty included what now forms the district of Gawalpara. It was formed into a separate collectorate, and transferred from this district previous to the decennial settlement. In its collections were the tribute of two small states, Bijnee and Bidyagong, who paid their revenue in elephants. A statement of the proceeds for several years will be found in the Appendix (A No. 5). There was great mortality among the animals; out of 70 to 80 caught every year, seven or eight only arrived at Rungpore; and the tribute was afterwards changed into a cash one.

VIII.—On Sundry matters incidental to Settlement.

Collection of the revenue.—The coercive measures provided by the regulations of Government for the enforcement of the payment of revenue, were corporal punishment, confinement, and the sale of lands. Previous to the permanent settlement, the last of these was only resorted to, as a root and branch cure after other means of healing had failed. It has been seen that the sub-farmer of Rungpore had freely used corporal punishment (so called) during the time of Devi Singh's farm, and he had to compensate some individuals on whom he had inflicted certain species of this description, going by the names of cuttah, chaump, changee, and moraud khahee. In this he had closely followed the Mahomedan traditions; for there is an account of a fouzdar, who, in 1168 B.S. (1761 A.D.), punished a recalcitrant zemindar of Tapa with the first three of the above-named tortures, until he was near expiring, and relinquishment of his zemindary was forced from him, after which he was put in irons and confined; which among the thousand and one modes of torture that have been practised in India from time immemorial these names indicate, I have not been able precisely to ascertain; but Burke specifies certain that were used, according to the evidence collected by Mr. Paterson's commission, such as tying the fingers tightly together, and forcing nails or bamboo wedges between them; hanging up by the feet, and beating the soles of the feet until the nails dropped off, &c. and Dr. Chevers has a long chapter in his Medical Jurisprudence, narrating the different cruel punishments that history and the records of courts of justice disclose the fertile brain of the East has invented for wreaking vengeance on the victims of rage and tyranny.

There is no instance of any Collector using or countenancing the use of corporal punishment for the enforcement of the payment of the Government dues; but that zemindars were in the habit of flogging their ryots is spoken of as a well-known practice, and no special notice is taken of it. Confinement, however, was constantly used as a coercive measure. During the famine year the whole of the zemindars were in confinement at one time, and the Collector complacently reports to the Board regarding the dewan of Edrakpore (the zemindar was female, and the dewan was held responsible for the revenue), that he had for a long time past been under restraint according to the regulations, and deprived of every convenience to render his confinement the more severe.

A custom peculiar to Rungpore, and as Collector Moore writes, by all that he could learn of the character and disposition of the zemindars, a process but too necessary, was to locate sezawals with them, in order to prevent the public revenues being embezzled, and to forward them as they arrived from the mofussil to the sudder cutcherry at Rungpore. The collections at the cutcherry were made during the night—a custom which has continued to the present day in some of the zemindaries.

The female zemindars gave the Collectors the most trouble. He could not confine them, nor could he even catch them; for when he sent for them to live at Rungpore, they ran away to Calcutta. In 1781, the zemindar of Kankina thus took her flight; the Collector wrote to the Committee in Calcutta to send her back, and they tried to apprehend her and failed. The final upshot, however, was the sale of some of her lands two years later. It is pleasant to come across a notice in Bucha-

nah, to the effect that he found Ram Rudro of Kankina, the adopted son of this lady, among the few zemindars of the district who showed any real politeness to strangers. He calls him a very respectable old man; but if Buchanan's memory was not tripping, Ram Rudro must have aged very early in life: for it was only in 1784 that his adoptive mother introduced him to Mr. Moore to take up the settlement of the estate, and if he was then 20, he could not have been more than 45 in 1809. Buchanan spoke of the Kankina zemindar and his neighbour of Tooshvanda, as giving encouragement to learning, which tradition is well observed by their present successors.

A very peculiar transaction crops up in 1787, anent the realization of the rents from the ryots. Dinagapore stretched east of the Kurutiya, north of Edrakpore, right into the centre of Rungpore, comprising Pyrabund, Batashun, Burrobilla, Andooah, &c., all included in our present thannahs of Molong and Pirgunge; and Mr. Hatch complained to Mr. McDowall that numbers of ryots of Andooah had 'eloped' into Rungpore, and proposed having peons on the boundary pergunnahs of each district, who could arrest such defaulters without formal application to the Collector concerned, and he adds these pregnant words—"By this reciprocal service not merely security to the revenues will be insured, but improper emigrations be checked, and the inhabitants prevented from wandering backward and forward, to the vexation of the officers of the collections, who in all these cases are reduced to hold out false promises, and practise every species of deception to induce the ryots to settle; even pattas at a fixed rate can be of no avail, while natural inclination to delay payment is combined with so powerful an incentive to evade it altogether." Mr. McDowall objected to Mr. Hatch's plan as inconsistent with the customs of the country, and propounded in his turn a proposal of an interchange of the emigrants from both districts for some years past, and he promised on his part to send in a list of all such vagrant ryots. Whether it was his idea that the exchange should be strictly man for man, woman for woman, child for child, does not appear; the notable proposal seemingly dropped.

Under-tenures.—The power possessed or assumed by the zemindars of alienating revenue land was greatly abused. George Bogle, Collector, gives the following account of the matter in 1780 :—"It is necessary that I should mention another cause which affects the revenue of this province, as well on account of its importance, as in hopes of obtaining your sanction to measures which, if they are not sufficient to eradicate, appear at least likely to lessen the evil. The cause I allude to, is the great quantity of *bauzee zemin*, or lands exempted from rent. The mode long followed in the management of this province will serve partly to account for the extraordinary amount of free lands. For forty years the revenues were collected by the officers of Government, or through the medium of farmers. The authority of the zemindars was in a manner only ostensible; their names were set forth in all public accounts and papers relating to the revenue of their respective districts; they and their officers possessed houses and held lands, on the produce of which they subsisted, but they were not interested in the collections. They derived no benefit from an increase of the rents of their pergunnah, and they suffered no loss by a diminution. In this situation, however, they were permitted to exercise the privilege of giving pattas and sunnuds for free lands under all the

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various denominations and practices common throughout Bengal, and likewise of granting villages on a tenure called oponchakee (a term peculiar to this province), by which the possessor is liable only to the payment of the original rent, and is exempted from all taxes or subsequent assessments. Thus, free from all responsibility, and restrained by no consideration of personal interest, it is not surprising that the zemindars were easily prevailed on by the solicitations of individuals, and the influence of public officers to grant sunnuds for charity and other beneficiary lands. About three years ago, the zemindars of this province were first entrusted with the management, and became answerable for the revenues of pergunnahs. They have since endeavoured, indeed, to recover some part of the *bauzee zemin*, but the attempts have met with a powerful opposition in the superstition of the people and the common interest of the officers of Government, and having been directed chiefly against the grants of former zemindars, have had to struggle with titles supported by long possession, as well as by written sunnuds. Even where resumptions were made, they seldom tended to increase the funds from which the public revenue is drawn; the lands continued to be classed under the head of *lakhiraj* or free, the incumbent only, not the tenure, was changed. In the meantime, the zemindars and their officers invested with the complete and unrestrained management in their districts, anxious to secure some lasting benefit from their novel authority, have made considerable additions to their household lands, and having taken a great portion of the villages into their own hands, have in many instances reduced the jumma by grants and private alienations, or have let ~~the~~ lands at a low rent to their dependents and favourites."

Mr. Bogle proposed plans for registering and enquiring into the titles, the main points of which were subsequently adopted. The Committee in 1781 anticipated an increase to the revenue of two lacs of rupees by these proceedings. Eight years later, a register was formed by Mr. McDowall, who had employed 30 mohurirs for more than four months at the work; and he reported that resumption proceedings could produce an increased revenue of Rs. 94,177, but that there would be occasioned thereby great clamour, distress, and disgust. These registers are not forthcoming; they were probably burnt in one of the fires to which the thatched buildings used as cutcherries were subject. The earliest registers, now extant, were made in 1207, and contain nearly 20,000 entries. Among this number, 125 holdings have been since resumed, giving a revenue of Rs. 6,580.

These enquiries related only to lands held rent-free, and did not touch the connected abuse of letting tenures at inadequate rents. There were two classes of tenure created by the zemindars, the Oponchakee and Mazkury talooks; the former were held at fixed rates, and included Mahatram, Pirpal, and Devutter, or beneficiary lands of various denominations. A list of these grants prepared by Mr. McDowall, paying an aggregate rental of Rs. 87,771 is among our records. The Mazkury talooks were subject to increase of revenue. About forty talooks of both kinds were separated from their parent estates at the permanent settlement, yielding a revenue of over half a lac of rupees.

The sub-tenures now existing are putnees, ijaras, but principally large jotes, which are very common, and some of them are very extensive. Very few ryots have rights of occupancy; the Mahommedans especially

are very migratory, fond of changing their habitation, and always rushing to new-formed alluvial soil ; but there is some kind of customary tenant-right generally recognized for the sales of *sarsari* jotes, that is, holdings without any defined rights, are daily registered ; 505 such sales were registered in the year 1871-72.

Agriculture.—Next importance to rice, the chief staples of the district, were tobacco, indigo, and opium. Tobacco retains its importance to this day, and the quality is highly spoken of. It is bought by the Mughs of Chittagong for manufacture into Burmah cigars. Indigo, an inferior quality mixed with lime, was purchased by the Bhooteas at a rate of Rs. 22 to Rs. 23 per maund, and carried into Thibet. This has always been in this district largely a domestic manufacture. The ryots cultivate on their own account, and sell the plant or make the indigo in small vats of their own. Large factories under European management early flourished. A son of Collector McDowall was a planter in this district, and died here. The only two factories still remaining have fallen into native hands, and are fast breaking up into their constituent parts ; but I doubt whether the produce of indigo of a coarse quality has at all decreased from the yield of former days.

Opium was cultivated on the lands east of the Teesta. The price at which it was delivered by the contractor was Rs. 240 per chest of one maund and a half ; and the supply from Rungpore averaged 130 chests per year, out of a total supply of between 1,500 and 1,600 chests from Bengal and Behar. I believe that the cultivation continued in this district until 1841, when the check in the opium trade, caused by the China war, led to the curtailment of the manufacture, and the supply from Rungpore, which was of inferior quality, was discontinued, and has not since been resumed.

Village Officers.—Such scraps as we have here of the village system were introduced during the Mahommedan occupation. Cooch Behar Proper has no institution of the kind. The Collector, in 1788, gives an exhaustive list of the collecting establishment under the zemindars, which entailed a charge of Rs. 19-11 per cent. on the total collections. In the long list the patwarry and the bosneah are the two principal village officers : side by side with those we gather elsewhere were the mandals or paramanicks, (the term of similar meaning, pradhan, now common, does not appear in the records). These latter are the principal men in any locality who are looked up to by the inferior ryots to advise in and settle matters of local interest, from killing a thief who has been caught in the act, to the adjustment of every trivial caste question. The term bosneah is, to a great extent, interchangeable with those of mandal and paramanick, and so, practically, is that of patwarry ; for the patwarries are generally appointed by the zemindars from among the village headmen, and the head ryots have always formed the means of communication between the superior zemindary officers and the village. We read in a report of 1778, "when the settlement is made with any country, the Canoongoe's office and Dewan's sheristah become the channels of information to the patwarries and paramanicks of the villages, and they communicate their accounts to each ryot." The term bosneah has now gone a good deal out of use, yielding to mandal or pradhan ; it now often indicates a kind of sardar attending at the zemindary cutcherry ; but in the last century, bosneah was the name most generally recognized for

the heads of villages. In the Dimla disturbances of 1783, and on other occasions, the bosneahs were always the leaders and spokesmen of the ryots. The office of headman is practically elective. When a ryot attains to property and position, his neighbours call on him in cases of emergency: the title is in many cases passed on from father to son; but if the position is not maintained, it is but an empty sound, and new rising men become the recognized chiefs of the community.

Mullahs and Cazees.—Among the papers of the decennial settlement occurs the following report of the zemindars on this subject:—"Formerly, a tax was levied on the Mutchelmen (sic) on account of Cazeena, but since it was abolished by Government, the same has been discontinued. At present there are mullahs stationed in the several villages on the part of the cazees, who receive something on the marriages of Mutchelmen (altered to Mussalmans), but there is no fixed rate, the amount given depending upon the pleasure of the parties. No rozeena, or daily allowance, is paid to any one from any of the chaklas or pergunnahs dependent in our zemindaries." (Signed by the zemindars of Cazeerhat, Kankina, Futtehpore, and Coondy.) The zemindar of Bykuntpore reported that it had never been the custom in his pergunnah to pay anything on account of daily allowance or fees to cazees.

There are still cazees, I believe, who attend at marriages among the respectable classes of Mahommedans; but among the lower classes, any villager who can read or recite a passage from the *Korân* is called a mullah, and his services are called in for the celebration of their marriages, of which no record whatever is kept.

Currency and Finance.—After the collapse of the Rungpore currency, the old Cooch Behar or narainy rupee, the chief medium of exchange was the clipt French Arcot. Sicca rupees would not pass. We find the commercial resident complaining in 1783 that his business had been put a stop to, because a bill of exchange had been cashed in that currency. The tribute of Cooch Behar was paid in new narainy half rupees, which had to be cashed through the shroffs at the rate of 400 half rupees, for 100 sicca. Mr. McDowall reduced the rate to 360 halves for 100 sicca. The nominal value of the new narainy was 272 halves to 100 sicca. In 1781, the Government made arrangements for the establishment of a copper currency: formerly cowrees were in use.

The Rungpore revenues were remitted to Moorsshedabad or Calcutta by bills of native bankers, paying a premium of from 1 to 2 per cent. for the convenience but some failures among the shroffs induced the Company to escort their own treasure. This, however, rendered them liable to the dangers of the roads. In 1792, a remittance of Rs. 14,000 was robbed on the way to Moorsshedabad, and in the following year, another of Rs. 10,000, between Cooch Behar and Rungpore; the money was in bags, and the robbers made a rush at dawn, while the guards were most of them scattered about in the jungle and fields, and carried off the bags. Several of the sepoys and pykes were killed or wounded on each occasion by the raybanshes (a spear head mounted on a long bamboo) of the dacoits. In the second instance, the Collector, Mr. Lumsden, made a local enquiry at Mogulhat, the scene of the occurrence, and seemed inclined to lay the blame on a class of outcasts, known as jackal-eaters, but no clue was obtained in either case.

The rate of interest charged by the shroffs on good security was one per cent. per month ; on indifferent security, it rose to Rs. 3-2 per month.

IX—The Permanent Settlement.

In considering the position of the zemindars prior to the permanent settlement, it must be borne in mind that the term zemindar is a very wide one, including different classes of owners, the origin of whose rights was very various. Thus, in Rungpore, we have what, for want of better terms, may be styled the semi-feudatory estates, such as Bykuntpore and the chaklas, held by the Rajah of Cooch Behar ; the sub-feudatory or the rest of Coochwara, held by descendants of Cooch Behar officers, who had a century before been inducted by the Moguls into their estates as zemindars ; the new purchasers, such as Baharbund and Sorooppore, who could pretend to no rights beyond any limitations the Government might have chosen to have entered in their deeds of possession ; the large zemindars, owners of what had been principalities, such as Edrakpore and Dinagepore ; and lastly, the smaller ones, which were generally holders of talooks, which had been separated from the larger estates. It was the position of the fourth of the above classes, whose principalities had parcelled out Bengal, that dominated the question of the position of the zemindars in general.

The zemindars were more than mere contractors for the revenue ; that term rightly defines ~~the~~ position of the farmers, who under the Mahommedans and under the first settlements of the English, leased the districts from Government. The Committee of Revenue, in their order on the Baharbund measurement case in 1789, already quoted, speak of the "zemindar's office," and of his being "vested with the superintendence and collection of the revenues of a zemindary." This gives a closer view of the zemindar's real position ; they held an administrative office, become hereditary by long custom, and they possessed an estate in that office with rights vague and undefined. The superior right of Government as the sole owner of the soil was unequivocally maintained and admitted. During the year of trouble, 1194 B.S., Mr. McDowall reports that, in order to induce the zemindars to engage for the previous year's revenue without deduction, he had represented to them that a zemindar had no longer a right to his land, but while he continued a good and useful subject to the state ; and that if they insisted on refusing their services, he should insist on their relinquishing by a regular deed all right and title to their zemindaries. Again, the petition of the zemindars relating to the settlement of 1195 B.S. commences with these words :—"The country belongs to the Company, and we, the zemindars, are only appointed for the purpose of transacting the business of it." The zemindars could not make a fresh measurement or assessment on the ryots without the permission of Government. Mr. Purling, who commenced the decennial settlement, writes in 1790 :—"Government in this country is not the participator according to exigency of the produce of the land, but the positive possessor of the whole of the profits of the soil, allowing but a maintenance to those whose duties are devoted to the state."

On the other hand, the hereditary character of the zemindars, and their preferential right to a settlement "on terms sufficiently moderate, to enable them to maintain a degree of respect among their dependents,"

was recognized by the Directors in 1777. When dispossessed of their zemindaries, by the same being let to farmers, they were given a mushahera, or allowance of 10 per cent., on the revenues, and they were held entitled to hold a moderate amount of land not included among the settlement assets.

Two incidents of a distinctly proprietary character attached to their status. One was that they could grant sub-tenures or talooks in gift, or purchase out of their zemindaries. For long previous to the English occupation they had been in the habit of making these grants, and they continued to do so subsequently in spite of prohibitions: several such grants, where the revenue had been secured by a proper assessment of the talook, were made with sanction of the Collectors, and are recorded in their proceedings; but the right had been so very much abused, that the action of the zemindars in this respect had seriously curtailed the Government revenue. Secondly, their lands were subject to be sold for arrears of revenue. This itself is a distinct admission of their possession of some saleable rights; and this liability is enunciated in our earliest records. In the instructions for the settlement of 1777 is this clause, "that for all lands let to the zemindars as above directed, it be expressly stipulated in their kabooleats that in case of their falling in arrears, they shall be liable to be dispossessed, and their zemindaries, or portions of them, shall be sold to make up the deficiency." This liability to sale is repeated over and over again. Mr. Goodlad in 1789 reports, that he had tried every means, except corporal punishment, to recover the balances from the zemindars; and he applied to the Board for the sale of their lands. Threats of sale constantly occur, which were not carried into effect, because the balances were otherwise recovered; and there are not wanting instances of actual sales. In fine, we may conclude that while the zemindars held these scraps of proprietary right, which had naturally developed out of the hereditary character of their office, their position altogether was so very vague and undefined and the authority of the Government as a recent conqueror was so freely allowed, that any conditions of settlement and limitations of their authority whatever, short of absolute deprivation of their zemindaries, would not have borne the character of unjustness or harshness. The permanent settlement which, in fact, gave proprietary right, with some uncertain reservations, in favor of the ryots, which were never enforced, was a pure gift—a splendid one to those who had brains and money to make good use of it, a fatal one to those who had neither.

It is interesting to observe the very gradual working up of the idea of the permanent settlement. In 1776 the directors write:—"Having considered the different circumstances of letting your lands on leases for lives or in perpetuity, we do not, for many weighty reasons, think it advisable to adopt either of those modes?" and they approved of letting the province of Dinagepore to the Rajah for life as an experiment, the issue of which would in some measure enable them to judge of the propriety of adopting a general system on similar principles. These instructions were repeated year by year, and indignant, indeed, were they on receiving information of the fixed leases granted to Baharbuud and others. They wrote in 1783 anent this: "We repeat our orders that you do not grant fixed leases on any pretence whatever. The expediency of letting the lands for a longer period than one year, or in

perpetuity, is a great political question, on which, in the present critical situation of our affairs, we cannot at this time come to any determination." *In 1788, the Rajah of Cooch Behar applied for a fixed lease for his zemindary of Boda, &c., but the proposal only met with a contemptuous notice from the Board. A change of policy, however, suddenly appears. In the spring of the same year orders are sent to make a five years' settlement, and the Boda zemindar, after a second ineffectual attempt to get a permanent settlement, agreed to the one for the short term; but as it was the year just following the famine, none of the other zemindars entered into it.*

The arrangements for the decennial settlement commenced in 1790; and how that settlement was merged by a word into a permanent one, is matter of history. No worse time could have been chosen for this operation in Rungpore, as far as the interests of the Government were concerned. The country required years to recover from the effects of the disasters of 1787, and the zemindars very unwillingly entered into the arrangements, with the exceptions of those of Baharbund, Boda, and Bykuntpore. Two years elapsed before the settlement was finally arrived at; and instead of the hoped for increase of Rs. 1,39,000 on the revenues of 1196 B.S., in order to attain to the standard of 1193 B.S. for Cazeerhat and Boda, and 1187 B.S. for the rest of the district, the total increase obtained was between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000, and the permanently assessed revenue on a Coochwara was about the same as the demand of 1190 B.S., the year following the insurrection, and the lowest rate at which it had ever stood since the acquisition of the country by the English. Boda and Bykuntpore alone, among the Coochwara mehals, were kept up to the standard.

A temporary settlement of from 20 to 30 years would have given sufficient stability of possession for the encouragement of cultivation, and at its close a rich increase would have accrued to the Government revenue, or a life settlement, like that of Dinagepore, would have afforded opportunity for the initiation of a succession duty on the falling in the lives, a most useful and unobjectionable source of revenue. Rungpore was on the whole very lightly assessed: Baharbund especially so. In several instances, where the incompetent zemindars sold, with the Collector's sanction, talooks for the payment of their balances, monied purchasers were readily found willing to take such at more than their proportionate share of the Government demand, and withal pay a premium exceeding two years' revenue as purchase-money. The total permanently assessed revenue was sicca Rs. 8,19,621; this did not include Boda, the revenue of which amounted to a lac, which had been settled by the Commissioner just appointed for Cooch Behar.

One item of the assets of the settlement deserves a passing notice. It was called the foudary mehal, and yielded Rs. 80 per annum; it appears in the books as having been originally a tax for feeding the Nawab's buffaloes, and some other charges. Mr. Lumsden, who obtained the excision of the item from the revenue assets, reports in 1791, that the receipts of the farmer who leased the mehal arose principally from taxes paid by Brahmins, who performed religious ceremonies for sellers of spirituous liquors, prostitutes, washermen, and other low classes of Hindus, by those who beat tom-toms or played on trumpets, serindahs,

and other musical instruments, and by persons who performed feats of dexterity, danced in public shows, or exhibited bears, monkeys, and snakes.

X.—On changes since the Settlement.

The District boundaries.—The boundary between Dinagepore and Rungpore has been simplified by fixing the Kurutiya as the line of division to the south-west. This cut Sorooppore into halves, brought in Pyrabund, Batashun, and other estates which had before this time been sold away from the Dinagepore Rajah's property, and transferred to Dinagepore a portion of Edrakpore lying west of the river, including the site of Ghoraghat. The district of Bograh was subsequently carved out at the south; but a large portion of what was then transferred, has, from the commencement of the year 1872, been received back in thannah Govindgunge, the nucleus of the old Edrakpore estate, and the site of the Ghoraghat collectorate. Immediately after the permanent settlement, pergunnahs Patiladaha and Bhiturbund to the south-east and east were transferred from Rajshahye, the former having been then lately purchased by Gopi Tagore, and both originally portions of the large Nattore zemindary. The change in the course of the Brahmaputra, which divided Patiladaha into two portions, rendered necessary the transfer of the eastern division, the thannah of Dewangunge to Mymensing, which occurred some few years since. The latest loss the district has sustained, has arisen from the supposed necessity of providing a head-quarter station for the annexed Dooars of Bhootan, and a stepping-stone between Darjeeling and the rest of the straggling Cooch Behar division. This is a change much to be regretted; it wrested from us pergunnah Bykuntpore, and the two chaklas of Boda and Patgram: how closely connected with the history of old Rungpore our records show. The district, as stands, is shorn of half its traditions, and it is to be hoped that an opportunity may arise of restoring it to its original and natural limits.

Sales.—The effects of the stringency exercised subsequent to the decennial settlement in the realization of the revenue have been partly pointed out. Edrakpore collapsed early: Cazeerhat suffered much, with the exception of the two anna share, the Tooshvanda zemindary, the remaining four shares became much reduced by sales. Kankina remained whole, and the Futtehpore and Coondy estates, as a rule, weathered the breakers.

Partitions.—In the papers extracted from the Boda case there is a trace of a partition effected by the Mahommedans in that chakla; it was probably nominal, for the nominees of the Mahommedans never obtained secure possession, and it does not now obtain. Cazeerhat, Futtehpore, and Coondy, were divided during the Mahommedan era, and came in that state into our hands. Very few partitions have been effected in the parent estates. Among the 22 now remaining in the district of the 27 estates settled, (exclusive of the separated talooks,) only three have been subjected to partition. This operation has been mainly confined to the talooks separated at the time of settlement, or formed by sales of portions of the original zemindari for arrears of revenue. The total number of partitions have been 49, *i.e.*, from the time of the permanent settlement up to

1840— (48 years), 15 cases.

1841—1860 (20 years), 14 „

1861—1872 (12 years), 20 „

These operations have added largely to the number of estates borne on the rent-roll: three estates held by the same family, that took ten years to divide; added 56 new numbers to the rent-roll, the lowest share being one of $1\frac{1}{2}$ gundas, or $\frac{3}{640}$ ths of one of the estates.

- *New Estates.*—The change in the course of the Teesta to the eastward in the early part of the century left a strip of land along the deserted course available for settlement, which after resumption suit was settled with the riparian proprietors, yielding a total of 23 estates, which, on 6 permanent and 17 temporary leases, bear a revenue of Rs. 2,778.

The present number of estates on the rent-roll is 563, thus derived—

Original number settled	...	...	72
Deduct transferred to other districts	...	...	13
Remaining	...	...	59
Add new estates from resumption proceedings			125
Ditto ditto sales	...	...	152
Ditto ditto partitions	...	...	177
Ditto ditto dried river beds	...	...	23
Transfers from other districts	...	...	32
Present revenue roll	...	Co.'s Rs.	9,74,089
Permanently assessed	Co.'s Rs.	...	9,71,530
Temporarily ditto	„	...	2,559
8 estates with revenue under 10	„ pay Rs.	...	35
184 ditto under 100	„	...	8,668
215 ditto under 1,000	„	...	93,774
156 ditto over 1,000	„	...	8,71,612
463 estates, held by 1,229 Hindus,	pay Rs.	...	8,74,187
54 ditto ditto 160 Mahommedans		...	32,547
45 ditto held jointly by 261 Hindus and 186 Mahommedans		...	67,305
1 Government estate	...	...	50

XI.—Judicial.

Vivid pictures gleam from among the records of the past, showing the unsettled state of the times; and Rungpore, a frontier district, bordering on Nepaul, Bhootan, Cooch Behar, and Assam, was peculiarly liable to be infested by banditti.¹ These ravaged the country in armed bands, amounting to several hundreds. Bhiturbund and Sorooppore, both detached portions of Rajshabye, offered great facilities for refuge. In 1784, on the application of Mr. Grindall, the Collector of Tajpore, Ensign Duncanson was despatched against several 'herds of dacoits,' one of which infested the road between Dinagepore and Rungpore, which lay through Sorooppore,

¹ [See Hunter: *The Annals of Rural Bengal*, (3rd Edition), pp. 70—82, and the appendices to Mr. Sen-Gupta's Translation of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's *Anandamath*. See also Price. *Notes on the History of Midnapore*, pp. 117—23. W. K. F.]

and who had hanged a 'faquir' for complaining at Dinagepore against them, and had carried off six hundred wives and daughters of ryots. Many of the captives were rescued by the valiant Ensign.

The no-man's land, lying south of the stations of Dinagepore and Rungpore, and west of present Bograh, towards the Ganges, far removed from any local authority, was a favourite haunt of the banditti. In 1787, Lieutenant Brennan was employed against a noted dacoit leader, named Bhawani Pattuck; in this quarter. He despatched a havildar with twenty-four sepoy in search of the robbers, and they surprised Pattuck with sixty of his followers in their boats. Pattuck's chief man, a Pathan, headed a desperate resistance, during which the Pathan, Pattuck himself, and two other headmen, were killed, and eight were wounded, besides forty-two taken prisoners. Of the attacking party, two sepoy only were wounded. Seven boats, with arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, as the Lieutenant expresses it, were taken. Pattuck's force consisted wholly of up-countrymen: he himself was a native of Budgepore, and he was in league with another noted dacoit, Majnoo Shaba, who made yearly raids from the southern side of the Ganges. We just catch a glimpse from the Lieutenant's report of a female dacoit, by name Devi Chaudhranee, also in league with Pattuck, who lived in boats had a large force of burkundazes in her pay, and committed dacoities on her own account, besides getting a share of the booty obtained by Pattuck. Her title of Chaudhranee would imply that she was a zemindar, probably a petty one, else she need not have lived in boats for fear of capture. Brennan observes, as follows, on the complicity of the zemindars with these dacoits, and closes with some very pertinent remarks:—"I did not imagine that it was a matter of any importance to know that the principal zemindars in most parts of these districts, and I believe, I may venture to add, in most parts of the country too, have always a banditti ready to let loose on such of their unfortunate neighbours as have any property worth seizing on, and in accomplishing which even the lives of the unhappy sufferers are seldom spared. The zemindars commit these outrages in the most perfect security, as there is no reward offered to detect them; and from the nature of the dependence of the dacoits on them, it cannot be effected without bribery. To establish, therefore, a proof of connivance in the zemindars contiguous to Sahebgunj, I must first establish a greater sum of money than I have it in my power to advance, or the Board may think proper to reimburse me. I hazard nothing in confirming to you, notwithstanding the intelligence which I before communicated; for it is by no means reasonable to admit that everything which cannot be proved in a court of justice is not true." The Lieutenant writes from Silberris and the engagement with Pattuck took place in pergunnah Baharbund, in "Cantoo Baboo's zemindary." The regulations of 1783 contained the following rule, which, it seems, was never carried on:—"That whenever a zemindar is proved guilty of having abetted, practised, or connived at robberies or murder, none of his family be permitted to succeed to the zemindary without the express permission of the Board."

In 1789, we have an account of a large body of bandits who had occupied the Bykuntpore forest, lying at the apex of the district right under the hills, whence they issued on their predatory excursions. The forest was composed of tree jungle interwoven with cane, and was impassable, except by narrow winding paths, known only to the dacoits,

who maintained in the forest twenty-two posts, each under a separate leader. Mr. McDowall got together a force of 200 burkundazes, and held all the entrances into the forest: some months elapsed before any decisive result was obtained; several skirmishes ensued, and the robbers were at length starved out and escaped into Nepaul and Bhootan; but great numbers were captured, including their leader Kripa, and several of his principal associates. Within twelve months, in this and other parts of the district, our energetic Collector arrested and brought to trial 549 dacoits.

Large bodies of Sanyasis traversed the district, levying contributions on the villages. In 1782, we read of a body of 700, consisting of Sanyasis and Mussulman fakirs, and having horses, camels, elephants, and arms of all kinds: Lieutenant Macdonald was sent against them with 180 sepoys, and he brought in their leaders; the followers escaped under the hills. Three years later, as many as 1,500 crossed the Brahmaputra at Dewangunge; they had rockets, jinjal pieces, and 110 horses.

Besides these wandering thieves, there were numbers of these Sanyasis settled down in hermitages, which they fortified, and where they combined the trade of money-lender with that of dacoity. Mr. John Eliot, in a report made to the Board from Jafarshabee, dated 29th April, 1789, makes mention of two lutchas (dacoit boats), of 80 and 100 cabits in length respectively, which he has seized, and which belonged to head Sanyasis; gives a detailed account of the oppressions practised by these scourges, not only on the ryots, but even on the zemindars and their officers, whom they carried off and confined until their demands were complied with.

The sepoy officers had full occupation in dealing with local insurrection, gangs of dacoits, raids from Nepaul, and troubles in Cooch Behar, of which notice will be made as we go on. The burkundaz establishment employed in the district was 300 men; but Mr. McDowall, after his successful operations against the dacoits, reduced it to half that number. There remained then, in addition to that establishment, a havildar with 25 sepoys at Bykuntapore, and a like force at Dimla.

Here may be noted that, in 1789, three boys and sixteen girls, who had been inveigled away by a Portuguese writer, with the intention of selling them as slaves at Chandernagore were rescued by the Collector of Krisnaghur, and returned to this district.

Boundary disputes between the zemindars of adjoining districts cropped up in abundance, sometimes, though comparatively seldom, resulting in riots and loss of life. In all those traced, with the exception of one case, Baharbund was implicated, one with Cooch Behar, one with Goorlah in Rungamatty, two with Bhithurbund, and disputes with Currybarry, caused by the ever changing currents of the Brahmaputra, which have lasted a century, and are in full force at the present time.

The ameens sent forth from each authority to investigate these cases gave always diametrically opposite reports, as Mr. Baillie, the Collector of Gawalpara, in writing about the Currybarry dispute, forcibly expresses it:—"I am convinced that it never can be settled by black ameens; they are far too venal to settle the right of controverted property." In the only boundary case in which the zemindar of Baharbund was not concerned, between Edrakpore and one of the sicca mehals, the council at Purneah were driven to their wit's end; the ameens differed as usual.

The Council make the remark, that the testimony of the ryots brought by the one side must be considered as of equal validity with that given by those of the other, and they were half inclined to escheat the land to Government; but they adopted the "milder method," of giving two-thirds to one disputant, and one-third to the other, in proportion to the extent and value of their respective zemindaries. On this principle of decision a pauper suitor would have a poor chance of justice.

The case of the Nacauds has been already referred to. Our relations with Assam will be noticed in the next part.

In 1784, a voluntary contribution of near half a lac of rupees was collected from the Rungpore zemindars, in order to erect grain magazines to provide against the occurrence of famines. Mr. Moore observes that such temporary contributions were not unusual, and that the zemindars would not pay it from any stock of their own, but, 'as usual,' levy it from the country under the head of mangan or want.

Our notes regarding Hastings' administration will find a suitable finish, with reference to a testimonial supplied by the zemindars of this district at the close of 1788, testifying to the "justice and moderation" of his rule. This cannot be called spontaneous, since it was called forth by instructions from the Calcutta Council, and it was one of a number that was produced at the trial, which had commenced 13th February 1788.

In 1787, by order of the Governor-General, Lord Cornwallis, the Collector sent some Tangans, or Bhootea ponies, to Lucknow, as a present to Madajee Scindia, and he added a pair of Assam hawks, one of them a Scia Bazi, a kind much prized.

Local.—The first Collector of Rungpore was Mr. Gross, who formed the heavy settlement of 1178 B. S. he died here in April 1771. Mr. Gross had not been here long, for in 1176 B. S. there were native Collectors. Modun Gopal and Mirza Hossein Reza. Mr. Purling came for his first incumbency some time in the year 1771-72, soon after the death of Mr. Gross, and we find him still here in 1773. He was succeeded by a Mr. Harris; but when that occurred, or how long the latter acted, there is nothing to show.

When Purling came a second time in 1777, the collections of the district had been for some years under the Provincial Council of Dinapore or Purneah; the Council had at first borne the former name, but as it was located at Purneah it became subsequently called by that name. In 1779 Purling went to Oude, and in 1781 he was put on the Board of Commissioners for the management of the Dutch East India Company's possessions at Chinsurah, which had been taken in war.

He was succeeded as Collector of Rungpore by George Bogle, who had in 1774 been on a mission to Thibet, passing through Bhootan with great difficulty. His manuscripts relating to this mission, are in the library of the British Museum. Bogle died early in 1781, and Goodlad, who had been assistant here for two years, was appointed Collector and Judge; while the native offices of foudar and tannadar were abolished. Goodlad remained until 1784, when he was succeeded by Moore.* He was for a year the Collector of Ghoraghat, and then we lose sight of him.

* See *Dictionary of National Biography* for a notice of Peter Moore. A portrait of Moore was given in *Bengal Past and Present*. Vol. VII. W. K. F.

Moore remained not quite two years, and left for Europe; and early in 1786, *Day Hart McDowall* was appointed; he remained until the close of 1789, when he also retired from the service to Europe. He writes in 1788, that he had come out to India in 1770 as a writer, and had by that time attained the status of a senior merchant.

Purling came for the third time in May 1790, and commenced the decennial settlement; but he had to leave on account of ill health in December of that year, and we get news of his death in the spring of 1791. He was succeeded by Mr. Lumsden, who completed the settlement; and when he left in the spring of 1793 for Chuprah, James Graham, who had been assistant for some years, became Collector. The office of Judge and Magistrate was, at the same time, separated from that of Collector, and Mr. M. Leslie was appointed the first District Judge.

Charges.—The Collectors drew a salary of Sicca Rs. 1,200, with Rs. 300 for house rent, which was modified later into Co.'s Rs. 1,500, with house rent Rs. 150; and they had, besides, a commission on the revenues, amounting to one per cent., up to ten lacs, but subject to a deduction of one per cent. on all uncollected balances. This yielded from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 8,000 per year, extra. The travelling allowance was Rs. 1-1 per mile, or Rs. 12 per day. The Collector got, besides as Judge, one-tenth from all the fees collected for suits in his court; but they were very few. The amount of fees drawn in one year by the Judge was Rs. 112 only—In view of this return, one of the court regulations of 1781, giving authority to inflict corporal punishment up to 20 rattans for trivial and groundless complaints, "to deter chicanery and intrigue," seems hardly called for, though such a rule might be useful in the present day.

Buildings.—There were three jails,—the dewanny, the foudary, and the Naib Nazim's; in the last, there were in 1789 three hundred prisoners kept in irons. The prisoners were not numerous in the Magistrate's or foudary jail; it had originally been situated in Mahigunge, but Mr. McDowall had it removed near his residence, apparently to its present site near Dhap, for we find the Collector, Mr. Lumsden, residing at Dhap in 1791. The estimate for the new jail was Rs. 245. The only masonry building belonging to the Company under the Collector was a powder magazine, in bad repair. Respecting the old factory buildings there are no details.

PART IV.—OUR NEIGHBOURS.

1.—Nepaul.

Nepaul adjoined Rungpore on the north-west, its territory extending to the western side of the Mahanuddee river. This tract had formerly belonged to the Sikkim, otherwise called the Boot Gaund Raja; but the petty zemindars had rebelled against him, and called in the aid of the Goorkhas, who readily responded and annexed the country. Thence raids, almost annually, from 1780 to 1786, were made into the Bykuntpore Raja's zemindary, on the pretence that the foudar of the Sikkim Raja had taken refuge there; and Ganga Ram Teppa, the Goorkha leader, was helped in these incursions by a nephew of the Bykuntpore zemindar who was at enmity with his uncle.

In February 1786 occurred the most serious and the last incursion of the kind ; the Goorkhas penetrated to Julpigoree, and killed or wounded ten persons or more, and carried off over a hundred prisoners and cattle, variously estimated at from 500 to 1,000 in number. Ensign Duncanson was despatched from Rungpore—post haste—with a small force of sepoy and burkundazes ; he arrived at Julpigoree three days after the plunderers had left ; and though he had only 17 sepoy and 20 burkundazes with him, he very pluckily pushed on to the borders at Cossimgunge, on the Mahanuddee,

and reconnoitred a Goorkha fort on the opposite side of the river, which he found to contain 200 troops. A morning later, he arranged to meet Gunga Ram alone, and having ridden across the Mahanuddee, he found the Goorkha surrounded with 150 of his troops, which number increased gradually, until they amounted to 300, all hill men. Gunga Ram and our Ensign had a long parley, during which the former grew insolent, and his men smelt strong of liquor, and were becoming intoxicated, so Duncanson turned his pony's head and withdrew from the conference, and the next day retired to Julpigoree, having for three successive nights with his men stood to their arms in momentary expectation of an attack. In a few days Captain Alexander arrived at Julpigoree with reinforcements, and on the 2nd March he stormed the fort Needanturrah Gurh which Duncanson had reconnoitred ; and as it was built of saul timber, he burned it down. In this engagement fifty of the enemy were killed. Captain Alexander then waited for guns before he could proceed against a stronger fort, Punchenee, and meanwhile carried on a written correspondence with the Goorkha leader. In a very racy letter of Gunga Ram, alluding to the threats employed by the Captain, he says :—“I am not like the fumes of the poppy that ascend and dissipate, neither am I like a cucumber to be taken and eaten ;” and he ends by threatening in his turn to take the Captain prisoner and carry him to Nepaul. During this time, however, overtures had been opened by the Collector with a superior soubah, and a despatch was sent direct to the Nepaul Rajah : Gungaram was disavowed, and put in irons, and 55 women and children were given up at once ; and it would seem that all the captives were given up, of whom any account could be obtained. A peaceable letter was received from the Rajah, couched in a very different style from that of his subordinate and the thank of Government to Mr. McDowall satisfactorily terminated the whole affair.

Mr. McDowall's four years' term of office was a busy time. In addition to carrying out four annual settlements, during three years of which there were inundations, and in one a famine to impede the operations, and catching over five hundred dacoits within twelve months, he had this Goorkha affair on his hands when he joined his post, and in the year of the floods he had to rescue the Cooch Behar Rajah from captivity, of which occurrence the narration will be made in our next section.

A few remarks will complete this notice of Nepaul. Among the Records is an account of the country, which seems worth preserving, given by a man despatched there by the Collector in the guise of a fakir, from which we learn that gold was obtained by the washing process, and that Nepaul had a copper currency, while Bengal still used cowries. A list of imports and exports from and to Nepaul, furnished by Mr. Lumsden in 1791, shows that gold to the value of Rs. 40,000 was imported from that country, through Purneah and Behar, into Bengal.

Nepaul acknowledged the supremacy of the Chinese empire. In 1783, comes a letter from the Governor-General, to convey the thanks of and some presents from, the Emperor of China, to the Talukdar of Battishazary, (Zeminder of Bykuntpore,) for helping on some elephants which had been sent from the Rajah of Nepaul to the emperor, and had passed through Bykuntpore. The presents were—

One piece of mussuzzer.

Three pieces of satin.

Six China purses.

The Chinese Emperor is still dependent for his elephants on his tributaries. When I was in Pekin in October 1871, there was great excitement owing to the near arrival of some elephants, a present from the King of Siam. The elephants formerly possessed by the Emperor had died some years before, and since that time there had been none for state purposes. The approach of the new elephants was proclaimed in the streets, and account of them, with rough representation of their shape in vermillion, were sold in hand bills by the beggar boys.

II.—Cooch Behar.

Cooch Behar, which a century before had included the greater part of Rungpore, now lay on the north-eastern frontier of the district, a small province, a buffer between Rungpore and the Bhooteas. It was the hostility of the latter which drove the Cooch Behar Rajah into our arms in 1772. In that year they had invaded the country, and carried away the Rajah, Durjendra Narayan, captive; the aid of the English was invoked, the Bhooteas were speedily defeated, and the Rajah was rescued: a treaty was formed, annexing Cooch Behar to Bengal, and providing for the payment of an annual tribute of half its revenues; and these relations have remained unaltered to the present day.

On the death of Rajah Durjendra in 1783, fresh troubles arose. There had grown up in the kingdom two offices, those of Dewan Deo and Nazir Deo, both held by members of the same family as that of the Rajah; the former, the manager of the household; the latter, the commander of the forces, who held the chatha, or umbrella, on the investiture of a new Rajah. Three generations before the then Nazir Deo Shanta Narayan, who had driven back the Bykuntpore invaders, and made the peace with the Mahommedans, A. D. 1711, acquired thereby great power, and became a sort of mayor of the palace, and transmitted his authority to his successors. So when Durjendra Narayan died, his infant son, Harendra, was set aside by the Nazir Deo Kogendra Narayan, who asserted that the appointment of a new Rajah rested with his office, assumed the management of the state, and appointed his own son to be jnbraj, or heir apparent. He is said to have stationed guards on the palace, and stopped supplies, in order to force compliance with his wishes; so that several women died of starvation, and he imprisoned the officers of the former régime. But Kogendra met his match in the old Manee Kanteshwari, Harendra's mother, who was an able and energetic woman and had during her husband's reign been the malik, or ruler, of the kingdom. She applied, with success, to the Collector for assistance, Kogendra's claims were set aside, and he was driven out for a time by the aid of sepoy. He, however, bided his time, and remained in such secrecy, that two years later, in 1786, when the Collector made special

enquiries about him by direction of Government, he could nowhere be found, nor could it even be ascertained whether he was alive or dead. But the following year he moved to purpose: three thousand rupees had been collected, and this amount sufficed for a revolution, and a force of Sanyasees was raised, consisting of between five and seven hundred men. A note of alarm came one day in June 1787, from the Ranee, asking for aid, which was followed the next day by the intelligence that the attack had been made and the palace stormed, the Rajah was carried off in a doolie, and his grandmother in a palanquin, but his mother, the Ranee, was made to walk; they were taken to Bulrampore, where the Nazir Deo had a house on the confines of Cooch Behar towards Bijnee. The time was well chosen for this operation. Rungpore was a sheet of water, and the Collector was striving, might and main, to make the settlement of the revenue, but he nevertheless obtained reinforcements from Dinagepore across the flooded country; still some time elapsed before the troops could march to Behar.

The mimic war, however, soon collapsed, when the undisciplined levies came face to face with sepoys. Even before the Dinagepore reinforcements could reach the scene of operations, the Nazir Deo's party had made an attack on a soubahdar, stationed with 50 sepoys at Nazirgunge, to support the collection of the revenues, and met with a crushing defeat, and their colors and drums were taken. Towards the close of August the detachment moved from Rungpore, under Captain Rattan, and by the end of the month the captives were rescued from the durance vile, in which they had been kept for two months and a half. Mr. McDowall highly extols the conduct and humanity of the troops, and considers they were justly entitled to the spoils they had obtained. These spoils consisted of some silver and brass utensils, (apparently some that Kogendra's people had plundered from the Rajah's palace,) that sold for Rs. 300, a horse, weak in the loins, that was kept by the Captain, and a few ponies.

Kogendra did not personally appear in this matter, his mother, Murrick Muttoo, acted for him; and according to her rival, Kanteshari's account, "though a woman, acted more than a manly part," by taking up a sword and shield, and constantly threatening her, the Ranee, and her son, the Rajah, with death. Murrick Muttoo and Kogendra's brother were, with others, in all 153 in number, taken prisoners, and the lesser people were sent for trial by the Magistrate to the native court. Kogendra finally came forward after a free pardon had been offered him, and a commission was formed to investigate the whole affair, and he made strenuous claims to a 9-anna share of the whole state, and to the entire zemindary of Boda, Patgram, and Purubbhag, which Shanta Narayn and other Nazir Deos after him had held in farm. The report of this commission, full of curious information, has been printed at the Cooch Behar press, Julpigoree. Kogendra seems to have obtained an allowance of Rs. 500 a month as the result. He died in 1808, the last of the Nazir Deos. Cooch Behar was put under a Commissioner during the minority of the Rajah, and we find the names of Henry Douglas, the Hon'ble Charles Bruce and Richard Abmuty, Commissioners, up to the close of the century.

III.—*Bhootan.*

If Nepaul was a troublesome neighbour to Bykuntpore on the west, Bhootan was a far worse foe on the east; for while the former carried off

people and property. the latter took land. Mr. Eden, in his political Missions to Bhootan, has given some account of the encroachments of the Bhootans in this quarter: they laid hold of the clause in the treaty made after the war about Cooch Behar, which enacted that the possessions of each should revert to their former state, and by persistent application on the part of the Deb Rajah to the Governor-General, obtained a large tract of Bykuntpore lying east of the Teesta, containing the celebrated temple of Shiva at Julpesh, and also a village west of the Teesta, named Ambaree Fallacotta, right in the centre of the zemindary. There can be no doubt that in the general confusion that preceded the English conquests, in the course of desultory warfare between the hill men and the petty states of the plains, the line of country occupied by the former had continually varied, and probably at some time or other the Bhooteas had been in possession of the territory they claimed; and moreover there is some reason to suppose, as stated by Buchanan, that the Bykuntpore Rajah had actually agreed to cede some territory to them, as an inducement for their attack on Cooch Behar, which had been brought about by his machinations: but it is, on the other hand, clear that the Bhooteas had not been in possession of the tracts in question immediately before their war with the English. Mr. Purling writes in 1790, some years after the lands had been given up:—"I was at Rungpore both before and since the Cooch Behar district was brought under the Company's protection, and I never, till now, heard of any claim of the Bhooteas, upon Julpesh and Fallacotta. Julpesh is a pagoda of Hindoo worship with which Bhooteas can have nothing to do."

A boundary decision of the Dinagepore council given in 1777, referring to the boundary between Bykuntpore and Bhootan, mentioned by Mr. Eden, is bad for vagueness; it does not specify the tracts in question, and it had no effect on the actual cession, for it was not unearthed until 1787: whereas the Government orders directing the transfer were first given in 1779, and repeated from time to time as the efforts of the Bykuntpore Rajah interposed delays. Considerations of policy, the desire to reach Thibet through Bhootan, actuated the Government in this matter. They said in regard to it:—"Without entering into the merits of the Deb Rajah's claims, we have thus readily acceded to them, as a pledge of our wish to oblige him, and to keep up the good understanding that has so long subsisted between the Bhootan Government and ours." And Mr. Goodland writes in 1782:—"I have never gone to the Presidency, but Mr. Hastings has particularly enjoined me not to suffer anything to happen that could give the least umbrage to the Bhooteas."

The Bhootea in this affair showed himself a match for the Bengalee, notwithstanding that, in one of his petitions to the Governor-General, the Deb Rajah innocently remarks:—"We, hill people, are not much acquainted with the craft and cunning of those of Bengal," and the Rajah of Bykuntpore had to submit to his loss of territory. The first excessive deduction from his payments of revenue granted on this account of Rs. 13,572 was reduced to one of Rs. 6,238, and on this deduction from revenue of 1187 B. S., the standard year, the permanent settlement was fixed; and even so, I do not consider the zemindary was over-assessed, for its name Battishazary (batrish hazari) denotes that it had produced an income of Rs. 32,000 a year. The revenue paid in 1187 B.S. was French arcot Rs. 28,334, equivalent to sicca Rs. 25,935.

Towards the east also, the Bhootas carried on their encroachments. There were two petty states subject to Rangamatty, which paid a revenue in elephants to us, and a tribute of cloth, oil, and dried fish to Bhootan. The smaller of these, Bidyagong, was wholly swallowed up, and its revenue ceased. In the other state, that of Bijnee, the Bhootan soubahs constantly interfered. The Rajah (of the Cooch Behar family) was murdered in 1791, and the instigator of the murder was at once appointed chief of the state by the Deb Rajah, who notified the appointment to the Commissioner of Cooch Behar, stating that the friendship subsisting between him and the Company rendered his appointment the same as that of the Bengal Government. A military force was sent to seize the murderer, which action brought forth two insolent letters from Bhootan soubahs. That of one, the Cherung soubah, a companion piece to the letter of Gangaram Teppa. This soubah was deposed by the Deb Rajah. The other, the Jumpah soubah, received the following spring a present of a "spying glass" and coral from the English Government, as a reward apparently for a certain degree of moderation in his insolence.

The Bhootas came in annual trade caravans bringing skins, blankets, cotton, chintz, musk, walnuts, gold dust, and 400 to 500 hill ponies to the value of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000, and they carried back in return indigo, broadcloth, leather, copper, lead, spices, and hogs. The trade had at one time amounted to upwards of a lac of rupees; but the demand for ponies had fallen off. Some Bhootas still come down as far as this, though there are new markets further north, where they can sell their goods; and there is some land in Mahigunge, unoccupied and unassessed, known as the Bhoota mehal, where they have encamped on their annual expeditions from time immemorial.

IV.—Assam.

Trade in salt to the amount of several lacs of rupees was carried on with Assam. A resident on the part of the Company was stationed on the confines of Rangamatty, at Gowalpara, and there was a chowkey or trade post on an island in the centre of the Brahmaputra, to which the Agent of the Assam Government, a Burooah, sent down his goods in boats, and got salt in return. The articles imported were muggadhooties, or dhooties made out of the Assam moongah silk, stick-lac, cotton, pepper, and ivory. The merchants engaged, according to a list of 1780, were Lear, Dow, Williams, Rausch, Wheatland, Maccullum, and Bigger. Our mortuary returns show that Mr. Bigger died at Jugegopah, in Rangamatty, in that same year; and the names of Dow and Rausch occur in the following list of interlopers sent to Government in 1783, the first of a periodical series.

*"List of Europeans, not covenanted servants, of the Hon'ble Company,
residing in the district of Rungpore.*

- Mr. William Dow, merchant, has permission from the Hon'ble the Governor-General to carry on the trade at Jugegopah, commonly called the jars trade.
- Mr. Daniel Rausch, a German agent for Mr. David Killican at Gowalpara, has no special permission.
- Mr. John Marshall, a German clerk to Mr. Edward Ephraim Pote, commercial resident at Rungpore, has no particular permission.

Mr. John Taylor, agent for Mr. Daniel Rausch at Mogulhaut, has no particular permission. There is a Prussian, of the name of Christopher Poole, who was formerly a sergeant in the Hon'ble Company's service, but received his discharge; he has for many years resided at Maria, in pergunnah Bodah."

From particulars supplied on the requisition of the Collector, we further learn that Mr. Dow came out to India in 1773 with a relation, Colonel Dow, and, in addition to his Assam trade, he established a factory at Cowriegaon in this district, where he died in June 1788, aged about 40 years; and Mrs. Dow followed him to the grave in the following month, aged about 38 years.

Daniel Rausch, elsewhere called a Dane, came to India in 1766.* An ecclesiastical return, forwarded for the register of the new church in Calcutta in 1787, contains an entry of one marriage, that of Mr. Rausch to Miss Mayo, at Rungpore in October 1782. He was killed during an expedition into Assam, according to Buchanan.

Christopher Poole was discharged from the army in 1775, after having served the Company fifteen years. He traded in timber and salt, and was murdered by dacoits in 1789.

To recur from this digression to the Assam trade, the Company ever and anon spread consternation in the merchant camp by farming out the trade as a monopoly. One formed in 1780 lasted three years, till the Directors revoked it on the strong representations of the merchants; but again, in 1787, they gave the salt trade to Mr. Hugh Baillie, the resident, with permission to the other merchants to trade in other things. Mr. Dow strongly protested, and pointed out that as salt was the only article taken by the Assamese, the concession to trade in other merchandize was of no value. He laboured hard to prove that the trade was a losing one; and a balance sheet for the trade of one year gives a good view of the nature of the transactions carried on.

The frontiers in this direction were in a very disorganized state. Mr. Baillie, when Collector of Gowalpara in 1789, was attacked by a recalcitrant zemindar with a force of burkundazes, headed by an old Company's soubahdar; the town of Gowalpara and the factory warehouses were burnt, and one European and "several black people" were killed in repelling the attack.

The Assam Government was in the last stage of decrepitude. The brahmanising of the country had deprived the people of that fierce courage which had spread terror among the Mahommedans. There were constantly laid charges against the merchants of making raids into the country for recovery of their dues; these charges were in a great measure exaggerated, got up by one merchant against another, but "vagrant topasses or black Portuguese soldiers," adventurers from the North-West, Sikhs and others, who congregated here, afforded ready materials for such expeditions. Mr. Lear's hostilities with Assam in 1778, *vide* Mr. Hastings' letter, is one case in point; and on two occasions, in 1782 and 1791, charges were brought against Rausch of having invaded Assam; and in the latter instance, it was said he had taken the Rajah prisoner, killed many persons, and carried off property to the value of ten to twelve lacs of rupees. This accusation he

* Rausch was an old soldier of Frederick the Great. The tomb of his twin children at Goalpara is in a well preserved condition. W. K. F.

refuted, ascribing its origin to the jealousy of the Greek merchants, Panioty and others; but if he had not plundered in person, he had, by countenancing one Krishna Narayan, precipitated matters in Assam, and necessitated the occupation of the country by British forces. The expedition into Assam, in which Rausch was killed, must have been subsequent to the one now referred to.

This Krishna Narayan was of the Cooch Behar family, and a descendant of that Ballit who held Durrung when the Mahommedans, in 1603, conquered Parikshit, his brother. Durrung, however, was included in that portion which the Assamese recovered from Meer Jumla; and Krishna Narayan's father had possessed both Durrung and Kamrup under the Assamese Government, but he had four years before been murdered with the concurrence of the Rajah of Assam or his officers, and the son was deprived of his patrimony. So Krishna Narayan, now 18 years of age, gathered together 300 to 400 burkundazes, and with their aid recovered his estate; he defeated the Rajah's forces, and occupied Gowhatty, the Kamrup capital. The hope of plunder drew in other parties of adventurers, until our hero had a force of 3,000 burkundazes, which were more than he could control; and a season of anarchy prevailed. At length, on the application of the Assam Rajah to the Governor-General, Captain Welsh was, at the close of 1792, sent to restore order. He penetrated to Gowhatty without difficulty, and in January 1793 writes that a considerable revolution had taken place both in the system and the members of the Government: he does not specify what the revolution was. The burkundazes were sent back to draw their arrears of pay from the Rungpore treasury, and to be there discharged. Welsh was still at Gowhatty at the close of 1793, up to which time my researches have extended, and there I leave him.



Rangpur District Records.

No. 1.*

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :

24th April 1770.

SIR,

I arrived here the 20th instant, and went to.....yesterday morning, where I caused to be made known to the zemindars there assembled, the intent of my appointment.

By the Aumil's account, the balance now due, amount to only Rs. 2,48,375; I have called upon him for the particulars, which when drawn, shall be forwarded. Excepting in this particular, I have hitherto confined myself to regulating the administration of justice, in abolishing customs, the most hurtful and recommending those pointed out as the most salutary in the instructions transmitted me.

Amongst the various abuses at present overlooked there, is one of the most pernicious tendency and which calls loudly for redress; it is the number of pykes here entertained; they serve without pay, and support themselves entirely on what they can procure from the unhappy sufferers, over whom they are placed. I am credibly informed the sum collected by those employed on the part of the Government, annually amounts to from fifty to eighty thousand rupees, which, when added to the just dues of Government, must not only be a hardship on all, but repeatedly ruin many, and of course detrimental to the collections. I flatter myself there will be no occasion for these in future, and that, I shall be favoured with your directions for disbanding the whole tribe, or at least to put those, it may be for the present necessary to retain, on a different footing, by making them proper allowances and restraining them from acting in the oppressive manner they have been so long-used to.

It will be absolutely necessary that orders be given for the punishment of monopolizers of grain, as if some method is not fallen upon to oblige them to bring it to market, a famine must necessarily ensue, if we are not favoured with rain in a very few days: this I must the more particularly as from the best authority, I am informed of large quantities being hoarded in various places. I hope, therefore, I may be directed to open every gola† within my jurisdiction, and to use every means the time and circumstances may require, to prevent the poor in this province being afflicted with the distresses they have so dreadfully experienced at the City and other districts.

Lieutenant Nairn has had advice from his commander, stationed at Dinagepore of the return of two bodies of sonnasi fakirs to that place, the first of which, to the amount of one hundred, have taken the road to Purnea, the other, with whose numbers he is not acquainted; he is now in pursuit of, should either of them come this way, every means possible, shall be used to intercept them, whatever further intelligence I can procure, you shall be immediately acquainted with.

I am, etc.,
J. GROSE.

* From the Murshidabad copy-book of letters.

† *Vide* Hunter: *Annals of Rural Bengal*, pages 70-71; the "City" is Murshidabad.

RANGPUR DISTRICT RECORDS.

No. 2.*

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RANGPORE :

1st June 1770.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of 25th, and shall adhere to the directions contained in it.

By the tenor of the instructions, which you furnished me with, I was led to imagine that the business of the collections was to have been under my control, and I flatter myself that you will order it so after the commencement of the ensuing season. My being invested with such authority would, I am persuaded, be a means of preventing many abuses, and without it I should be much embarrassed even in the cognizance of judicial matters, as most of the complaints, which are made, have a connection with the revenue, sufficient to involve me in disputes with the Aumil, if he is thus to be independent of me.

Enclosed I have the pleasure to transmit you the following accounts of the collections of this Province :—

- No. 1. Statement of the collections.
- ” 2. Abstract charges of the collections.
- ” 3. Modongopal's account, current.
- ” 4. Mahomed Hussain's account, current.
- ” 5. Account current, collections.

As the Aumil is now at the City, he will be able to answer to such parts as you may think necessary to question him concerning, I should have sooner sent you down these accounts, had I not met with the greatest difficulty in procuring them from the people here, who had not a single account prepared on my arrival, and who, owing to their want of regularity in keeping them, gave me great trouble before I could get them properly digested.

Accompanying I likewise transmit you an account, No. 6, of what sums have been collected by the Aumil at Govingunge, after holding a poonia for the new year, and for which he has given no receipts to the ryots, nor has he accounted for it to the Government, this account was sent me down by two of my people, who I despatched there sometime ago, upon the Aumil quitting it so abruptly, to enquire into the state of the country, who have likewise sent a Bengal abstract of the above account No. 7, signed by several of the zemindars, which I likewise enclose you for your further satisfaction.

Having received another letter from Lieutenant Nairn at Rangamatty, giving an account of the situation of affairs there, you will also receive it enclosed.

I am, etc.,

J. GROSE.

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.

No. 3.*

TO RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :

15th June 1770..

SIR,

Since addressing you under date 1st instant, I have been favoured with your three several letters, one of the 25th and two of the 30th ultimo, to the directions contained in which I shall pay due obedience.

Agreeable to your orders I have directed to Lieutenant Nairn by no means to make use of violent measures in his endeavours to settle the commotion at Rangamatty, and at the same time, I transmitted to him the Nawab's perwannah to Bulchand, which I requested he would cause to be delivered to him.

In consequence of the representations which have been made to me, by my people at Govingunge of the state of affairs at that place, and being collect and remit him large sums of money, I thought it most expedient to send Mr. Robertson to make a full enquiry into these matters, and by being on the spot, to prevent, further abuses and oppressions, I should have gone there myself, but found my presence more necessary here, I have, however, desired Mr. Robertson to acquaint me with every particular circumstances that may come to his knowledge, which I shall transmit to you for your further information.

Accompanying you will receive an account bundabust and account collections of Baharbund for the year 1776, the account collections Rs. 1,71,335-11-9-3, you will perceive far exceeds the rate at which it is formed Rs. 1,19,702; Ram Kant, the original farmer, let it to Davy Charan at Rs. 10,000 advance, who sent his brother Durga Charan to make the collections. This man has ransacked the country in such a manner, that the poor ryots were forced to sell even their ploughs and bullocks to answer his exorbitant demands, and many have nothing left to assist them in tilling their grounds at this time, when they would be glad to take the advantage of the season. No less than 1,000 of the ryots have come to complain of the great severities they have met with, and it was with no small difficulty I could prevent their going at this season of the year, and their being absent so long from their home, would be the means of preventing those who are able, from embracing so favourable an opportunity for cultivation. I at last persuaded them to return, but with promises, that I would acquaint you with the particulars of their grievances.

At the time that Baharbund was farmed by Ram Kant, I do not imagine that it was intended he would be allowed to sell it to another, at an advanced rate, as the purchaser, must of course raise the rents on the poor ryots in order to allow himself a profit, and which he has done at a time, when lenity ought to have been shewn them, on account of the unfavourableness of the season, instead of which, he seemed to have nothing else in view, but the making his fortune at the expense of the Government, the country and

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.

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the poor ryots, which very plainly appears by the extortions he was guilty of by the accounts already received ; more I doubt not would be made appear upon a stricter scrutiny. Ram Kant, I should imagine, has forfeited all title to the remaining two years of the farm, by such behaviour, which he seems conscious of himself, and is not very desirous of continuing it, having frequently offered to deliver it up : upon hearing the many complaints that were made against him should it be thought proper to continue it in his hands, I am much afraid it will be a great injury to the country, as all the ryots to a man declare, they will run away, sooner than be again subjected to such hardships as they have already undergone. As the time now approaches for making the bundabust for the new year, I request your orders on this head ; whether the place is still to continue in his possession, or whether it shall be put upon the same footing as this, and the other annexed districts under my charge.

I am, etc.,
J. GROSE.

No. 4.*

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :
19th June 1770.

SIR,

By the accounts which I transmitted you in my letter of 1st instant, of the collections of this Province, you will observe that the bundabust for last year was Rs. 9,17,250, out of which only Rs. 6,32,797 have been remitted to the City and the remainder Rs. 2,84,453 entirely sunk in charges and deductions, except the balance due from Modongopal, Mahomed Hussain, and the country which amounts to above half-a-lakh and will do little more, than pay the balance due to the merchants. This difference I imagine must appear in the same light to you as it does to me, very extraordinary, the diminishing of which without putting an additional tax on the country will be no small increase to the revenues, and as the zemindars are willing to agree to a bundabust for this year, the same as for last ; I am confident I should be able to add to the net collections, one lakh of rupees, if I may be allowed a controlling power, so as to be a proper check upon the Aumil, and at the expiration of the year to convince you of the little utility of such a person, without it be for his name, and as long as that is deemed necessary, I would beg leave to propose his having a certain monthly allowance Rs. 1,000 or 1,500 a month, I should think very handsome. This will considerably reduce the charges as you will observe that his commission and Seebundy form no inconsiderable part of them. Should this be approved of, the ryots will live easy and happy, by being protected from future oppressions, and will in time be more able to bear an additional tax on their lands, than they have of late, to answer the just dues of Government and the exorbitant demands of the zemindars and others employed in the collections. My being debarred from sending into the mofussil for the necessary papers to form a Hustabood, has prevented my attempting anything more for the present, but it shall be my duty to endeavour by next year to form a

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.

complete Hustabood, so as clearly to point out in what manner the revenues may be increased and the country benefitted.

I hope, you will, on receipt of this favour me with your opinion, which, I shall be extremely happy to find, coincides with mine.

I am, etc.,

J. GROSE.

No. 5.

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE:

23rd June 1770.

SIR,

In my address of 15th instant, I informed you of my having sent Mr. Robertson to Govingunge, to enquire into the state of affairs at that place.

Accompanying I have the pleasure to transmit you his letter to me of 19th with the several papers he mentions to have sent, except the jumma kharutch, which shall be forwarded, with the Hustabood when it arrives.

As the Putwaries' or Mundals' papers are the only true accounts extant in the country, and as by procuring these, every knowledge not only of the real value of the country, but even of the most minute oppressions the poor ryots have for a series of years laboured under, will be attained, and as in these are contained, not only the true sums collected from the country, but an exact measurement of all lands, I therefore think them truly requisite, and useful, and must request, as I find every means used, and every art tried, to secret them, that directions be issued to the different districts under me for the immediate delivery of these papers for the year 1176. My obtaining these accounts, which are now settled and put by, cannot be attended with any detriment to the collections of the present year. It will indeed be disgusting to the Aumils, and other persons, who have for a series of years cheated the Government and preyed on the poor ryots, but as the relieving of those thus distressed and securing the just dues of Government are the chief objects of my appointment, this I should imagine, can, never with propriety be made a plea to prevent my attaining them, as they will be productive of such manifest advantages by enabling me to receive such information and knowledge of the true worth of the several districts committed to my charge as will in a very short time enable me to answer every end purposed by my appointment, which it cannot be expected any other mode of procedure could effect for a series of years, and even then be subjected to errors as every true information must in the end be deduced from these original papers.

There are numbers of taluks and jaghirs in the districts of Govingunge, many of which are improperly obtained; and as the whole have, as is said, greatly exceeded their original grants, these I think, ought to be called for, and if upon enquiry, it appears that a resumption must ensue, this will not only greatly increase the revenues, but be of much service to the country in general. It will then, not be in the power of the holders of these to

entice the ryots from other parts, which has hitherto been an universal and pernicious custom, and, in consequence thereof, there are now very large tracts of lands entirely depopulated and run into jungles.

One Hussain Reza Cawn, who formerly received an allowance of Rs. 3,300 from Govingunge, obtained a jaghir named Lolbarry for that amount from the Raja, which he has now exceeded about Rs. 6,000. Upon complaint being made by Sitaram, the Raja's Naib, Mr. Robertson sent for him to answer thereto. Hussain Reza Cawn, being at Muxadabad, his agent on the spot refused to obey the summons, alleging, that he was answerable to none, but Mahomed Reza Cawn, as I think this a great insult on my authority, I have thought proper to send for him to reprehend him for such behaviour and to prove Hussain Reza Cawn's right to the Jaghir he now holds.

I am, etc.,
J. GROSE.

P.S.—The above Lolbarry is, I am informed, a nuisance to the country, being a respectable for thieves in so much, that people have been forced to take another road though that was formerly the proper one, for fear of being murdered or robbed.

No. 6.*

To JOHN GROSE, Esq., Supervisor of Rungpore.

GOVINGUNGE :
19th June 1770.

SIR,

On my arrival at this place, finding it in vain to attempt getting the accounts from the people left here, and, having no other alternative, I resolved to procure some of the 'Putwaries' papers, and as complaint was made to me by the Raja's people that the taluk of Rampore, which was a kind of settlement made many years ago for the support of the Raja's wife, had been taken by the Aumil, and a writing forced from the Raja, making the same over to him, I judge this the most proper place to begin procuring these accounts from; the more particularly, as information was, at the same time lodged, importing that little more than one-third of the real amount collected was brought to account, I have only been able to procure the accounts of one village which I now transmit you; had I been lucky enough to have got hold of the whole of these papers, I should have been enabled to have formed a complete and correct Hustabood, but my intentions have been frustrated by the abilities and foresight of the Aumil and Ram Sankar, the Raja's Dewan, their scheme to prevent your attaining any knowledge of the country, or the real value thereof, was so deeply laid, that even the very Mundals of the villages who transacted the business of the former year have been dismissed from their employments, their papers taken from them, and either secreted or destroyed, and they themselves to prevent our receiving any verbal information sent out of the way.

Enclosed I transmit you an account of several sums of money, etc., said to have been extorted by the Aumil and his Dewan Gour Mohan, there is likewise a balance due account his taluk, which the Raja's Naib informs me he

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.

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refused paying, it amounts to Rs. 3,263-12-3-3, you will likewise herewith receive the jumma kharuteh† for 1769, which in consequence of the measures I had taken, has been delivered me, you will find it not only false, but foolish, as they have at the same time agreed to furnish me with a Hustabood for a far more considerable amount than is there noticed, it is now copying and hope to be able to bring it with me on Friday next.

Sitaram, the Raja's Naib, informs me that in ten days he will have ten thousand rupees ready to forward to the City, there is no bundabust yet made and it is no small hardship on the poor ryots to begin and continue paying when he is utterly unacquainted with the demands he is liable to have made upon him.

I am, etc.,
GEORGE ROBERTSON.

P.S.—You will likewise herewith receive a list of sundries forced from the Raja's jamatdar, etc.

No. 7.*

TO RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :
14th July 1770.

SIR,

I have received your commands of the 30th ultimo by which, I am extremely concerned to find the districts lately put under my inspection, now left to the entire management of men, who can have no other motive to regulate their conduct but self-interest, and that I am not allowed the least shadow of influence, but in a manner obliged to suffer those people to continue their former malpractices, without daring to restrain them. By the tenor of the general instruction, which you have thought proper, by your last orders, entirely to lay aside, I was led to imagine that the intention of my appointment was to prevent those abuses which have been so long, and loudly complained of, many of which, I have pointed out to you in my several letters from hence, but I have reason to believe from what Mr. Vansittart† informs me, concerning my letters not having gone by the way Dinagapore, that my correspondence is intercepted by the intrigues, and chicaneries of some persons, yet unknown, as I can never suppose that after having proposed and in a manner engaged to add to the Company's net revenue a lakh of rupees without collecting a cowrie more from the ryot than last year, that had you received it, it would have been deemed unworthy a reply or that you would deny me any credit that might be due from the attention paid on my part, to surmount the numberless obstacles industriously thrown in my way, to prevent my gaining a knowledge of the country. But what effects me most is my being entirely debarred of rendering that service to my Hon'ble Employers, intended by my appointment, which I had much at heart ; I now doubt much of being able to screen those, who have through promises of protection afforded me the little insight, I have acquired of those districts, which I was once

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.

† George Vansittart, a brother of Mr. Vansittart, the Governor. *Vide Midnapore District Records.*

‡ Jamā-kharāch.

deemed worthy of inspecting, but the disgrace will not fall on me alone, though it will be particularly grievous to me on the spot, as it must appear that my intentions were good, and that it is not want of will but want of the means that prevents my giving them the countenance I think, they merit. You desire that I will permit the Aumils to carry on their business without interruption, or giving them cause to complain, by which, I imagine that some complaints have already been preferred against me, which I should be glad to have an opportunity of answering to publicly. Am I then, Sir, to shut my eyes at their squandering, and sequestering the Company's money? Am I quietly to stand by and see them commit the vilest acts of oppression, without being able to render the aggrieved redress—a hard case indeed on the poor ryots, who must not look to me with hopes of having their cause enquired into, till such time as the Aumils, zemindars and other creatures of Government have enriched themselves at the expense, nay even their ruin, when it may be too late and not in my power to grant them redress. You direct me to apply to you for what papers I may want, and that orders shall be given for their being delivered me, if they can be procured, without interfering in the present year's collections. It was my wish to be able to furnish you with such lights into the nature of carrying on the business here, as might enable you to send me orders regarding the better regulating of affairs, but from this too, I am prevented, for before your orders can be put in execution, or the delivering of such accounts as I may want, the original papers will be made away with, and new ones found to answer the ends of those whose intentions, I may want to bring to light. You mention that Bengal Aumils have suffered much by the oppressive measures. English gentlemen as I am, there has been too great a sympathy against them; however, Sir, it is not what has hurt them so much as the oppression of the ryots and persons injured in the collections. These are the people who have suffered such manifold injury and who have always endeavored to get rid of the English gentlemen, by every means to cover their own misdeeds and while it must be the case, so long as they have the entire management. I assure I have been here, but a short time. However, Sir, I will make it so, that I have not been wanting in endeavours to gain that knowledge, which was required of me by the instructions, which you delivered me on the 1st of April. I think it requires nothing more than a common understanding, with a little assiduity, and a just notion of right and wrong to prove that he is not to be expected from a race of men, who seldom have been found worthy being continued two years together in the same station. Modongpore was sent up, in character of Aumil the beginning of last year and made use of such violent and oppressive measures that his stay was but short, and Mohamed Hussain, the present Aumil appointed in his room who has often declared to me, that at the time of his receiving such appointment, he was ignorant of the nature of making the collections here, which is sufficiently proved by his conduct since his taking upon him the charge. It will, I hope, be needless to say anything regarding Masook, the late Aumil at Govingunge, as in former letters I have set forth his thefts and oppressive measures, sufficiently, to prove his worthlessness with regard to the trust reposed in him, yet I make no doubt of his being able to settle matters with the country government, and I should not be surprised at seeing him come back in his former station, notwithstanding what has, and what is, daily

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coming out against him. You give as a reason for not entrusting me with a controlling power in making this year's collections, the little opportunity I have had of acquiring knowledge in that branch: at the same time you deprive me of every means of obtaining any, by preventing me from interfering in the accounts during the time of making the collections and by debarring me from sending into the mofussil for papers, which contain the only true and just accounts, now existing in this country, so that the only in site I can possibly gain must be from report, and not experience, the only true method of gaining that knowledge, which you think so absolutely necessary before we can be entrusted with the charge reposed in us by our general instructions; and if I am thus deprived of every source of acquiring that necessary knowledge, the same argument may stand good year after year, and I continue in ignorance. The late calamity of drought, is also urged as an argument. You cannot have recollected, Sir, that I informed you this district has not laboured under the same hardships as the other parts of Bengal, for soon after my arrival, I acquainted you of its being in a flourishing state, and that the zemindars had petitioned me to settle a bundabust with them the same as last year, being Rs. 9,7,250. At the same time I observed to you that Rs. 1,49,292 were put down as allowed for deficiencies on account of drought, and only Rs. 6,32,797 were remitted to the City, so that Rs. 2,84,453 were entirely sunk under the heads of charges and deductions. I now acquaint you Sir, that not only the sum of Rs. 1,49,292 was collected in the mofussil, but an additional sum of Rs. 92,752 under the head of Mahtoot*, so that last year no less than Rs. 10,10,003 were collected from the ryots, by which means there still remains a balance of Rs. 2,42,065 as yet unaccounted for, the charges amounting to no more than Rs. 1,35,141, which makes up the sum of Rs. 3,77,206, and very plainly appears, after deducting the amount remitted to the City from the sum collected here. From this, Sir, you will observe that our Hon'ble Masters have suffered no inconsiderable loss of their property last year, owing to the ill-management, or bad behaviour of those, whom, it is again deemed necessary to trust; how worthy they may be of it, I will leave you to judge. It was from this, I intended to add a lakh of rupees to the Company's net revenues, without putting an additional tax on the ryots. I shall now conclude with observing, that stimulated as I was, with a desire of forwarding the interest of the Company, which might naturally be expected from the appointment with which the Governor and Council honoured me, that it has given me no small concern to find all my views of being of service to my Employers, or gaining credit to myself, entirely frustrated by your orders of the 30th ultimo, and as I am deprived of that opportunity in justification of my character which I cannot help thinking not a little hurt, I am under the necessity of making this representation of circumstances, which I hope, you will view in a proper light, and which proceeds from an anxiety for the welfare of our Masters and the good of the country lately under my charge.

I am, etc.,

J. GROSE.

P.S.- Accompanying you will receive duplicates of such letters as I imagine have not reached you, except the one containing the Baharbund accounts, which I sent some days ago.

* Mathaut an occasional cess imposed upon the cultivators for some special purpose.

No. 8.*

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

RUNGPORE :

21st July 1770.

SIR,

Since writing you under date the 14th, I have been favoured with your letter of the 4th, by which I am extremely happy to find my proceedings have proved so much to your satisfaction. It shall be my study, Sir, to act with that circumspection you so greatly approve, and which particularly at present is so absolutely necessary.

I shall comply with your directions in regard to the Aumils, though from the natural genius of the people, and the great power they are invested with, little attention can be excepted will be paid to measure the most salutary, which I may think it incumbent on me to recommend, where they are, as must always be the case, incompatible with their own immediate advantage, particularly from Masook, who, at a time I was invested with power, put me at defiance, laughed at my attempts to get a knowledge of the country, and even took such steps as rendered my measures for a long time ineffectual, and I am not without apprehension, as heavy complaints have already been made against him, that people will be afraid to remain under his jurisdiction, great numbers during his late administration having left the country, in so much that there are large tracts of land totally deserted, which must consequently run into jungle.

In consequence of your formal orders not to send into the mofussil for the necessary papers, I only demanded of the zemindars a list, with the rates of the ezarees in their several purgannahs, as I knew they were so easily to be obtained, and without interfering the least with the collections, to which they all readily complied, except the zemindars of Boda and Bycuntopore, who in manner deny our authority, alledging they are answerable to the Cooch Behar Raja for their proceedings, another reason they give for not complying with my orders, is that, it has never been heretofore customary, which is true as they have always been able to buy themselves off with the several Aumils who have been sent up here, I have therefore thought it necessary to postpone taking any violent measures on this account, but must request you will send orders for their delivering me these papers.

I informed you in a former letter of Boolchand Buru being arrived at Rungpore, he shall be sent down to the City under charge of Lieutenant Nairn, as soon as that gentleman is sufficiently recovered, so as to be able to proceed. I find this Boolchand was before caught by stratagem by Isuph Ali Cawn, a former Phousdar of Rangamatty, on account of some misdemeanours he had been guilty of, and sent down to Mahomed Reza Cawn, by whom he was some time kept in irons, and afterwards released on his making a bunda-bust for Rs. 30,000, payable as follows :—Malguzary Rs. 6,000 in lieu of elephants as heretofore customary Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 12,000 Seebundy to Masook, who thereupon became his security and Boolchand gave his type for that sum, of which, by his own account he has paid into hands of Birnarain Dewan, and Naib to Masook, the following sums

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.

Malguzary Rs. 1,400, elephants account Rs. 3,000, Seebundy Rs. 4,000, and Rs. 3,000 just before he left Rangamatty, but not yet settled on what account. This man asserts, that when he went up last, Masook sent up a company of sepoys with him, and told him there were two hundred barkandazes already there, and gave him particular directions to raise three hundred more for the security of the country, as they pretended, though from Boolehand's proceedings, a quite contrary plan appears to have been adopted as they have done considerable damage throughout the whole country thereabouts, by their plundering, which they were forced to do for their own support, as they were not allowed any pay. In regard to his firing on Lieutenant Nairn's party he can give no other answer, but that it was his fault.

I find there are laying at Rangamatty some hundred pieces of brass cannon of different sizes. I should imagine that in that remote part of the country they can be of no use, and in case of troubles may be of dis-service. I apprehend the sending them to the Presidency would be very proper, I shall therefore wait your orders on that head.

Hearing there are four Frenchmen settled at Coorigong, a village belonging to Baharbund, Ram Kant's ezara, I think it my duty to acquaint you particularly, as they are purchasing quantities of grain which if not put a stop to, may be the means of distressing that province again.

As you have only acknowledged the receipt of my letters of 1st and 23rd ultimo, I find that those I wrote you under dates 15th and 18th have miscarried, which gives me the greatest reason to imagine Ram Kant, the late Dewan, here to be concerned in the making away with, or retarding them at that critical juncture, as it was just before the time of his departure from hence, and he will know, that I had been preparing accounts concerning the voilent oppressions committed at Baharbund, by the person to whom he had farmed it, and as Mr. Vansittart informs me, that none of those letters which you have lately received went by way of Dinagepore, though positive orders were given to that purpose, I am confirmed in my suspicion, as there are no less than three successive daks now missing, which not only contained letters of very material consequence to you, concerning the present state of this province, but many private letters of moment, which I find have not been received in Calcutta. I must therefore beg the favour of your assistance to find out those who may have been concerned in this act.

I am, etc.,
J. GROSE.*

No. 9.†

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq., Resident at the Durbar.

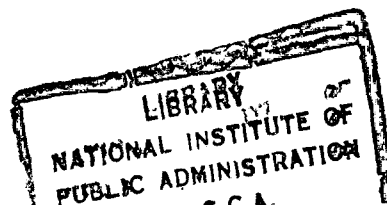
RUNGPORE :
7th August 1770.

SIR,

I have received your two favours of 9th and 24th ultimo.

I have transmitted to Lieutenant Feltham, who set off Rangamatty sometime ago, an extract of your letter of 9th, regarding the place, and have desired him to act accordingly.

* J. Grose [or Groose] died at Rungpore in April, 1771.
† From the Murshidabad letter copy-book.



The very heavy rains which lately fell here, have done considerable damage to the paddy, which before then was near ready for the sickle. A great quantity is entirely spoilt, and other much damaged, which will make the harvest here much later, and the crops but poor, the consequences of this, have already been felt by the price rising from 20 to 12 seers per rupee, and that but indifferent. By accounts received from people sent up to Bahvanygunge, which was the greatest mart in Rungpore for grain. The coarsest paddy sells only at 8 and 10 seers per rupee. Though the prospects of a good harvest were at first extremely favourable, I am much afraid we shall be deficient in quantity as well as quality, from what was first expected and of course but little able to furnish the countries with what they may want. The merchants are now exporting the grain extremely fast, and it will all very soon be taken away, except what may be purchased to be kept here at Bahar und. The lands are entirely overflown, and grain scarce. Govin-gunge is still in a worse condition as they have not sufficient for the inhabitants.

I am well informed that several Frenchmen, Armenians and others are gone up to Coursah, a place in the Cooch Behar Raja's province, where a considerable quantity of rice is annually produced, which always used to be brought into the Rungpore district, and was the means of supplying other places; the greatest part of what used to be exported from the Rungpore district, is now stopped from coming this way and the French and others, who have a number of boats there, ready to be loaded, are purchasing and carrying it away as fast as possible. I have wrote to the Raja, desiring him to permit it to come this way as usual, should he not think proper to comply with my request, I shall be glad of your orders how to act.

The Aumil arrived here a few days ago, and a Poonia has been held.

As in your late instructions you did not mention anything regarding Palasbarry, Bolahar, Baubunpore and Shackshair, the small independent places put under my charge, I request your orders regarding them.

I am, etc.,
J. GROS

No. 10.*

To the Superintendent of the Adalat of Dinagepore.

KHALSA:

11th April 1777.

SIR,

I have the pleasure of transmitting to you enclosed copy of a petition presented at the Khalsa on the part of Ramnath Doss of Rungpore, setting forth that he borrowed a sum of money from a person named Kacharn, for which he mortgaged his land to the creditor; but that he has now paid off this debt, notwithstanding, which his creditor, insisting on a more exorbitant interest for his money, wants him to dispose of the mortgage land to pay up this interest.

* From the Murshidabad letter copy-book

As this case seems properly cognizable by you, and as the petitioner declares himself willing to pay the legal interest, I beg leave to forward you the petition that the complainant may obtain such redress as the truth of the representative and the nature of the case may on enquiry appear to you to meet.

I am, etc.,

G. G. DUCARAL,
Superintendent, Khalsa Documents.

No. 1^h

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :
25th July 1777.

SIR,

We have this day thought proper to remove you from your seat in the Provincial Council of Dacca, and to appoint you to the charge and Superintendency of the districts of Rungpore and the other districts which were comprehended under the Collectorships of Rungpore when it was in your charge in the year 1773, except the 9-anna division of Garagaut.* We direct you, therefore, to proceed thither to form the settlement of those districts independently of the Provincial Council of Dinagore and conformably to the instructions lately sent to the Provincial Council, of which we herewith transmit you a copy.

We direct you only to correspond with us on the business of the settlement, but that you do furnish the Provincial Council of Dinagore with an account of the settlement and other papers relating to it when formed that they may be entered into the general accounts of that division. You must also furnish them monthly with the account of your collections and disbursements, and receive their orders for the disposal of the money which may remain in your hands after deducting the latter.

We have given the necessary instructions to the Chief and Council of Dinagore to deliver over to you the public papers of those districts, and to place the Aumlah or officers of the collections under your authority. Your allowance is to be 1,500 sicca rupees per month in lieu of all charges and contingent expenses whatever.

We are etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

J. CLAVERING.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

* Edrakpore and Dinagore were known respectively as nine annas and seven annas Ghoragat.

No. 12.

To Mr. WILLIAM LARKINS,
Accountant-General.

RUNGPORE:

19th September 1777

SIR,

I am favoured with your letter of the 11th instant enclosing me a copy of the orders and instructions of the Hon'ble Governor-General in Council for the better management of your accounts, and I shall refer to them as far as they relate to my station, but I imagine that as I am to receive the orders of the Dinagepore Council, respecting the disposal of the money in any treasury after deducting the monthly disbursements, the proper channel through which all receipts for advances, etc., will come to you will be that Council.

I return you many thanks for enclosing me the orders.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 13.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

24th September 1777.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have at length come to a settlement with most of the zemindars of the districts now under my charge, but beg leave to lay before you the following particulars that I may receive the favour of your directions upon them before I make a final adjustment and prepare my account bundabust. The assulnamas shall be forwarded in a few days for your approbation and signature.

All the zemindars of the Rungpore province have agreed to the jammās of last season except the undermentioned three zemindars of Futtypore* two annas of Bahsut† and Oudasee to whom I have given deductions as follows:—

					Rs. a. g.
Nautanah	...	...	...	...	3,119 7 9
Bahsut	...	...	...	...	2,616 5 15
Oudasee	...	...	...	...	600 0 0
Total					6,325 13 4

Before, however, I consented to these demands, I called upon the Kaupheels or security of Nautanah and Bahsut† and the farmer of Oudasse, and received from them the enclosed account of the sources of these pergunnahs which was attested by the Canungoe's Naib and the revenue servants, who all informed me that, as in the last, so in the year 1182, the revenue was made up by stopping and bringing to account part of the mofussil serinjammy‡ the commission of the security and allowances Rasoom of the zemindars.

The Coondy zemindars have all agreed to pay upon the revenue of last year excepting the division of one anna five gundahs, the proprietor of which, having been for some years past deprived of the management and a Sezawal

* Futtehpore.

† Baussut.

‡ Saranjami, i.e., allowances for incident at expenses made to the Zemindars or formers.

appointed. It has never yielded more than the amount collected last year, and there has been each year a balance regularly incurred from it. I have therefore settled with the zemindars to pay that sum being Kaz Shi Rs. 4,822, by which there will be a deduction from the jumma of Kaz Shi Rs. 1,372-1-0. From the other divisions of the pergunnah there is now due of the pants of 1179 Kaz Shi Rs. 24,233-10-17-1. I can only remark upon this that to my certain knowledge at the time the amount was collected, and that when I delivered charge of my Collectorship to Mr. Harris that I found the pants from them, and that they were unable to pay their amount there not being sources for it in their country. The Suddar Jumma Wasil Baukee of this pergunnah stands as follows :—

Year.	Jumma.	Wasil.	Baukee.
	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g.	Rs. a. g. k.
1179	83,298-13-3-1	73,916-2-10	9,382-10-13-1
1180	98,006-6-3-1	64,336-14-0	33,669-8-3-1
1181	80,299-03-1-1	69,005-1-0	11,294-12-1-1
1182	80,201-0-0-0	78,829-2-0	11,371-1-0-0
1183	80,281-0-0-0	78,828-15-0	1,371-1-0-0

From a comparison of the year 1179 with all the other years it appearing that the collections from the pergunnah could scarcely ever have been so small as Rs. 59,682-13-13-3, which is the sum left after deducting the amount of the pants due being Rs. 24,233-4-17-1, from the amount put down as collected being Rs. 73,916-2-10, have not come to any adjustment with them and shall wait your orders whether I shall accept their tahud upon the jumma of last year and put them in possession of their pergunnahs, or appoint a Sezawal to sequester the zemindary until the amount due on their pants be paid.

The agent of the Zemindar of Baharbund having delivered me a darkhust, representing that his constituents had paid considerably more than the pergunnah ever produced to him, that it would appear from the assessment papers that his representation was founded on truth, as well as that a considerable part of the harvests of the pergunnah has this year been carried away by the quantity of water lately come down, and offering 80,000 sicca rupees for this year's revenue, I had recourse to the assessment papers and testimony, and round the above assertions corroborated. For from them, the mofussil collections of the last five years appear to be as follows :—

1179	...	...	...	Sicca Rs.	96,321-7-14-0
1180	...	...	...	"	89,411-15-19-2
1181	...	...	...	"	78,622-4-10-0
1182	...	...	...	"	1,01,186-10-0-0
1183	...	...	...	"	1,33,362-12-5-3-0

which upon an average of five years will be Rs. 95,788,-0-10. The heavy collections of 1183, the Zemindar's gomastah represents to have been extremely prejudicial to the pergunnah by a desertion of a great number of his ryots.

From this account it must strike you, Gentlemen, whether the zemindar has not been a very considerable sufferer when the mofussil collections have exceeded the saddar jumma by Rs. 6,000 in the year 1179, and have even fallen short in the four following. Notwithstanding the strong reasons I had to give credit to the petition of the gomastah; yet, conceiving that you would not allow of so considerable a deduction without some effort on my part, I have, according to the General Regulations laid down for my guidance, made a publication offering the pergunnah in farm to the highest purchaser, provided he be a responsible farmer and resident of Rungpore or Baharbund. As yet I have received no proposal, and shall accept the takud tendered by the Zemindar's agent, if none is offered before the expiration of the time limited, which will be in four more days. As I have attended strictly to your orders, I hope this will meet with your approbation.

The Raja of Cooch Behar has proposed to pay Kaz Shi Rs. 72,207-6-9, which, according to the exchange between French Arcot rupees and New Narianny, will be a loss of Rs. 7,600. I should in all other respects regard it as a beneficial proposal to Government, because the specie offered is the currency of Rungpore and easily exchanged, whereas there are now 3,00,000 of New Narianny rupees in the Treasury. This sum, I imagine, might be exchanged at some loss, which would be preferable to that amount laying dead in the Treasury of Rungpore. This once disposed of, and the Raja's mint abolished, there will be no further occasion for this specie being received from the Cooch Behar revenue, as the loss sustained by the Raja's offer should ensure his always paying in the Rangpore currency.

I beg leave to enclose a petition of Dunup Deo, and I do so far attest the contents thereof that I recollect he and his agents always declare to me their inability to pay more than Rs. 25,000, and I believe Rs. 5,000 increase he has rather been compelled to agree to. As the Raja of Cooch Behar and Dunup Deo have but lately sought the Company's protection, a favourable attention to their offers will, I doubt not, impress them with an idea of the justice and mildness of your Government.

Having had occasion to apply to the Provincial Council at Purnea concerning the balances in the treasury accounts of Bysac last, I shall be obliged to delay my monthly accounts until I am favoured with their explanation. In the meantime, as this application has been considered necessary from sums received only in pants or bonds being brought to account as actual collections, (which of the amount abovementioned due from the pergunna Coondy is one) and the zemindars of Rungpore have all refused to pay ready money, alledging that they cannot collect it from the country and that it has always been customary to deliver shroff's bills, I am at a loss to conduct myself in this matter without your orders. They have to this day tended shroff's pants to the amount of Rs. 82,301-8-0, but I have refused to take them, as here are now three lakhs of them of the revenues of 1183 in the Treasury which will take four months to realise. As the shroffs must receive by means of only delivering pants and cancelling them some months after the whole revenue of this province, to be lent or exchanged at their pleasure, their influence over the collections and the value of the specie of this province is so established that I hold it dangerous (at least this is a risk of the whole they own not being obtained from them) to attempt to break the combination. Each pant delivered into the Treasury is accompanied by a bag containing, according to the shroff's assertions, the value mentioned in the pants, but they are

averse to the opening and inspection of them declaring it to be contrary to the established custom of the country and destructive of their credit. I beg to request that you will be pleased to favour me with explicit instructions on this head.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(Translation of a Petition from Dunup Deo, Raja of Buttishazary*).

In the year 1181 I had a settlement made for 25,000 Kazanah Shi rupees, which I punctually paid. In the year 1182 Mr. Harwood made a jamma saddar, and raised my revenue to Rs. 30,000. For the discharge of this increase I have been reduced to great distress and have not now a livelihood left. I have by every means in my power, by levying Mahtoots, and by borrowing money, paid this sum for the years 1182 and 1183, but am unable to support my family or discharge the debts I have incurred. If I am obliged to pay Rs. 30,000 this year, it must be my inevitable ruin, as in pressing my ryots my lands will be deserted. Having laid my case before you, I hope you will be pleased to allow me a deduction of Rs. 5,000 and fix my revenue at Rs. 25,000 when I shall be enabled to support my family, and my lands will be cultivated.

DUNUP DEO,
Zemindar of Bycuntpore.

* *Vide* Glazier: Report on the District of Rungpore (1873), page 19.

Account delivered by the security of Muntunna, Bahsut and the Farmer of Oudassey.

Pergunnahs	The amount Joychand or mofussil sources of 1183.	The amount mofussil Surrangunge or charges collec- tions.	Securities commissions of 32 per cent.	Total deduction.	Net mofussil jumma.	The amount stopped from the security's commission.	The amount stopped from mofussil expenses.	The amount from zemindar allowed pass on.	Total amount stopped to make up the suddar revenue.	suddar jumma of 1183.
	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs.
Muntunnah ...	41,445-2-0-1	645-6-19-1	1,318-2-10	1,463-9-9-1	39,481-8-11-0	914-7-9	...	2,205-0-0-0	3,119-7-9-0	42,601
Bahsut...	11,263-0-3-3	441-0-0-0	442-6-0	883-6-0-0	10,384-10-3-3	442-6-0	216-6-17-3	1,957-8-10-2	2,616-5-16-1	13,001
Oudassey ...	10,700-7-17-0	300-7-17-0	...	300-7-17-0	10,400-0-0-0	...	...	600-0-0-0	600-0-0-0	11,000
Total ...	63,413-13-10-1	1,386-14-6-1	1,760-8-10	3,147-7-6-1	60,208-2-14-3	1,356-13-9	216-6-17-3	4,762-8-13-2	6,335-13-5-1	66,602

RUNGPORE :

The 24th September 1777.

C. PURLING.

No. 14.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General, and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

30th September 1777.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to transmit you the aumsilanamas of the zemindars of Rungpore and the other pergunnahs under my superintendence, together with a translation, and remain with respect.

I am, etc.,

C. PURLING.

(Translation of the aumsilanama to be given to the zemindars of Rungpore, etc).

1.—Pergunnahs.....being your zemindary, and the bundabust being made with you for one year, you will conformably to your doulpultah and kist-bundee pay your revenue at the Sudder Cutchery of Rungpore without excuse or complaint.

2.—If you fail in the payment of your revenue according to the agreement you have executed and a balance is incurred, you will be turned out of your zemindary and your lands will be sold according to the pleasure of the Sircar (the Governor-General and the Council of Revenue).

3.—Whatever bundabust you make in the mofussil you are strictly to abide by and are not allowed to alter.

4.—You are not permitted to resume any Chakran (or lands allowed to servants), or charity lands under the following denominations :—Burmuter, Dewater, Mhotuan, Khanabarry and Khyraut which have formerly existed and are now separate from the Maulguzary lands.

5.—If any Chakran lands shall be required by Government, you are to pay the Maulguzary according to the rate of the pergunnah.

6.—Government having remitted all demands of the bauzee jumma, viz., Hauldany for levies upon ploughs, Maischa for fees on marriages and gaub Chilluntah Iumma and Khooskee for duties on merchandize whether transported by land or water, you are accordingly prohibited from making any such collections from your ryots.

7.—You will regularly give intelligence at the Sudder of all hidden treasure of the effects of persons dying without heirs and of all robberies and murders whensoever they may happen.

8.—You are to station guards and chaukidars upon the borders of your zemindary, and give notice of all such events as are cognizable by Government.

9.—You are not to give any Burmuter, Dewater, or charity lands without the sannad of Government, nor cut down any trees. You will give information of all bauzee lands, the possessors of which have died without heirs, as well as of all such as shall be held by false tenures, that they may be resumed. Should any heirs hereafter claim them and obtain the sannad of Government, they are to be put in possession.

10.—You are to give no sannads for charity lands, no grant obtained since the Bengal year 1178, will be of force.

11.—You shall collect the Maulguzary of the lands cultivated by the ryots afsul and abwab in the mofussil according to the rate of the pergunnah, you shall not establish or exact any new heads of collections and shall not demand Mahtoot, Mangun, etc.

12.—You shall carefully settle all waste and deserted lands, and to all such ryots as are willing to rent these lands, you shall give pattahs at the proper seasons, and collect their rent agreeably to them. If any ryots cultivate your lands without pattahs, you will demand from them only according to the rate of the pergunnah, nor are you permitted to force any of your ryots to pay the deficiencies of others, nor to take the lands of such as run away.

13.—You are to collect from your ryots according to the last year and the year before, and according to the new pattahs you may grant. Should it be proved that you have collected more, you will be made to return it, and will be fined by Government, and if you repeat this oppression your zemindary will be forfeited and made khas.

14.—Agreeably to the engagements you have entered into with Government according to your harvests, you will make your bundabust with the ryots in the mofussil, and collect your rents according to the harvests, and not put them to the expense of interest by demands out of the proper seasons.

15.—You are not to charge the ryots with any new Batta, Mangun and Mahtoot, nor interest of money.

16.—You are not to exact from your ryots any nuzzur or salamies, nor sums on account of religious ceremonies, nor are you to give any.

17.—Whatever money you advance to your ryots as you will take 2 per cent. interest for, and receive payment in money, but you are not to take any of the effects.

18.—All balances which may be incurred by your ryots, you will take a kistbundee for, after settling amounts in their presence, and collect them according to such kistbundee.

19.—You will pay your revenue to Government according to the bundabust you have made, you are not to make any complaints on account of fallow land, inundations, drought, or desertion of your ryots, etc. Whatever loss there, shall be is your's. But if by your industry and attention to cultivation, you shall obtain a profit beyond the established revenue, it cannot be demanded of you.

20.—You are to make regular complaint at the Sudder of the Dunea Shikest or breaking away of rivers from your Maulguzary lands, and you will be allowed a deduction equal to what you shall upon investigation clearly prove you have suffered. The land you shall gain by the Dunea Shikest you shall cultivate and pay the Maulguzary to Government.

21.—You shall collect your rents in such manner as to preserve your lands in their present state of cultivation. At the end of the year you shall furnish a just account of the present revenue and the improvements you shall have made.

22.—You shall give your ryots regular receipts for the payments they make at each kist. At the end of the year you shall settle accounts and give them a nuffanama or general discharge.

No. 15.

(Received 15th : Answered 1st Demi-officially).

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Superintendent of the Collections of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

7th October 1777.

SIR,

1. We have received your letter of the 10th, 14th and 24th ultimo.
2. *September 10th.*—The accounts must, of course be taken up by you from the time of your taking charge of the appointment.
3. *September 14th.*—We direct you to dispose of the elephants by public sale, and to bring the amount to the Company's credit.
4. *September 24th.*—We agree to the settlement you propose for the pargannah of Montinna, Bahsut and Odassey.
5. We direct you to insist on the payment of the balance due on the pants of 1179 from the zemindar of Coondy. You must, therefore, add the amount to the jumma of the present year, and realize it by kistbundee. If the zemindar refuses to settle them on these terms we direct you to appoint a Sezawal to manage the collections for this year, and you will transmit to us the Zemindar's objections on which we will decide.
6. You will offer Baharbund to the zemindar or his agent at the medium of the three years' revenues, and if he does not accept to it, you will appoint a Sezawal to the charge of the zemindarry.
7. We agree to the settlement you propose for the Raja of Cochbeyhar.
8. We direct you to fix the lands of Bycuntpore at the amount of the medium of the three years' revenue agreeable to our General Regulation.
9. With respect to your application regarding the mode of collecting rents by pants, we direct you to receive the payments from the zemindars in the manner in which the collections were made last year, as we do not, that this is a proper time for innovations, but as the practice which you mention of receiving shroffs pants with sealed bags of money appears, by your account of it, attended with some risk and great delay in realizing the collections thus made, we desire that you will furnish us with such an explanation of this custom, and of the conveniences or inconveniences attending it, as may enable us to judge of the propriety and means of abolishing it.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

No. 16.

TO WILLIAM HARWOOD, Esq., Chief, etc., Council of Revenue at Purnea.

RUNGPORE :

21st October 1777.

GENTLEMEN,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 19th August, directing an advance to be made to the Commercial Resident at this place and with two under date the 23rd ultimo, one containing your directions to remit the cash of this Treasury to Dinagepore, which will be complied with as soon as there shall be a sufficient sum exchanged. The other enclosing the petition of Huzzoorimull and Dall Chund and the general bank account, the adjustment of which will engage my immediate attention.

I have also received your letter of the 30th ultimo, and have followed your instructions concerning the amount to be brought forward as the balance in the Treasury in the accounts, which I now beg leave to forward to you, a list where of is at the foot of this letter. They are commenced for the month of Bandun by Order of the Governor-General and Council of Revenue.

I remain gentlemen, etc.,

C. PURLING.

No. 17.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the other Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

21st October 1777.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have been duly honoured with your letter of the 27th instant, containing your commands relative to the settlement of Rungpore and the other pergunnahs under my superintendence.

I now beg leave to forward it to you with the kistbundee. Upon mentioning your orders to the Zemindars of Coondy they refused to come into any engagement concerning the balance of their pants of 1179. And I required of them their objections. The answer they delivered to me comes enclosed. A Sezawal is appointed to their pergunnah.

Your Orders have been complied with respecting Baharbund and Buttishazarry by settling the pergunnahs at the medium rate of the last three years I have as yet received no answer from the Zemindar of Baharbund. His agent has been sent served with a warrant from the Court of Judicature and was obliged to go to Calcutta.

In the account bundabust you will observe that all the Khas Mehals which have been heretofore let as farms, have been incorporated into the pergunnahs to which they respectively belong. And the jumma has been divided according to the several shares of the zemindars.

Upon the last paragraph of your letter, I beg leave to inform you that the custom of receiving shroffs pants is of very long standing; the oldest of the Revenue Officers here declare that it existed before their time. The conveniences of this system appear to me to be as follows :—

1. Relief to the zemindars in the punctual payment of their revenue; the zemindars being obliged to allow their ryots a longer credit than Government will grant them.

2. The shroffs become responsible to Government. Allowing them to be men of substance, it may be reckoned a convenience, as it relieves the ryot from an immediate burden and promotes cultivation.

3. Exchange of the Khazannati Shi rupees (a specie paid for the revenue and only current in the province of Rungpore) into other specie current in all parts of the country, and thereby facilitating remittance. This is not so easily managed as by the shroffs.

The inconveniences are :—

1. The bags which the shroffs deliver must not, according to established custom be inspected, but delivered back under their own seal; when they bring the amount in French Arcots or any specie current in the other parts of Bengal. It, therefore, can never be ascertained whether the bags contain the value declared to be in them or not.

2. The shroffs may, by the influence obtained by the whole current specie circulating through them, be able to throw obstacles in the way of the collections and occasion an articial scarcity of currency to answer their own purposes, *viz.*, of demonstrating the utility of their office to Government, of extending or enhancing the interest on their pants and sealed bags delivered in lieu of revenue, and of raising the exchange of particular species.

3. The zemindars, being loaded with debts on account of interest and exchange, may be reckoned an ultimate detriment to their lands; and, as far as an undue influence operates, the detriment and inconvenience must increase. The zemindar is burdened, but Government is not benefitted, because the revenue is not in reality paid.

4. The demand upon the zemindars being transferred to the shroffs, the lands are no longer responsible; although the revenue cannot be said to be realized. I cannot, however, conclude without observing that the zemindars do not, in any respect, appear dissatisfied with the shroffs, and have made no complaints against them.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES PURLING.

(Translation of a Petition of the Zemindars of Coondy.)

There was a balance upon our Tavildary pants of 1179, amounting to Rs. 24,000 which was demanded of us in the year 1180 together with the Maulguzary. But we, being unable to pay the amount, the pergunnah was attached, and an Aumeen appointed from the Sudder to make a hustabood and collect the produce. No sources however, were found for the recovery of this balance. This money is now demanded of us. But we have no means of paying it. The land is at the disposal of the Rulers.

Whatever they deem just let it be done.

RAAGECHUND, COSSICUNT, and ROODRESSOR,
Zemindars of pergunnah Coondy.

No. 18.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:
3rd November 1777.

SIR,

We think it necessary to direct that your cause diligent and secret inquiries to be made for any private mints established within your jurisdiction, and if you shall be able to discover any persons guilty of making and issuing false coins you will immediately apprehend them and bring them to justice in the Fousdarry Court.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.

No. 19.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM:
31st October 1777.

SIR,

We desire you will order your Dewan to transact a separate set of Persian accounts immediately to the Khalsa and to correspond with the Roy Royan and Superintendent upon the subject of these accounts, following any directions which may be given to them from the Roy Royan as to the form of the accounts.

As we have thought proper to direct that all such applications shall be transmitted through you to the Dewans, we direct that you record them on your proceedings, and attend to, and enforce obedience to them.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.

No. 20.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :
3rd November 1777.

SIR,

You will be pleased to advance to the Commercial Resident at Rungpore the sum of forty thousand sicca rupees on account of the investment of 1778 and 1779.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.

No. 21.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

4th November 1777.

SIR,

We herewith return you the Aumilnamas and bundabust sannads for the settlement of your Divisions for the present year, which, we desire, may be delivered without delay to the proprietors.

At the same time that you deliver them, we direct you to collect a fee of two rupees per mille of the jumma, and you will remit the amount thereof to our Secretary in a bill of exchange, or with your first remittances.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.

No. 22.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

5th November 1777.

SIR,

We direct you to make a monthly return addressed to the Superintendent of the Khalsa Records to the Orders which you may receive to carry into execution the decrees of the Board formed upon the reports of the Superintendent of the Khalsa Records, and to report to him monthly the state of them until each decree shall be finally carried into execution.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.

No. 23.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the
other Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

17th November 1777.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have been honoured with your letters under the following dates.

The 31st ultimo directing the Dewan of these districts to transmit to the Roy Royan a separate set of Persian accounts and to correspond with him upon the subject of them.

The 3rd instant ordering diligent search for any private mints which may be established in the country. The 4th instant enclosing the Aumilnamas for the zemindars and directing two rupees per mille to be collected for your Secretary.

And the 5th instant ordering a monthly return to be made to the Superintendent of the Khalsa Records of the receipt of every decree and the state of them.

The Dewan is now preparing the Persian accounts, which will be forwarded in a day or two. The commands contained in the other letters will be regularly attended to.

Enclosed I have the honour to transmit you the accounts of this province for the month of Cartick and am with respect, etc.

CHARLES PURLING.

No. 24.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Superintendent of the Collections of
Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

2nd December 1777.

SIR,

We herewith transmit you a copy of the Report of the Superintendent of the Khalsa Records on the accounts received from you.

We have directed the Roy Royan to make an immediate demand of the balance due from the Zemindar of Baharbund, who is now in Calcutta, and we desire you will explain to us the reason of so large a balance being due from Thana Behar.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL

P. FRANCIS.

No. 25.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Superintendent of the Collections at
Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM:

9th December 1777.

SIR,

We have received your letters of 30th September, 21st October, 17th and 22nd ultimo.

21st October.—As the zemindars of Coondy declare themselves unable to pay the rent of their zemindary at the medium jumma with the balance due on the pants of 1179, we leave it to your discretion to allow them such a remission as you shall think justly due, and, if they will consent to hold the lands with that indulgence, we authorize you to restore them to possession.

In our letter of the 7th October, we directed you to receive the Collections in the manner they were paid the year preceding, as we were unwilling to order any innovation to be made at this late season of the year. Your answer, containing arguments for continuing the practice of receiving the revenue by pants and sealed bags implies a desire to revise that custom, which we understand to have been discontinued for some years past, and, on that supposition, our meaning was that the rents should be received in specie, if in the year preceding it had been received in specie, and not in a fictitious currency. We now repeat our order of the 7th October in clearer terms, and peremptorily direct that you reject all offers in pants and sealed bags, and receive the revenues in specie only.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

No. 26.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:

12th December 1777.

SIR,

The Hon'ble the Court of Directors having thought fit to nominate and appoint Edward Wheeler, Esq., to the vacancy in this Council created by the death of the late General Monson, and His Majesty having been pleased to approve of the said nomination conformably to the provisions made by Act of Parliament in that behalf, we are to inform you that Mr. Wheeler arrived yesterday at this Presidency, and took his seat on the Board.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 27.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :
15th December 1777.

SIR,

On application from the Board of Trade, we desire that you will advance to their agents whatever sums they may occasionally require for the provision of the Investment for 1778-1779, and we direct you to take three receipts for the same, and immediately to transmit one of them to Mr. Larkins, Accountant-General.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 28.

To THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
17th December 1777.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have been honoured with your letter of the 9th instant. The Coondy zemindars having agreed to take charge of their pergunnah upon a remission of half the demand upon them on account of the pants of 1179 and to pay the other half by a kistbundee of three years, I have, as I conceive from your letter that you would not press them beyond their own declared ability, put them into possession upon those terms which I hope will meet with your approbation.

Upon the third paragraph of your letter I beg leave to inform you that the receipt of the revenue in shroff's pants and sealed bags is by no means an innovation nor a custom that has been any time discontinued. I cannot give you stronger proof of this than the first article of my state of this treasury, transmitted to you under date the 10th September, which is as follows:—

Khazanah Shi rupees.—In deposit in bags by the shorffs with a paper tied on them, imported the value of each—

	Rs.	a.	g.	k.
474 bags acknowledged by the shroffs ...	2,77,273	6	0	0
21 „ of shroffs who are dead ...	11,057	4	0	0
14 „ of bankrupt shroffs ...	3,245	8	14	1
Total ...	2,91,576	2	14	1

N.B.—The sums set down to the dead and bankrupt shroffs have been agreed for by the rest.

The above amount thus stated could only be the revenue of 1183. To the period of my arrival here nothing had been collected on the year 1184. Upon the receipt of your letter of the 7th October, to which time I had actually refused to accept any shroff's pants and sealed bags and therefore had not made any collections, I informed the zemindars and shroffs of your determination to proceed in the mode of last year and have accordingly done so, after obliging the shroffs to declare before creditable witnesses, for they refused to execute any papers that they would in a body become responsible for the deficiencies (if any should happen) of any individual. I must add that the consequences to the collections of this year will be very serious, if the alteration you direct is carried into execution; as I beg leave to repeat that it never has been the custom to receive specie into the Treasury in the first instance. The zemindars of Rungpore having never hitherto paid in specie; the shroffs ever having intervened between them and Government. For these reasons I hope you will hold me exculpated for deferring to pay obedience to your order until I receive an answer to this letter.

I remain, etc.,

CHARLES PURLING.

No. 29.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue, Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

17th December 1777.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

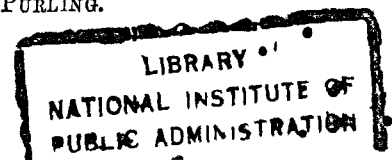
I am honoured with your letters of the 3rd ultimo and 2nd instant. The former containing an order to advance the Commercial Resident 40,000 sicca rupees—the latter noticing the balances of Baharbund and Cooch Beyhar in my Towjee account for Kartick.

The agent of the Zemindar of Baharbund having been summoned to Calcutta by the Court of Judicature, I have been unable to obtain either the revenue or an answer concerning the acceptance of the terms you were pleased, in your letter of the 7th October, to direct me to offer him, *viz.*, to hold his pergunnah at the medium jumma of three years. I have lately received his answer that he is unable to pay so great an amount; that he is a considerable loser already by the pergunnah and only petitions for his 10 per cent. ressom and the pay of the mofussil Aumlahs. I have therefore, agreeably to your directions, sent a Sezawal into his pergunnah. Whatever may be the produce thereof, will be regularly brought to account.

I beg leave to transmit the monthly accounts for the month of August. The Towjee account exhibits now only a balance of Rs. 6,000 against the Beyhar Raja, which will be paid in about 10 days with the current revenue.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES PURLING.



No. 30.

TO THE HON[']BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

18th December 1777.

HON[']BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Several merchants who are going to the hills to buy merchandise have tendered me an offer to take of 50,000 New Narianny rupees, of which there are now lying three lakhs dead in the Treasury, provided I will allow them a deduction of six annas in the French Arcot rupees. I am sensible that this application is extra official and should have adopted the mode you have prescribed of applying to the Chief and Council of Dinagepore, but imagine, it would be necessary for them to wait your order before they could give me any on the subject, as the merchants declare that if they have not an immediate answer, the season of their purchase will be over. I beg, therefore, that you would be pleased to honor me with your immediate orders hereupon and that you will signify your pleasure as to any offers of this kind I may hereafter have.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES PURLING.

No. 31.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

30th December 1777.

SIR,

Having thought proper to constitute an Office of Law Suits, which is to be superintended by Mr. George Bogle as "Commissioner of Law Suits," who is to prepare materials for the Company's Attorney, and Standing Council, we direct you to correspond with that Gentleman; to advise him of every cause on its commencement in which you or your agents or Dependents are concerned, and which may affect the Company's interests; that you furnish him with all the exhibits, and evidences, and other official documents which you yourselves may judge necessary or he may require; and cause such of your official servants and ministers, others subject to your authority, to attend him, if required.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

No. 32.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

2nd January 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have been honoured with your letters under dates the 12th and 15th ultimo. The former signifying the appointment of Edward Wheler, Esq.

The latter directing me to advance such sums as are required by the Board of Trade for the use of the investment.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES PURLING.

No. 33.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

22nd January 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Our situation being very distant from any medical assistance, the nearest residence of any Surgeon being not less than 120 miles, and in the rains the time we are most liable to sickness, a journey from Purnea, being almost impracticable, we are under the necessity of petitioning you to allow one of the faculty to reside at Rungpore.

We are, etc.,

No. 34.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

18th January 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I am honoured with your two letters of the 30th ultimo, one directing a publication to be made through the districts of Rungpore, continuing the current year's agreements for the ensuing to all such zemindars as punctually pay their rents. Which has been made accordingly.

The other informing of the appointment of Mr. Bogle as Commissioner of Law suits. When any suits arise in my division, by which the Company's interests are affected, I shall not fail in attention to the orders you have been pleased to give.

I am, etc.,

C. PURLING.

No. 35.

To MR. PURLING.

CALCUTTA :

22nd January 1778.

(Received 30th).

SIR,

As writs of Capias either for trespass in suits when the persons are joined in the original transactions are sometimes issued against public officers under your jurisdiction when you may wish to find so as to prevent the disgrace and trouble of their being brought down to Calcutta, and as other names are sometimes included in the same writ of persons who are not for the same—when you may not chase to bail, I think it proper to inform you that by an opinion lately given in the Supreme Court of Judicature the Sheriff is obliged to take bail as the appearance of each defendant separately, if required, and good bail is offered, and you have a right to insist on this with any of his officers. Should they refuse I should advise you to urge them to write down to Calcutta to the Sheriff and wait his answer.

The bail on Capias is strong. It promises to produce the defendant on a particular day to answer to the complaint and this appearance is made and the bond is exonerated either by producing the body of the defendant, or by giving what is called bail above a special bail by two persons (which sue as themselves with double sued for specified in the bail bond for appearance, in case they are challenged by the opposite party) becoming found that the defendant, in case, shall either pay the judgment with cost or surrender himself to persons, or that they, the bail, shall pay it for him. In case of bail being taken below or for appearance, and the defendants not appearing either in person or by their attorney and putting in a special bail, the plaintiff procures an assignment of the bail bond from the Sheriff, and sues will recover from the original, but as on a common bond. On becoming bail for the appearance of a defendant, you have a right to keep his body in custody for your own security.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE BOGLE,

Commissioner of Law Suits.

No. 36.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

20th January 1778.

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 17th and 18th ultimo.

17th December.—We approve of your having sent a Sezawal into the zemindary of Baharbund.

We also approve of the adjustment which you have made with the Zemindars of Coondy, in the settlement of their lands.

We recommend it to you to call the Zemindars of Rungpore before you, and to make as minute an enquiry as possible into the nature of their connection with the shroffs, the profits allowed to the latter, the period in which the Wassilhaut collections are paid to the shroffs, and the dues of Government by the shroffs to the public treasury; and whether the shroffs have any immediate concern in the moffussil collections: and we desire you will form such an adjustment with the zemindars for the next year, as shall free them from the intermediate charge which is imposed upon them by this connection; placing the Company as nearly as can be in the stead of the shroffs, but without exacting any increase in their jumma, and regulating their kishundæ by the fussilbundee or estimated produce of the harvest.

18th December.—We approve of the offer made you by the merchants to take off 50,000 new Narianny rupees on the conditions expressed in your letter.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 37.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:
17th March 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to transmit you the monthly accounts for Phalgun.

Messrs. Wildman and Lithan having applied to me for an allowance for their way charges, I request you will be pleased to signify your commands on this subject as well as what salary is to be paid to the former gentleman.

I remain, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 38.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:
28th March 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to transmit you a petition of Dunup Deo, Raja of Bycuntpore. The Putcheem Bootgong people who are no ways connected with the Government of the Deb Raja but inhabit the mountains to the westward of Sinasiottah and join with the inhabitants under their hills to plunder the country of Dunup Deo, have been extremely troublesome ever since the battalion has been removed from Sahebgunge, and I now find Dunup Deo unable from any

force he can collect of himself to withstand them, or to pay the amount of his settlement, which indeed he has repeatedly complained to me was too high. He offered voluntarily to engage to pay 25,000 Kazannah Shi rupees, which I had the honour to acquaint you of in my letter under date 21st of October, when you were pleased to order that he should pay a medium of three years, which amounts to Rs. 28,334-8. Before he became dependent on our Government, that is, before the Raja of Cooch Beyhar sought the protection of the Company, the largest tribute he ever paid was Rs. 10,100 per annum. His pergunnah has since never had a regular hustabood made of it, but his offer of Rs. 25,000 rejected and Rs. 30,000 insisted on. I am of opinion that your indulgence in this particular may be well bestowed.

As there are no sepoy at Rungpore, I am unable to afford his country any protection against his neighbours. And I fear that in this case Dunup Deo will, in the ensuing year, find a difficulty in paying even the sum of Rs. 25,000.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(The petition of Dunup Deo, zemindar of Bycuntpore.)

I have not been able to pay the amount of this year's bundabust, as the ryots have run away and the lands are left uncultivated. The rivers last rains broke down the banks and overflowed the country by which means the harvest was spoilt. That together with the disturbances occasioned by the people, I before petitioned you about, has made the ryots all quit my country. I have done everything in my power to complete the amount of my bundabust, but the ryots, having run away, have rendered me unable to fulfil it. I used formerly to collect Government charges from boats passing, but this year I am forbid. The ryots that are now remaining in my pergunnah have not sufficient to keep themselves and cannot therefore pay any revenue. I have to this time paid up my kists punctually by borrowing money from merchants. There is now due from my pergunnah Rs. 2,363-8 for the reason before mentioned, I cannot collect it from the country; neither have I the means of paying this balance. I therefore petition that I may be allowed this deduction, and I will endeavour to get the ryots again and cultivate the lands. I shall ever be thankful for this mark of favour.

DUNUP DEO.

No. 39.

To WILLIAM HARWOOD, Esq., Chief, etc., Provincial Council of Revenue at Purnea.

RUNGPORE :
30th March 1778.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to transmit you a petition of Kinker Bueshee, the Dewan of Bycuntpore, and request the favour of you to furnish his Vakeel with the perwannahs he requires to put a stop to the assistance given Soonee Roy and to the people of Putscheem Bootgong, who are making depredations on his land.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(The petition of Kinker Bacshee, Naib Zemindar of Bycuntpore).

When you were in this country you appointed me Naib of this pergunnah, and from that time I have paid revenue to the Company. I am always ready to do anything the Company may order. The zemindars of Puteheem Bootgong have, for this year past, been plundering this country and enticing away the ryots. On which account the Company's revenue has not been collected. I petitioned you several times for a few seapoys to drive the people away, but no attention has been paid to my applications. You ordered me to entertain some burkundoses for the defence of my country. I, therefore, built a little fort, or place of defence upon the borders of my country to keep them out. But on the 30th of Phalgun in the night they came in a large body headed by Sunee Roy, whose house is in pergunnah Suzapoor in the district of Purnea. The zemindar of which place is Narain Potock. They beat Miacam zemindar, and took the fort and Sunee Roy, confined Benud Ram Buxey. They afterwards plundered four or five villages and wanted to fight. Upon this, all the ryots ran away from my pergunnah and the collections were stopped. Whenever I have been able to borrow money, I have taken it up, to pay my revenue to Government. I am a poor zemindar. I cannot entertain a sufficient number of people to contend with them. I therefore petitioned for a few of the Company's seapoys, that I may drive these people away, and pay my revenue to the Company. I am to request you will also send a perwannah to Sunee Roy, to desist molesting me, and that he will release Benud Ram Buxey, and another perwannah to Narain Potock, to desire he will not assist the zemindar of Puteheem Bootgong with seapoys to fight against me.

No. 40.

To WILLIAM HARWOOD, Esq., Chief, etc., Provincial Council of Revenue at Purnea.

RUNGPORE :

1st April 1778.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to transmit you a petition of the vakeel of the zemindars of Shaikshar. It appears from the tenor of it that complaints have been made concerning this village of Dumurgatchy so long ago as the year 1182. If any decision has passed before your Board, I request the favour of you to furnish me with a copy as a guide for my transaction with the zemindars. If not I am ready to operate in any measures to bring the dispute to a speedy conclusion. It seems necessary to appoint arbitrators upon the spot. In the meantime, the zemindar seems to have no objection to the attachment of his revenue, but in order to do this, some positive orders to the Raja of Goragaut may be requisite to induce him to relinquish the village he has laid hold of by driving away the Nagabaun, I had sent to remain there.

The other complaints of the Shaikshar Naib being of a latter date; I beg you will inform me in what manner you may be pleased to decide them.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(The petition of Brindah, Luckee, Oudidors, Rada Bowanny Doss, Choudhries of Pergunnah Shaikshar, in Sircar Goragaut.)

In our zemindary is the village of Dumurgatchy. Kissen Cunt Roy of Burdun Cootee farmed this place of us, but he, not paying his rents punctually, we in the year 1179 dispossessed him, and farmed this village ourselves. From 1179 to 1181 we have received the rents and to that time there was no disputes. Raja Gornaut Roy, etc., zemindar of Goragaut complained to Mr. Speke that Dumurgutchy belonged to their zemindary, upon which an arbitrator was appointed, but nothing was settled by him. After this Mr. Harwood became Chief and Cossinaut Lohauré was appointed arbitrator by him, but nothing was then settled. In the month of Sawon 1182, Raja Gornaut forced our people away from that place, put in his own and placed a flag there, upon which we complained to Mr. Harwood, the Chief, who sent a Nagabaun and a hircarrah to take away the flag which had been put up by the Raja and dispossess the people he had left there, and we took charge again.

And the Chief ordered that we should send the amount of the revenue to Dinagepore. In the year 1180 the Nagabaun and hircarrah collected Rs. 3 4, which was sent to Dinagepore and is now in the hands of the Cazanchy there. Nothing has been settled by the arbitrators. The zemindars of Goragaut have no title to this place but they have always been disputing with us. We, therefore, presented a petition to the Dinagepore Council, in which we represented that, if any persons of knowledge could swear before the Council that this place belonged to the zemindary of Goragaut, we would give up our pretensions to it. The Raja is a great man. We, therefore, petitioned the Chief of Rungpore for a Negrbaun, upon which Hyder Caun was sent. Hyder Caun upon his arrival collected and despatched to Rungpore Rs. 2 2 which was due for two months kist and is now in the hands of the Cazanchy, and was collecting the balance due, but on the 25th Maug Jaur. Bundaree, together with ten or twelve peons and pyks, went to this village, and asked the Negrbaun, whose orders he had for coming there, and who ordered him to make the collections. He replied I have come here by my master's orders, and have made the collections, the Negrbaun then asked them by whose orders they had come, what dustuck or perwannah they had brought. Upon this Japura Bundaree told him he was come on the part of Raja Gournaut and that he might go if he pleased to the Raja and see the perwannah. Asked him what his master had to do with the collections of this place and told him to go to Shaikshar and make the collections there and required him to bring the money he had collected to him. The Bundaree then opened the doors of the golah where the people keep their rice. Upon this Hyder Caun made a great noise, calling upon the Company for justice but they did not pay any attention to this for they took off the locks which were on the doors of the golahs and put on their own, forced the ryots to pay the revenue to them and drove away the Negrbaun, who immediately went to Rungpore.

These people on the part of the Raja are forcibly making the collections in a village that belongs to our zemindary. We are poor zemindars. He is a great man. We cannot contend with him. You are master of the country. We request a man may be sent that we have power to drive away

the Raja's people, and that a person may be deputed to make the collections till it is finally settled to whom this place belongs and that the Raja's people may be made to deliver up the money they have forcibly collected.

RAMNARAIN GORE,
Vakeel of Zemindars of Shaikshar.

Complaints preferred against Raja Gournaut by the zemindars of Shaikshar since the petition was delivered in—

1.—That Raja Gournaut's people did on the 27th of Phalgun forcibly take possession of the village of Biteoppah which is in Shaikshar, and put up a flag there.

2.—That Govindnaut Roy, Issardar of the village of Putwah did on the 7th of Choite apply to the Raja of Goragaut and obtained some peons and burkundosses, who drove away the people of the village of Dankuneeah, who were sowing their grain by the side of a jeel which lies between these two villages, and that they destroyed all the grain by making their own people harrow the ground over. That between these two villages was a public road which they have stopped up and will not let any body pass.

3.—That the ryots of the village of Govindpore have been sowing grain in the village of Guzeeah, which is in their zemindary.

No. 41.

To CHARLES PURVING, Esq.

CALCUTTA:
7th April 1778.

SIR,

I think it my duty to acquaint you with such circumstances and opinions as passed at the trial of Rada Cant Ghose against the Dewan of the Calcutta Committee, and which I conceive can be of use to you to know.

The cause, owing to an inaccuracy in the answer to the plant was given in favour of the plaintiff with one rupee damages and one rupee costs.

The rights of the Dewan to imprison on the balance of the Toujée was asserted and supported. The evidence, however, was not of one opinion, and, the Chief of the Committee being strongly against it the Court, leaved to him and gave it as their opinion that the Dewan had no right to imprison without an order of the Committee or the Chief.

It seemed to be considered as a point of consequence by the Court that a D—should be made before imprisonment, and expressed a wish that orders for imprisonment were in writing whether Persian or English, matters not. If this were possible, it would certainly render the defence of the Revenue causes much simpler, and prevent the necessity of calling down officers from the spot to prove the uniform practice of imprisoning on verbal orders.

From what I could collect, I am of opinion, that the Court will not consider pleas of remissions as grounds sufficient to suspend the demand and payment of balances on a kistbundee or taujee. The petitioner in some instances may have a right to have his pleas examined and an opportunity afforded him of proving them, but till they are proved, the Court according to the orders of law, will not, I believe, put them at all on a footing with positive and specific engagements. The latter will be considered in the nature of a bond this proves as an unsupported claim, which may in some instances, deserve the indulgence of Government, but which the debtor cannot support in a Court of Law as an absolute right.

The Court was strongly of opinion that the Provincial Councils and other officers were bound to adhere strictly to the Regulations of the President of Council, or Governor-General and Council, while they were unrepealed and it was on this principle, as well as the difference in the evidence which I have mentioned, that they pronounced the Dewan not to have the power of imprisoning without an order of the Council or Chief.

By the decision of this cause, the responsibility of the actual farmer, though not the nominal one is, I think, now well established.

I am, etc.,

G. BOGLE,

Commissioner of Law Suits.

No. 42.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM :

7th April 1778.

SIR,

We desire you will exact with rigor the payments due for the current year, and not admit any pleas whatever for remissions, or excuses for deficiencies in the revenue.

You will transmit your accounts to the Presidency as usual, closed on the 5th Bysack, and direct your Dewan to forward the Persian accounts in the same manner to the Khalsa.

You will continue your receipts of account of the year 1184 to the last day of Bysack 1185, when you will finally close your accounts of the collections for the current year, and carry all future receipts to the credit of the year 1185.

We desire you will forward to us your general accounts on the 1st of Jey and direct your Dewan to transmit his accounts closed to the same period to the Khalsa, with an accurate explanation of the balances, which, however, we hope will be very trifling.

You will cause publication to be made at all the cutcherries of your division that such zemindars, as shall have paid their revenue without deficiency on the last day of Bysack, shall hold their lands on the same terms for the ensuing year; but that portions of such zemindars as shall be in balance at that period will be sold to make good the revenue, or the zemindaries given in farm to any one, who will agree to discharge the balance of the year 1184 with the same jumma for 1185.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 43.

To WILLIAM HODGSON, Esq., Secretary to the Revenue Department at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
12th April 1778.

SIR,

I am favoured with your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing the regulations of the Governor-General and Council of Revenue, respecting the opium lands which shall be immediately carried into execution. I do not apprehend they can be attended with any inconveniences but if any complaints are made in consequence of them, I shall duly transmit them to the Board.

I am etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 44.

To THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
18th April 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Having finished the investigation you were pleased to order in your letter of the 20th of January concerning the connection of the zemindars with the shroffs, I beg leave to lay before you the following particulars :—

A zemindar agrees at the beginning of the year with such shroffs as he chooses that such a sum of money shall be advanced by the shroff in the payment of the Malguzary. The stipulated sum is then supposed to be always ready, and the zemindars draw such part of the sum as he stands

in need of, paying an interest for that only which he draws. This is a stipulation certainly in favour of the zemindars, and of advantage to Government, provided the amount in the treasury was paid by the shroffs in ready money ; but, on the contrary, the shroff receives such part of the revenue as the zemindar can pay and a bond for the remainder (which is part perhaps of the sum the shroff has agreed to pay for the zemindar) and pays to Government a sealed bag declaring it to be the amount of the zemindar's kist.

The profits allowed to the shroffs are of three sorts :—Interest, kissarut, and salammy.

The interest has varied according to the ability of the zemindars to pay their loans taken up or the security offered to the shroff. Those that give such security as the shroff approves, pay only one per cent. per mensem, and others who give none at all have paid 3·2 per cent. per mensem. This interest is adjusted every month, and the zemindar is obliged to pay the demand of the shroff at one month's credit, or he is not trusted the ensuing month. I therefore suppose that the zemindars generally get sufficient remittances to pay the sum he takes up by the end of the month. It, however, sometimes happens, that the zemindar's expectations from his country are disappointed, and he then is obliged to adjust the account and pay the balance due to the shroff with whom he deals ; which he does by making use of his credit in another place. The general custom is that some other shroff, who is of the same body, only perhaps concerned with another zemindar, delivers a pant payable in eight days which is accepted by the shroff who charges kissarut to the zemindar, which is a premium for the credit of eight days of one to two per cent. besides which the zemindar is charged with interest by the shroff whom he applies to in the second instance.

Salammy is a douceur given to the shroff by the zemindar upon their first dealing together, not any stipulated per centage, but variable according to his ability.

The shroffs have no immediate concern with the mofussil collections, but have within this year or two become farmers, though not to any great amount.

The demand of Government upon the shroffs has generally been the amount balance of the Treasury account, deducting the collections of the Sicca Mahals, which is one-ninth part of the whole. This amount is in sealed bags, and it will be my care that they be realised in money, before the beginning of the next year's collections.

I have agreeably to your directions formed a kistbundee according to the estimated produce of the harvests in this country. In this I have been guided by original accounts of the harvests taken from the Kanungoe's dufter, specifying what proportion each bore to the whole Mālguzary, and the wishes of the zemindars themselves whom I required severally to furnish me with such an account, kistbundee as they thought they could comply with punctually with the least detriment to themselves or their ryots. I found so little variation in the two accounts that the medium was easily drawn and the zemindars have severally declared themselves satisfied. The kistbundee comes enclosed for your approbation, and will be adopted in the

ensuing year, provided I receive no orders to the contrary. You will observe in this account that a larger part of the revenue is thrown upon the latter months of the year than has been hitherto customary. This is owing to the tobacco harvest falling in the spring which is the most valuable in these districts, I have, however, ventured to deviate a little from both the Zemindar, and Kanungoe's account, under the apprehension of difficulties arising at the latter end of the year which might occasion the collections to fall in arrears.

The harvests in the Kanungoe's accounts are stated as very small for the months of Bysack and Jaite, the two first months of the year. I, therefore, at the solicitation of the Zemindar, who represented that these months were required to settle accounts with their farmers and ryots and to take measures for increasing the cultivation of their lands, have allowed them that recess after closing of the collections of the old year which I think can be attended with no inconvenience whatever. I have thought it necessary to make the enclosed publication, that all parties may be timely warned upon what footing the collections of the new year are to be made, and that it may be clearly understood that the business of the shroffs as bankers to private people is not intended to be restrained but that they can only be entitled to interest from the zemindars, where they pay ready money to Government. I hope that in this I have abided by the spirit and intention of your orders.

I have not included in this kistbundee the Sicca Mahals, because the zemindars have declared they have pleas for deductions for the ensuing year which they wish to have decided upon, and the Sicca Mahals do not pay the revenue through the shroffs.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(By Order of the Governor-General and the Council of Revenue.)

This is to give notice that the Governor-General and Council of Revenue have been pleased positively to direct that there shall not, from the commencement of the Bengal year 1185, be any interference whatever on the part of the shroffs in the business of collections, that is, that the custom of delivering sealed bags and shroff's pants into the treasury ready money, upon the kistbundee regulated according to the period and value of their several harvests. The purport of the above Order is to relieve as much as possible the zemindars from a necessity of borrowing money in payment of their revenues, and to free their lands from an accumulation of expense and interest; but the usual intercourse between the zemindars and shroffs is not intended to be precluded so far as their engagements shall be considered as private transactions between man and man. All shroffs assisting any zemindar who may be under the necessity of borrowing from them, will be entitled to the interest established by Government. Every specie will be received into the treasury except New Narianny rupees, and any zemindar who shall be in arrears one kist, to be paid within the month, in which it is stated, will be dispossessed and such part of his lands sold as shall make good his deficiency.

No 45.

To THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

18th April 1778.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I am extremely concerned to be under the necessity of creating you trouble on a subject, concerning which I have once obtained your decisive orders; but the evil of which I am now about to address you has arisen to too great a height for me to contend against, and I foresee that any exertions of my own authority, unless supported by the sanction of some express regulations and orders from you, must be the means of every workman deserting the Company's factory; and I may lay open to the blame of occasioning a decrease of the Company's Investment. It has been formerly a source of complaint from the zemindars to me, and from me to the Governor and Council of Revenue that the Nacauds have adopted a notion that they were exempt from the payment of abwabs upon their jumma, and that any ryot sending a relation into the Company's Nacaud Coomah should hold his lands upon the tuckseem jumma. The Nacauds have so uniformly claimed this exemption upon the precedent of former years that the Factory Gentlemen even are misled by the plausible appearances of custom, and I am clear that nothing can eradicate this overgrown and still growing evil, but your interfering by some decisive declarations. In order, therefore, to lay all information before you at one view, I have endeavoured, by the most minute enquiry from the zemindar's agents and from the public servants and papers, to trace out the origin of this claim at what time and on what time it was formed.

Before the year 1176 it is represented that the Nacauds of the Factory were inconsiderable in their numbers and no particular exemption was required, but they were treated as other ryots, and often excused where they had not the ability to pay; and at other times the zemindars would of their own authority flog them for their rents. The first appearances of an attempt to screen the Nacauds from payment of demands of the zemindars according to the rate of the pergunnah was in the year 1176, when a dispute arose between Mr. Wright, the Resident at the Factory and Muddun Gopaul, who was Collector of the revenues, when Mr. Wright desired that the claims of the zemindars might be suspended till he could get an order upon the subject, and Muddun Gopaul consented to wait that time, declaring that no act of Government authorised deductions to the Nacauds, that he had given a Tahud at the city which he must comply with, that the zemindars had no revenues but what they could get from the produce of their ryots' lands, and that he could not give it up without an equivalent deduction from his engagements. Here the dispute rested. Muddun Gopaul was removed in two months, and Mirza Hussen Reza was appointed. The Nacauds did not at all pay their revenue, and from this time they have been endeavouring to extend this privilege. Mirza Hussen, at the latter end of 1177, gave up Rs. 2,315-9-16-1 to the Nacauds in the adjustment of their accounts, but the zemindars and Kanungoes all declare that this was not authorised by Government.

In 1178 I came first to Rungpore, and Mr. Lawrell, who was deputed by the Council of Murshidabad, made the settlement upon the papers of 1176, collected by Mr. Grose. No allowed deduction whatever was given to the Nacauds, but there was again a struggle in the latter end of the year; and the Zemindars got a deduction of Rs. 2,315-9-16-1 on account of the Nacauds. This was allowed in the adjustment of the balance of their accounts upon a representation from me.

In 1179 the contention of the Nacauds, who were increasing yearly in their number, obliged the Zemindars to claim deductions from their revenues and they accordingly obtained from the Committee of Circuit upon the bundabust they made, and the Zemindars, in the adjustment of their accounts, have always allowed it to the Nacauds. This was the first partiality shown to the Nacauds by Public Authority.

*Account of the Deductions allowed to the Nacauds in 1179 by the
Authority of Government.*

Pergunnahs inhabited by Nacauds.	Deductions claimed by the zemindars.	Deductions granted by the Committee.	Balance allowed.
1	2	3	4
	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.
Futtypore 9½ annas ...	1,254 8 13 3	381 5 0 0	873 3 13 3
Bogdaubry ...	1,055 2 12 0	105 2 12 0	950 0 0 0
Aubeer Sudder ...	278 10 0 0	28 10 0 0	250 0 0 0
Montenna ...	214 13 16 2	214 13 16 2	...
Bamindungah ...	2,235 0 2 1	918 13 5 2	1,316 2 16 3
Cargeehaut Mushroot ...	11 4 0 0	11 4 0 0	...
Oodassey ...	358 11 1 0	108 10 11 0	250 10 0 0
Gorinddo ...	12 8 12 1	12 8 12 1	...
Soonarain ...	29 5 13 1	29 5 13 1	...
Barbeil ...	56 0 18 1	36 18 1 0	20 0 0 0
Chaundconnah ...	64 5 10 2	14 5 10 2	50 0 0 0
Coondy ...	8,432 1 4 3	454 9 17 3	7,977 7 7 0
Total ...	14,002 8 4 2	2,315 9 16 1	11,686 14 8 1

The above account is the first and only authentic record of any deductions allowed to the Company's silk winders in their jummas, which is to the same amount as was allowed in the adjustment of this account in the two former years, but this was not sufficient to justify the demands of those who resided in the Coondy pergunnah. The Nacauds in the other pergunnahs are few in number and the Zemindars have been enabled to manage so as to render them satisfied with the deduction, but though this was an indulgence, and not any established exemption from the collection of the abwabs authorised by Government that is included in the Jumma bundy of the pergunnah, many of the Nacauds of Coondy refused to pay the abwabs and took protection of the factory, that is whenever the power of the Collector was used to oblige them to pay the Zemindars the factory was deserted under the express declaration, that if they had not the protection they sought by coming into the Nacaud Connah, they would leave it, since

a maintenance is not to be earned by their work. This desertion always produced applications and remonstrances from the Commercial Resident, and occasioned the following addresses made to the Governor and Council of Revenue upon closing the yearly accounts of 1179, just as I was about to leave Rungpore to the charge of Mr. Harris.

Extract from my letter to the Council of Revenue, dated the 5th May 1773 :—

“The remaining balance of the Coondy zemindars being Narianmy Rs. 6,048-4-3-2 will be paid, I am afraid late in the following accounts.

“The deductions allowed in the Hustabood are so far from being thought an indulgence by the Nacauds of the Factory that they are now in arrears by their own accounts, Rs. 3,200 of this sum. If the Zemindars take common methods of recovering the revenue, the silk factory is immediately deserted, and the winding put a stop to. A strange notion has been by these means adopted and encouraged that a person becoming a Nacaud is only liable to the payment of the assul jumma of their lands and the making of Nacauds has become a trade by the Sirdars of the Factory, in so much that sometime ago three or four different complaints were exhibited at the Addaulut against the Sirdars of Nacauds for not performing their agreement of bringing a child into the Company's Nacaud Connah for which they had received a consideration. The desire of doing justice to the Zemindars, and of putting an end to an evil of so bad a tendency as the refusal of Government's just dues, and the attention I would ever pay to the Company's commercial concerns has kept me wavering ; I, however, now think it my duty to lay this before you that your orders to my successor may have the proper effect. The want of something determinate herein has been almost the only, though constant, source of trouble in the transaction of the business of these districts for the two years, I have had charge of them.”

To the above I received the following reply under date, the 14th May 1773.

“With respect to the balance due from the Nacauds, we desire you will apply to the Superintendent of the Filature under whose directions they are employed, to take measures for recovering it, as we will not admit of further deductions to the Nacauds than what have been already granted in stating the Hustabood. Should any additional indulgence be absolutely necessary, it will more properly become a charge of the Factory than a diminution of the revenue.”

These orders were left to be executed by my successor, but the money was not paid by the Zemindars, and I suppose not demanded by the Zemindars from the Nacauds.

In the year 1180, the second of the Committee's Bundabust, the revenue of Coondy was stated thus :—

Revenue of 1179.				Revenue of 1180.				Revenue to be paid in 1180.			
Rs.	a.	g.	k.	Rs.	a.	g.	k.	Rs.	a.	g.	k.
83,298	13	3	1	14,707	9	0	0	98,006	3	1	0

This russud was declared by the Zemindars to be so heavy that they could not pay it, and the Collector received an order to sequester the lands and collect upon a Hustabood or valuation of them. A sezawal was accordingly appointed, and a Hustabood was formed, which is now deposited in the Kanungoe's office.

The abstract is follows :—

				Rs.	a.	g.	k.
The last <i>Jumma</i>	...	...	...	78,100	6	0	1
Farmer's expenses	...	...	...	6,004	4	0	1
Total	...	...	...	84,104	10	0	2
Increase in 1180	...	...	...	11,226	14	10	2
Total	...	...	...	95,331	8	11	0
				Rs.	a.	g.	k.
Allowed for the loss of deserted ryots	...	...	...	7,577	8	2	2
Allowed for the settling of new ryots	...	...	...	2,252	9	15	0
Allowed for uncultivated lands	...	...	...	3,615	6	19	0
Loss allowed for Shaur Shukusty	...	...	...	720	3	15	0
Amount of deductions	...	...	...	14,165	12	11	2
Total	...	...	...	81,165	11	19	2
Deduct the farmer's expenses	...	...	...	5,679	9	12	1
Total	...	...	...	75,486	2	7	1
Deduct the amount of Sebundy, etc.	...	...	...	5,465	14	0	0
Balance the net jumma of 1180	...	...	...	70,020	4	7	1

The Kanungoe's Naibs and the Zemindars' gomastahs declare that from the kist head in this account is deducted the sum of Rs. 3,200 as afsul or deductions to the Nacauds. In this method of stating the account there is this irregularity, the first head should discover the whole sources of the pergunnah in gross, the heads of deduction or increases are then particularly stated, in order that the Collector, Aumeen, or whatever person is authorised, may be enabled to judge of the propriety of admitting the deductions or levying the increases. This is only mentioned as a proof that the Rs. 3,200 so deducted was a more clandestine transaction than arrived by the authority of Government. In 1180 this Rs. 3,200 was not levied and the zemindars made no complaints. This was very near establishing a right from precedent to the Nacauds. But the Zemindars readily account for their acquiescence. They say they were dispossessed of their lands, they had no interest whatever in them; and, as they were not liable to be seized for the payment of their revenues, it was not their business to demand what was given up by the Government's Agent, which, in whatever degree it operated, would benefit their lands.

In 1181 the settlement was made upon the Hustabood of 1180 when all the deductions stated in the Hustabood was allowed, but an arbitrary increase of Rs. 10,000 was put upon the pergunnah, the jumma of which stood as follows :—

Hustabood Jumma after allowing all deductions.	Arbitrary increase.	Total demand for 1181.
Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.
70,020 4 7 1	10,279 8 14 0	80,299 13 1 1

In this adjustment the zemindars were unfortunately situated for, at the same time that deductions were declared to be allowed and an increase put upon the pergunnah, no specific sources were pointed out in the settlement whereby this increase was to be realised. On default of this, the zemindar had no revenue, but a mahtut upon his pergunnah. When the settlement is made with any country, the Kanangoe's office and Dewan's Sheristah become the channel of information to the putwarries, and poramanicks of the villages, and they communicate their accounts to each ryot, their accounts become easily adjusted, so that it is not in the power of the zemindars to make a claim from the villagers upon any heads of revenue not included in the sudder jumma bundy, and they cannot alter the proportion of these heads to the whole jumma without being liable to an immediate check on a complaint to the Collector. The zemindars then attempted to realise this Rs. 10,000 by resuming the Rs. 3,200, which though not included in the jumma bundy was not publicly authorised deduction, and to collect a mahtoot for the remainder. But the protection of the Factory and the resistance of the Nacauds was too powerful for the zemindars. They, therefore, fell in balance to Government Rs. 10,451-10-11.

The sudder jumma of the Coondy pergunnah is likewise settled at Rs. 80,299-13-1 in the two following years 1182 and 1183. Here indeed the deductions claimed by the nacauds and established upon a precedent however irregular, bear extremely hard upon the zemindar; for while it is observed that the jumma is kept up to the year 1181, and the revenue paid without a balance, the zemindars have not been able to collect their demands upon the nacauds and Sirdars who are always released by peons and harcarrahs from the Factory the very day on which they were confined. Of this complaint was made to Mr. Harwood, who told the zemindars he would write for orders, but they never got any answer, nor would the native officers of Government here attempt to support the zemindars against people, who were sheltered under the protection of the Company's Factory: During this relaxation or restraint of power in the zemindars, it is not surprising that there should have been an exceeding increase of nacauds and that every art and collusion should have been practised by the Sircars and Sirdars of the Factory which could tend to their own advantage, and consequently to the ruin of the zemindars. This was the first complaint I received on my return to this place; but the precedent was so much insisted upon by the Factory Gentlemen, and the consequence of desertion of their workmen was so constantly urged, that I determined to let the zemindars go on to the latter end of the year, and endeavour to compromise by some means

so as not to distress the Factory. The same complaints on the part of the zemindars are now renewed. I received from them the following petition :—

“The ryots of our pergunnah are daily becoming nacauds. The brothers and relations of nacauds are put down as nacauds, and claim exemption from the payment of their rents adjusted agreeably to those of other ryots and according to the rate of the village they live in. For this reason the pergunnah has yearly fallen in arrears. This year the Nacauds are indebted to us Rs. 9,428-14-18-2 by the accounts of the pergunnah. We have a deduction allowed us of Rs 454-9-17-3, out of this, as settled by the bundabust of 1179, the balance Rs. 8,974-5-0-3, they forcibly keep from us. We have yearly paid this loss. We have therefore to request you will use means to collect this money or obtain for us a deduction from our jumma. When we sent people to demand the payment of our rents from the brothers and relation—of nacauds, they collect 10 or 12 together and beat those we send. We request some enquiry may be made into this, and redress afforded us—

Gopal Nuggee, Naib	...	7 annas.
Mulee Roy,	..	4 „
Nuru Roy,	..	3 anna 15 gindas.
Rameunt,	..	1 „ 5 „

The circumstances of this petition are but too well known as to the combination of the Nacauds, who are fully justified to themselves in the end whatever irregularities may be the consequences of these insurrections if they can carry the point of a non-payment of half of the zemindars' demands upon them. And, as they had a superior protection to the common ryot, and could come with the Factory Resident's letter in their hand or indeed, without it, upon the footing of other ryots, to complain in case any unauthorised exactions were levied by the zemindars, or in case they met with any unusual severity, I was induced to make the following publication which was stuck up here, and in the Sudder Cutchery of the pergunnah :—

“Whereas the zemindars of the pergunnah Coondy have represented that many houses of ryots have, by sending one of their family into the Company's Nacaud Connah, claimed an exemption from the payment of their just rents, and have in various instances assembled in a tumultuous manner and driven away such peons or pykes as the zemindars have occasionally sent to demand them, and rescued such persons as the zemindars have fined in default of payment, this is to give notice that no nacaud whatever, as he is allowed a sufficient compensation for his labour at the Factory, is by public authority exempted from payments of the rents of such lands as are held by them of their zemindars. That all nacauds are required peaceably to pay the revenues in the same manner as other ryots and agreeably to the rate of the pergunnah he inhabits. That any nacaud or nacauds whatsoever who shall continue to proceed in the manner above complained of by the Coondy zemindars, shall, upon conviction, be severely punished at the Sudder Cutchery. If at any time the zemindars shall demand more than the rents according to the rate of the pergunnah, every ryot, whether nacaud or not, is required to make his complaint at the Sudder ; where his account will be settled by the Dewan of the Province and the Kanungoes.”

About three days after the publication was made, the 7-anna Naib complained to me that he sent a pyke with the Putwarre of Monohurpore village, to collect the revenues and put some of the relations of the nacauds

into confinement. At about 12 o'clock at night the nacauds and their relations rose and set upon the Putwarree and pyke. The first scaped by running away. The pyke was brought to me with his head violently cut and swelled from blows of bludgeons, perfectly stupified and unable to walk without support. The names of the people who were known to be in this riot were taken down, and the Nacauds had not only taken refuge in the Factory, but their relations also were found there, and delivered up to me by Mr. Pote. Upon enquiry they denied every circumstance, till I fixed upon one person, into whose hands I put a Koran, and whose examination I took in the presence of Mr. Pote, who left me with the desire, that I would make an example of them by flogging them in the village in which the tumult was made and publishing in the pergunnah for what the punishment was inflicted. This, however, I did not do, declaring that if upon enquiry into their accounts, I could detect the zemindars in making one unjust demand, they should not be punished. I after this spent three whole mornings in the enquiry into the accounts of their village; I examined their pottahs, and each separate abwab demanded by the zemindar. I found the terms of the pottahs run agreeable to the customary rates of the village in which they lived and the zemindar's demands were clearly and justly stated. I then asked them if they should think the claim made by the zemindars was oppressive, provided they had not claimed this privilege of nacauds, and they declared they should not. After this I inflicted the punishment by sending them all, except the evidence,* under the Cutwall's guard with a tom-tom into Monohurpore and they received 12 rattans each at the place the riot was committed, and this crime was published in the pergunnah by the Cutwall. The nacauds to the number of seven are now in confinement till they pay the zemindar his demand.

After the zemindars had confined, several of the ryots (connected with Nacauds, but not workmen of the Factory) and possibly some few nacauds, Mr. Pote again represented to me how extremely prejudicial to the Company's Investment this would prove, if the zemindars were permitted to lay hold of the Factory people, and I agreed to order the zemindars to confine no one if he would undertake to collect only one year's abwabs after making the allowed deduction of Rs. 454, that is, that the other two years' demands should be hereafter compromised. This Mr. Pote undertook to propose, and the zemindars were directed to release all the people they had confined who were connected with the Nacauds. I began to furnish Mr. Pote with accounts of the several villages, with the jumma, wassil baukee of each man, nomination, and told him, that the allowed deduction should be made in whatever manner he should point out. I also declared that if any nacaud or sirdar asserted that he had any demand of an oppressive nature made upon him, I would then go into an examination of his accounts and upon proofs would take means of punishing the zemindars who made them. But the nacauds availed themselves of this attention paid to the Company's Investment to abscond to a man, leaving their families in their houses. By this means the zemindars lose the opportunity, my former publication gave them of collecting some of their demands. The ryots leave the female part of their families shut up in their zenanas, by which they maintain a right to the crops on their lands, and when the new year is so far advanced as to make the zemindars offer any terms, they will return; provided that before that

*That is the informer.

time the obstruction thrown into the way of the Investment does not shield them from confinement. This it has done for, at Mr. Pote's instance, I have made the following publication :—

“As the nacauds have upon the claims made by the zemindars for the
• balance due for the rents of their respective lands, all run off and taken
• protection in other pergunnahs, so that the business of the Factory is entirely
at a stand ; this is to give notice that all nacauds that wind silk in the
• Factory shall be exempt as to their persons from any confinement whatever.”

The assul jumma which the nacauds declare they will pay or not work in the Factory, comes to about one-half of the revenue collected from the zemindars. It is declared that a good workman in the Nacaud Connah cannot earn half a rupee a month. Wherefore then the great increase of nacauds in the latter years in so much that they amount to 2,000 men? Because it has become a received notion that all their lands were exempt from paying the abwabs, so that a man does not work for the Company as a means of maintenance, but that his family may cultivate their lands upon the tuckseem jummas. I submit it to your judgment how a manufacture is to flourish, when the encouragement to the manufacturer arises from any other source but the goodness and quantity of the work he performs. A man of the Brahmin caste, putwarries, poramanicks of villages, and even the peons and pykes of the Factory are here not above having their names enrolled in the list of nacauds. I dare say no examples of this kind will be found in any other part of the country. These are instances of abuse and wherein the advantage said to result from this indulgence, cannot centre in the Company's Investment at the same time that they carry along with it the most pernicious effects to the revenue. It is not of consequence whether the people who are enrolled in the list of nacauds, whether or not they have a child in the Nacaud Connah, can wind silk or whether they put an adult person in who will never be able to learn; the point is that there is one of the family who goes daily to the Factory, and he claims the same privilege as the rest.

It is represented to me by the 3 annas 15 gundas Zemindar's naib that there is a village in his share of the pergunnah called Futtypore, in which, in the year 1178 there were 17 houses of Nacauds, and the whole number of houses of ryots (including Nacauds) were 308; now there are 308 houses of nacauds and no others. I have no doubt of the truth of this story from the many concurrent circumstances I have fallen upon in the course of my enquiry, and because I could at any time detect them upon examining their accounts. But even in this in some villages both myself and the zemindars must be reduced to inconvenience where the putwarries and poramanicks, who are always substantial ryots, become nacauds and refuse to submit to that necessary authority which must be delegated and used in the collection of the revenue of any country whatever.

It becomes, however, a matter of speculation, if the inconveniences to the Coondy zemindars have been so great in the collection of their rents from the ryots, and if 8,000 or 9,000 rupees have been yearly kept back for these three years past, how they were enabled to pay the demand of Government. The zemindars heard me declare at Mr. Pote's requisition that for the present the

demand from the Nacauds should be only made for the year 1184 and that the balance of the year 1182 and 1183 should be adjusted hereafter, and immediately complained to me that they who were in debt, had sold their effects and some of their lands, that they had ruined one shroff by their loans so that their credit was greatly hurt, that their power, not being sufficient to compel the nacauds to pay their revenue, they had recourse to mahtoots upon such ryots as were not nacauds which had daily decreased their cultivation by the desertion of some ryots and the additional motive given to others of becoming nacauds, who held the only flourishing lands in their pergunnahs. As I could perceive nothing improper in this representation, I told them to deliver me another petition, setting forth these particulars and also account of their loans for the years 1182, 1183 and 1184; and of the sales of their effects and lands the petition and their accounts come enclosed.

The evident intention of your General Instructions given me upon the forming of the last year's bundadust, supported by the Orders of the Hon'ble Court of Directors, the moderate and mild plan laid down convinces me that 8,000 or 10,000 rupees will not be a consideration where it must be levied to the utter ruin of three or four creditable families, and I doubt not but your justice will co-operate with the above motives to make the zemindars some allowances upon proper proofs of the truth of their accounts; that they may be enabled not only to extricate themselves from the greatest difficulties, but also to support their credit by paying the shroffs who have lent them money. For, although I could not give up the zemindars' claim for the balance due from the Nacauds of the years 1182 and 1183, I may venture to affirm that they never will be able to collect a cowry of it from the nacauds, whatever may be your orders on the subject. And I even think the demand of 1184 will be totally lost, unless you are pleased to come to some speedy resolutions.

These zemindars have paid the whole balance of their settlement for this year.

I lastly beg leave to submit to you abstract accounts of the Nacauds with the jumma of their lands for the years 1182 and 1184 taken from the Putwarries accounts, by which you will observe the increases in their numbers in the Coondy pergunnah only, and also judge of the daily augmented loss to the zemindar. The zemindars declare that this account specifies some names three or four times over, owing to the same men holding lands in the different divisions; such men are put down in each partner's accounts. But there are not above 100 in that predicament, and the jumma is fairly extracted from the mofussil accounts.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(Petition of the Zemindars of Coondy).

The nacauds who work in the Company's Factory have forcibly kept from us the payment of their abwabs for these last years which we have demanded according to the rate of the pergunnah. We complained of this to you. We have been obliged to sell our lands and things, besides borrowing money

from merchants to pay our Malguzary to Government. The merchants are now demanding this money of us, but we cannot pay them. We have demanded the three years balance due from the nacauds, but the Factory Gentlemen tell us to give up two years and take the last. If we do this, how are we to discharge our debts? We, therefore, request you will use means to make the nacauds pay us the balance of the three last years. If we collect this money, we shall be enabled to pay our debts.

Gopal Nuggee, Naib	...	• ...	7 anna.
Mulee Roy,	„	...	4 „
Nuru Roy,	„	...	3 „ 15 gondas.
Ramcunt,	„	...	1 „ 5 „

Account of loans and losses incurred by the zemindars of the pergunnah Coondy, mostly attributed to the Nacauds withholding their rents in the Bengal year 1182.

			Rs. a. g. k.	Rs. a. g. k.
Money borrowed by zemindar—4 annas	...	2,546	0 0 0	
Ditto ditto 3 annas 15 gandas	...	886	11 0 0	
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...	4,248	3 17 3	
Ditto ditto 1 anna 5 gandas	...	1,250	0 0 0	
				8,931 0 0 0
Effects sold by zemindar—4 annas	...	255	0 0 0	
Ditto ditto 3 annas 15 gandas	...	287	15 0 0	
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...			
Ditto ditto 1 anna 3 gandas	...	75	0 0 0	
				617 0 0 0
Land sold by zemindar—4 annas	...	534	0 0 0	
Ditto ditto 3 annas 15 gandas	...	400	0 0 0	
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...	500	0 0 0	
Ditto ditto 1 anna 5 gandas	...			
				1,434 0 0 0
				10,982 13 1 0

Account of loans and losses incurred by the zemindar of the pergunah Coondn, mostly attributed to the Nacauds withholding their rents for Bengal year 1182.

Money borrowed by zemindar—4 annas	...	3,891	6	12	0
Ditto ditto 3 annas 15 gandas	...	2,773	6	12	0
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...	7,811	10	0	0
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...	1,026	0	0	0
					15,507 7 0 0
Effects sold by zemindar—4 annas	...				
Ditto ditto 3 annas 15 gandas	...				
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...				
Ditto ditto 1 anna 5 gandas	...				
Land sold by zemindar—4 annas	...	400	0	0	0
Ditto ditto 3 annas 15 gandas	...	500	0	0	0
Ditto ditto 7 annas	...	600	0	0	0
Ditto ditto 1 anna 5 gandas	...				
					1,500 0 0 0
					17,007 0 0 0

No. 46.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Superintendent of the Collections at Rung-
pore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
28th April 1778.

SIR,

Observing in your Treasury Account for the month of Cautick, an advance made by you to Mr. Pote on account of Mr. Prinsop, amounting to Rs. 3,724-2-4. We are to inform you that this charge is totally rejected.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 47.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

8th May 1778.

SIR,

We desire you will finally conclude the settlement for the present year with all such zemindars, as on the 30th of Bysaak 1185, shall have paid up their revenue without balance ; causing them to execute new Caboleats, and transmitting to us the Aumilnamas or leases, in the form which was used last year, for signature.

You will also immediately renew the leases of such farmers as shall have paid up their rents for the year 1184, or to whom you shall not have some reasonable objection, and the farms of such farmers as shall be in balance, or to whom you may have reasonable objection, you will offer to the zemindar at the jumma of last year, and in case of the zemindar's refusal, the lands are to be let out to farm, in the same manner, as they were last year.

You will transmit to us a list of such zemindars as shall not, on the 30th Bysaak have completed their payments for the year 1184 with an accurate explanation of the causes assigned by the zemindars for being in balance, with your opinion upon the degree of weight which should be allowed to their representations ; but you will by no means complete the settlement with any zemindar in arrears without our orders.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS. •

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 48.

To MR. PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :

19th May 1778.

SIR,

Your letter respecting the complaints of the nacauds, and a similar one from the Board of Trade on the same subject, are now before the Board for their consideration.

But, as the Board will not assemble for some days, owing to the dispatch of the *Northington* for England, and consequently will not be able to transmit you their Orders immediately ; and as Mr. Aldersey has informed,

me that the nacauds threaten to quit the province if the zemindars continue to press them with the same demands. I desire you will cause those demands to be suspended until you receive the orders of the Board on the subject.

I am, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.

No. 49.

To MR. CHARLES PULLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
22nd May 1778.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the.....ultimo.

We desire you will proclaim an abolition of the exemption hitherto allowed to the nacauds from the beginning of the present year, and authorize the zemindars to levy the same rents from them as they are permitted to receive from the other ryots ; but, as the faith of Government has been either expressly or victually pledged for their former exemption, we direct that no demand be made upon the nacauds for arrears of the exempted taxes.

Upon this occasion we particularly enjoin you to fix the rents of the ryots on one uniform standard, adhering to the former orders of the Board upon this subject, and obliging the zemindars to grant new pottahs accordingly to the ryots ; and will transmit to us a form of such a pottahs for our approbation.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 50.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
2nd June 1778.

SIR,

We desire you will conclude the settlement of your districts for the present year on the principles laid down in our letter of the 8th ultimo, transmitting to us the Aumilnamas as therein directed.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 51.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
26th June 1778.

SIR,

We desire that you will not on any account whatever demand or accept any security from the zemindars with whom the settlement of the current year is made, even though the zemindars themselves should solicit it ; and if in any settlement already made, any security shall have been accepted for the zemindar's engagements, that in such case you release the security from his engagements, and declare in all cases that the zemindars' land shall be security, and the only security for the payment of their stipulated rents.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 52.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
16th July 1778.

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 25th May, 9th and 30th ultimo.

We approve of your having made publication for letting in farm the pergunnahs of Baharbund, Ballehar and Bycuntpore.

Enclosed we return the Aumilnamas for the settlement of your division for the present year, which we desire you will without delay, deliver to the proprietors ; and at the same time we direct you to collect a fee of two rupees per mille on the jumma, the amount of which you will remit to our Secretary in a bill of exchange or with your first remittances.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor-General and Council of Revenue, dated the 3rd March 1778).

Resolved that, at the commencement of the season, the rates of the opium lands shall be fixed unalterably at a medium rate on the payments made for the last three years.

Resolved that a register of them be kept in the Cutcherry of each village, and the Agent of the Contractor be permitted to take copies of each register, on his applying for them, and disbursing the charge of copying.

Resolved that the Contractor's Agent be permitted to pay the rents of such ryots as may choose to enter into engagements with him, either agreeably to the kistbundee of the pottah, or by such mode as may be fixed betwixt his agent and the officers of Government; but the ryot still to be held responsible if the Agent, as security for him, shall fail to discharge his engagements; but the Agent shall take from the ryot no more than the principal sum which he shall pay for the ryot, and shall make no claim on pretence, of interest, commission, or for any other profit whatsoever.

Resolved that the Contractor's agent shall be positively forbid to force any adjustment with the ryots, nor shall he force any advances on the ryots:

Resolved that all and every agreement shall be voluntary and as soon as ratified, lodged in the Cutcherry of the village, that, in case of difference, a reference may easily decide:

Resolved that the officer of Government, upon requisition made to him, shall furnish a Counterpart of such register officially authenticated on the agents paying the charge of copying:

Resolved that the officer of Government, shall register all sums advanced to the ryots by the Contractor's Agent, which sums shall be regularly registered previous to the execution of the bond or agreement entered into between the Contractor's Agent and the ryot.

The Board consent that the Agent to the Contractor do build proper godowns at the different places where the Bengal opium is manufactured, provided they be constructed of pucca, that the floors be raised five feet above the level of the ground, and that the whole expense do not exceed Rs. 4,000.

Agreed that two Inspectors be appointed for the opium produced in Bengal dependant only on this department.

Agreed that Mr. Wombwell, be appointed Inspector at Purnea, and Mr. John Miller at Rungpore.

G. M. HODGSON,
Secretary.

—
No. 53.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM:
4th August 1778.

SIR,

As cases may arise in which the refusal of the zemindars to accept of the charge of the collections of their respective zemindaries on the terms of last

year, shall have compelled you to let the same to farm, or in some instances, to collect the rents by the officers of Government, it is our express command that in every such instance the zemindar shall not be allowed any sum by way of khoroposh or maintenance until the Jumma fixed for the dues of Government shall have been first realised, and if the collections shall exceed that Jumma, the excess, and no more, must be applied to the khoroposh still restricting the khoroposh to the establish amount.

We are, etc.,
 WARREN HASTINGS.
 RICHARD BARWELL.
 P. FRANCIS.
 EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 54.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
 FORT WILLIAM :
7th August 1778.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 13th ultimo.

We approve of your having appointed sezawals for the collection of the revenues of Baharbund and Ballehar.

We are, etc.,
 WARREN HASTINGS.
 RICHARD BARWELL.
 P. FRANCIS.
 EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 55.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :
10th August 1778.

SIR,

Having thought it necessary to assemble all the subjects of France, who have been made prisoners throughout the provinces, at Chandernagore ; we direct that you require such as may be resident within the limits of your authority to repair to Chandernagore within a limited time, which we leave to be fixed at your discretion.

You will deliver up to each individual the private household and necessary effects which may have been taken from him.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 56.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
11th August 1778.

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit to you the copy of a letter which has been presented to us by the Opium Contractor. We desire you will inform us of the grounds of this application, and whether the former Contractor paid the duty upon the opium..

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 57.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :
10th September 1778

SIR,

We think it necessary to enjoin you to the strictest regularity on entering the issues of cash in your running treasury account desiring that you will specify the date of each payment and the specie in which it is advanced, that your accounts may serve to check the receipts of the Agents of the Board of Trade and Pay Masters.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 58.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:

7th November 1778.

SIR,

This serves to advise you that we have this day drawn on you the following bill for sicca rupees 52,137-2-3 at five days' sight in favour of Kirteechund Dur, which you will please to honour your district having been credited for the same.

We are, etc.

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 59.

Exchange for sicca rupees 52,137-2-3.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:

7th November 1778.

SIR,

At five days' sight of this our sole Bill of Exchange please pay to Kirteechund Dur, or order the sum of *sicca* Rs. 52,137-2-8 for value paid by Mr. Joseph Cat or into the Khalsa Treasury which has been carried to the credit of the Rungpore district.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 60.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING,

FORT WILLIAM:

7th November 1778.

SIR,

The enclosed petition contains strong charges against the Jammadar of Bijayday, I beg leave to report it to run to enquire its can you find them well founded him.

I am, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

No. 61.

To MR. PURLING.

FORT WILLIAM :

7th November 1778.

SIR,

I learn from report that Mr. Lear, in order to receive some outstanding balances, has engaged in hostilities with the people of Assam, and actually marched an armed force into their country. I am very desirous of knowing the truth of this report, and therefore request you will inform yourself minutely of every circumstance concerning it and transmit to me the account of it that I may either bring it before the Board or take such other steps as may be proper. In the meantime should Mr. Lear be actually engaged in any measure, the consequences of which may appear to you alarming, I recommend it to you to endeavour to check them immediately. I understand that Goalpara is under Dacca, and it may therefore be necessary that you correspond Mr. Shakespear on this subject.

I am, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

No. 62.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

13th November 1778.

SIR,

We observe from a state of the collections which has been laid before us for the month of Assin, that a balance of Rs. ~~25,441~~ was due from your district on a demand of Rs. 91,179.

We desire to be furnished with an explanation of this balance.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

P. FRANCIS.

No. 63.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,.

FORT WILLIAM :

15th December 1778.

SIR,

On examining your Towjee accounts for the month of Cartick, we observe that you have sent us no explanation of the balances outstanding at the close of that month. We desire to know your reasons for this repeated neglect of our orders, and direct that you send us an explanation of the balances.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 64.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

29th December 1778.

SIR,

Paragraph 1st.—We have received your letters of the 17th and 18th January; 17th February; 8th and 17th March; 12th, 17th and 18th April; 17th, 20th and 25th May; 9th, 16th and 17th June; 17th July; 17th and 21st August; 17th, 21st, 29th and 30th October; 17th and 29th ultimo, with the several papers and accounts mentioned to accompany them.

March 17th, paragraph 2nd.—We authorise you to pay to your assistant and surgeon the same way charges as are allowed to persons of their respective stations travelling to Patna; being to the former Rs. 450, to the latter.....

March 17th, paragraph 3rd.—We consent to the usual monthly salary of Rs. 300 per month being paid to your assistant.

18th April, paragraph 4th.—We approve of the regulations, and of the advertisement which you have published, relative to the zemindars and shroffs.

20th May, paragraph 5th.—We desire you will ascertain the fact, and send us an account of the nett collections and of the payments made to the Raja of Cooch Beyhar.

9th June, paragraph 6th.—You will confirm the parties, in whose favour you have decreed the pergunnahs of Bodah, Pautgong, and Poorabbaug, in possession, and inform the opposite parties that they have right to appeal, if they think they have ground for it.

16th June, paragraph 7th.—We find no reasons alledged, which can induce us to revoke the resolution which expressed in our letter of the 26th May, in reply to yours of the 23th March, and therefore must insist upon payment of the balance due on the last year's settlement from Durrup Deo, zemindar of Byeuntpore.

21st October, paragraph 8th.—We authorise you to allow a remission of Rs. 9,379-2-15-1, being the amount of the losses sustained by the zemindars of Coondy on account of the nacauds in the years 1182, 1183, and 1184.

29th October, paragraph 9th.—We consent to the charges for servants, etc., on account of the opium, as stated in the letter from the Inspector.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 65.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
30th December 1777.

SIR,

We direct you immediately to publish throughout your division, that all the zemindars and farmers who are punctual in the payments of their rents for the current year, shall be allowed to hold the lands on the same terms for the ensuing year.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 66.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :
15th January 1779.

SIR,

On adjusting the revenue accounts for the year 1184 there appeared to be a balance outstanding at the close of the year from your Collectorship of sicca Rs. 27,465-14-4. I request you will be pleased to transmit me the particulars of this amount with your opinion what part of it you deem recoverable, with an explanation of that which is thought irrecoverable, and favour me with an answer as soon as you possibly can.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD JOHNSON, D.A.B.C.

No. 67.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :
4th January 1779.

SIR,

As it will not only be consistent with our general orders for the remittance of the balance of cash in your hands at the end of each month to the Presidency, but convenient for the adjustment of accounts with the Board of Trade that the advances made to the Commercial Department should form a part of those remittance. We direct that hence forward you give a preference to the Bills of Exchange which may be offered you by the chiefs or agents of the Board of Trade on that Board and advance them money only upon such bills which you will transmit to us monthly in our General Department with your Running Treasury Accounts and include them as remittances made to the Presidency by drafts on the Board of Trade.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 68.

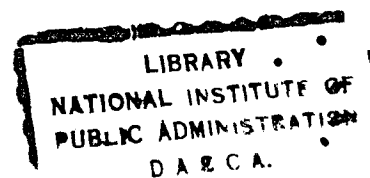
To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
8th January 1779.

SIR,

Having thought proper to establish a Printing Office under the direction of Mr. Charles Wilkins, we now enclose a copy of the rates of printing, and direct that you prepare and transmit to Mr. Wilkins copies of all such papers as will admit of being printed, whether in the Persian, Bengali or Roman character, leaving blanks for names, dates and other occurrence as are liable to alter, and specifying the number of each form usually issued in the course of a year.

We are, etc.,
WARRAN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.



Memorandum of the following accounts to be transmitted to the Presidency :—

Charges Collections, Charges General and Treasury Account.	To be transmitted to the Committee of Revenue on the 2nd of next month.
Towjee Account ...	Ditto, ditto on the 10th of Bengali month.
Estimated receipts and disbursements ...	Ditto, ditto on the 6th of English month.
Running Treasury Account ...	To Mr Larkins on the 7th of next month.
Faujdary Cash Account ...	To the Governor-General on the 10th of next month.
Faujdary Proceedings ...	To the Governor-General on the 10th of next Bengali month.
Reports to the Grain Commissioner.	

Copy.

RATES OF PRINTING.

(For English impressions).

For every quire of folio post, paper included :—

	Sicca Rs.
If printed on one side ...	3
If printed on both sides ...	5
For Persian and Bengali :—	
For every quire of folio post printed on one side ...	5
Ditto ditto on both sides ...	7

W. WEBBES,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 69.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
15th January 1779.

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 17th and 19th ultimo, with the accounts and remittance mentioned to accompany them.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 70.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
2nd February 1779.

SIR,

Our Secretary having laid before us your letter to him of the 21st ultimo, we direct that the opium contractor be exempted from the demand of the opium duties, and that you strike off the article from the Jumma of your districts.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 71.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
9th February 1779.

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit you a copy of our Auditor's remarks on examining your accounts from the month of Faulgun to Assar inclusive, with our orders annexed, to which we desire your attention. Those for Faulgun and Chaite are returned for correction.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 72.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
26th February 1779.

SIR,

Mr. George Bogle having resigned the Office of Commissioner of Law Suits we have appointed Mr. North Naylor, the Company's Attorney, to execute the duties of that employment, and therefore direct that you correspond with him in the same manner as with the late Commissioner agreeably to our orders of the 30th December 1777.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 73.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :.
9th March 1779.

Sir,

The Provincial Council of Dacca have submitted to us a case in which an attempt was made to serve an execution of the Supreme Court upon a zemindar of that province the Sheriff's Officer alledged the arrest to have been duly made by his peons, that the party was rescued from their hands, in consequence of which he went to seize his prisoner, and not meeting with him he actually confined two of his principal relations with an intention, as we understand, of bringing them to Calcutta. On the complaint of a rescue the Sheriff's Officer publicly called upon the chief in the name of the Supreme Court for his assistance to restore his prisoner, but it appearing that the party was not at Dacca at the time and consequently that the execution could not have been duly served; the chief declined to give the Sheriff's Officer the assistance required. It is also stated in evidence the Sergeant with his peons forced the doors of the party, penetrated into the zenana appartments, and wounded some of the people.

Having referred the proceeding of the Provincial Council of Dacca to the Advocate General for his opinion and advice upon the subject of them, we now enclose a copy of the opinion which he has delivered to us on this occasion, and direct that you conform to it as a general rule of conduct in all cases to which it will apply.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 74.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:
18th March 1779.

Sir,

In comparing your estimates of resources and disbursements with you actual receipts and issues, we find them to differ so much that we must conclude these accounts cannot have been formed with that accuracy and circumspection, which it is necessary they should be for our information and to enable us to place any dependance upon them. We therefore direct that you take particular care to avoid the like inaccuracies in future.

We desire that in future you will transmit your monthly Running Treasury 'accounts and estimates immediately to our Accountant-General Mr. Larkins, that you conform to such regulations as he may find necessary to adopt for them and furnish him with any information that he may have occasion to require from you regarding these accounts.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 75.

To MR. C. H. PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:
22nd March 1779.

SIR,

As we do not approve of the present form of the Bills of Exchange drawn in our favour on the Board of Trade by their agents, we direct that you do not on any account receive from the Commercial Chiefs and residents any bills but such as are conformable to the enclosed, and that in all transactions of this kind you treat with them as private individuals.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.
EYRE COOTE.

No. 76.

To MR. C. H. PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:
24th March 1779.

SIR,

The Hon'ble the Court of Directors having thought fit to nominate and appoint Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote, Kt. B., to the vacancy in this Council and Commander-in-Chief of the forces in India, created by the death of the Lieutenant-General Sir John Clavering, and His Majesty having been pleased to approve of the said nomination, conformably to the provision made by Act of Parliament in that behalf, we are to inform you that Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote is arrived in Calcutta, and has taken his seat at our Board.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.
EYRE COOTE.

No. 77.

TO CHARLES HUTCHINSON PURLING, Esq., Collector of Rungpore.

ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, FORT WILLIAM :

27th March 1779.

SIR,

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council having thought proper to order your monthly Running Treasury Accounts and estimates of the probable revenues and disbursements of the current month to be transmitted immediately to this office, which they now hold responsible for the information they may require occasionally of the state of your treasury, I am to request that the utmost attention may be paid to the forming of these accounts, copies of which being transmitted to the Hon'ble Court of Directors, and extracts made from them for the formation of all statements, in which they place the utmost dependence, it is requisite that they should be formed with all possible accuracy, that they do invariably correspond with your treasury accounts for the Bengal months, formed for the purpose of entering them in the general books, as any difference in the same facts stated in both, will perplex the officers of the Hon'ble Company in Europe in drawing out the abstracts which they may have occasion to extract from the statements transmitted to Europe, and the general books of this Presidency.

2. I am likewise to request that in your estimate of the probable resources and disbursements of the current month, you will not state the amount of your disbursements in a gross sum, but particularize the remittances you propose making to the Presidency or to any other Provincial Council you may be directed by the Hon'ble Board to remit a part of the cash in your treasury as the distinction is requisite to enable them to judge of the remittances they may expect from the subordinates.

3. The Hon'ble Court of Directors having limited the disbursements of this Presidency on account of public buildings and repairs, and the Board requiring a monthly statement of these disbursements, I must request that, whensoever these charges occur, they may be entered distinct in your monthly running treasury accounts, and should you have already made any disbursements in this service since your Collectorship became detached from Dinagepore, I beg to be favoured with a monthly account of their amount to the latest period possible, as soon as you conveniently can, being in want of these accounts for the general abstract.

I have, etc.,

WM. LARKINS,
Accountant-General.

No. 78.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :

2nd April 1779.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 6th January with the account mentioned to accompany it.

We authorise you to give credit to the Raja of Cooch Behar for the sum of new Narainy Rs. 50,000 or *Sicca* Rs. 36,697, being the balance established to be due to the Raja agreeably to the treaty which he entered into with the Company in the year 1773.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.
EYRE COOTE.

No. 79.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

2nd April 1779.

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 25th and 27th ultimo.

We have given orders to the Roy Royan immediately to seize Manickchund and the other shroffs, receiving directions from you both respecting their names, and where they are to be found. We therefore desire you will assist the Roy Royan in this discovery. On apprehension he is directed to send them instantly to Rungpore, and we direct that on their arrival there, you cause them to be imprisoned, unless they shall immediately pay the arrears which may be due from them to the Company.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EDWARD WHEELER.
EYRE COOTE.

No. 80.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

6th April 1779.

SIR,

We have this day thought proper to appoint Mr. Richard Goodlad, your assistant, in the room of the late Mr. Wildman, and authorise your pay to him a salary equal to that drawn by the Head Assistant at Chittagong, being Rs. 600 per month.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EYRE COOTE.

No. 81.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM:
6th April 1779.

SIR,

No. 1.—

1. Enclose we transmit you the copy of a petition which we have received from the vakeel of the Raja of Bootan. We direct that you put the officers of the Bootan Government in immediate possession of the lands mentioned therein and call upon Durrup Deo for an account of the revenue which has been collected from them since the commencement of the Bengal year 1182, the first year after the Treaty of Peace. When these accounts are received, the points as to the restitution of the sums claimed by the Booteas will then properly come into consideration.

No. 2.—

2. The Booteas having in another petition, copy of which we enclose complained that orders and perwannahs are issued into their country by the petty Rajas at the foot of the hills and that persons living under their government are thus frequently seized, at the same time, that the claims of the subjects of Bootan upon those of Bengal are not attended to, we direct that you issue positive orders to the zemindars of Cooch Behar, Rangamatty and Bycuntpore, and to the other chiefs bordering on Bootan upon no pretence whatever to send people or perwannah within the frontier of that kingdom, without the permission of the Bootea officers, but in any claim or complaints which they may have against persons residing under the Bootan Government to apply for redress either immediately to the Booteas or through you, and we further direct you to attend to such claims as the Booteas may have against any of the subject of Bengal, and particularly the Raja of Rangamatty and take the most effectual means to give them satisfaction.

3. In consequence of the inconvenience which the Booteas suffer from the mint of Cooch Behar being stopped, the Narianny ruppees being the only coin current in Bootan, and while so much of this specie remains in the Rangpur Treasury, we desire you will supply them with so much of this currency as they may want, and settle the exchange at a rate satisfactory to them, until the quantity of Narianny ruppees in the treasury be reduced.

4. Having determined to abolish all duties on the Bootea trade to Rungpore either on the sales or purchases of their horses or other merchandise, we desire that you will carry this resolution into execution and issue such orders to the zemindars and officers of Rungpore that the sale of the Bootan horses may not be delayed under pretence of purchases for the Sircar; and direct that you give every aid and encouragement to the trade of the Bootea merchants.

No. 3.—

5. The Booteas in a further petition which we enclose, represent the obstacles in purchasing oil and dried fish in Bengal, we direct that you issue perwannahs to the zemindars and officers of the districts in which the

Booteas have been accustomed to buy these articles to protect and assist them in carrying on their trade and to allow their oil and dried fish freely to pass the different Chokeys and Gauts.

We are, etc.,
 .WARREN HASTINGS.
 RICHARD BARWELL.
 P. FRANCIS.
 EDWARD WHEELER.
 EYRE COOTE.

No. 82.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General and the
 Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

CALCUTTA :

13th April 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

By letter from Rungpore I am informed that the Dewan, under pretence of warrants and summons from the Court of Judicature has not for some time past stirred out of his house. I have written him so long ago as the 10th March to examine the shroffs' bags, and to pay particular attention to the collections, which are, by his absenting himself, much fallen in arrear, and I imagine will be most so at this period being the latter end of the year. But I am obliged to observe that, by mismanagement or design, I find my orders in most instances delayed, and thereby rendered of little effect, or entirely disobeyed. I need scarce mention the necessity of punctuality in exacting the rents to be able to collect anything at all. I therefore submit to your consideration, the measures to be taken hereon, which will not admit of any delay.

I am, etc.,
 RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 83.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
 FORT WILLIAM :

13th April 1779.

SIR,

We have received your letter of this date.

We direct that the Dewan of Rungpore be suspended from his office ; and authorise you to appoint a proper person to the immediate and temporary charge of the collections in his room.

In the mean time we desire you will state to us the particular facts on which you ground the general charges against the Dewan.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.
EYRE COOTE.

• No. 84.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
17th April 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I am honoured with your letter of the 13th instant, and enclosed transmit you three charges against the Dewan of Rungpore.

It appears from the whole circumstances of the fictitious claim sworn to in order to take up the shroffs, from the Dewan's remissness in not inspecting the warrant, giving me a regular information of their apprehension, nor opposing the enlargement of persons so greatly indebted to Government, and from his dilatoriness in examining the shroffs' bags, that all the collusion in this business extends to the Dewan, though it cannot be made a charge against him as the facts might happen without such collusion.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD,
Acting Collector.

(Charges against Gunga Persaud.)

First.—On the 25th February I wrote him to issue a publication that the several zemindars who were in balance should have their lands sold. This he has not done to this day, though they are still in arrears. Copies of my letter and his answer are annexed.

Extract of my letter to Gunga Persad, Dewan, dated the 16th Faulgun or 25th February, 1779.

“The towjee of the Maug kist which you have sent, I comprehend besides the balance of Rangamatty and Baharbund, the zemindars of the three following pergunnahs, Bycuntpore, Futtypore, and Coondy, withholding their kists of Maug. On this account I wrote you that if upon receipt of this they do not pay their balance you will issue a publication that their lands shall be sold. The small pergunnahs are desirous of a short credit; I allow this, but if they fail you will inform me.

Extract from a letter from Gunga Persaud, Dewan, dated the 6th Chyte, or 17th March, 1779.

“I have received your letter of the 7th Faulgun (it ought to be the 16th). You have ordered me to issue a publication concerning the pergunnahs

Bycuntpore, Futtypore, and Coondy. The Futtypore zemindars say, that if they can not pay the revenue of the present year they will sell such a quantity of land as will make it up. They have paid but a small part of their Maug kist. The zemindars of Coondy also say this, but it appears that they have no intention of performing what they say. Besides the balance of the Maug kist, there is much due on account of the kist of Faulgun. I have written a letter to the Zemindar of Bycuntpore, reprehending him for his misconduct. He answers that he will, by being allowed a little, pay the whole, but I am not satisfied that he will pay it. There are no responsible amlahs of the Zemindar in the country."

Second.—On the 10th March I sent an order to my Sircar to be communicated to him to examine all the shroffs' bags. This he has not done, but it is possible he may be about it, as I wrote him again on the 3rd of this month that I would lay a complaint against him to the Board, if he did not immediately comply with my order. It appears as if he was desirous of preventing a fixed claim being made upon the shroffs.

Third.—The third must be a general charge because he has been very negligent of his business ever since my appointment, very seldom coming to the Cutcherry, owing, I believe, to his being superseded by me in office. This I should not notice, because the Naib Dewan attended in his room, and papers were carried to his house to be signed in order to be of force in the country. But since the late warrants have been granted against the Rungpore people, he has made them a pretence to keep himself in his house, and the zemindars will keep back their rents, as they are not pressed by the proper authority, and suppose (or perhaps know) that Gunga Persaud's absence is designed to increase the disturbance occasioned by warrants issuing from the Supreme Court. When the warrant arrived at Rungpore for the shroffs, he was sent to by my servant and told that it was his duty to demand a sight of it, take a copy, and transmit it to me, but this he neglected, and gave for answer that he could not presume to resist the orders of the Court of Judicature. Had he demanded a copy of the warrant and opposed the enlargement of the shroffs, till he could have received orders from Calcutta, he would have prevented their being brought down at all.

No. 85.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:

4th May 1779.

SIR,

The Board of Trade having agreed to receive their advances on account of the investment for the present year, by monthly payments, in ready money, at our treasury in Calcutta; we think it proper to ~~revoke~~ our orders of the 4th January, directing you to give a preference to the Bills of Exchange which might be offered you, by the Chiefs or Agents of the Board of Trade on that Board.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

No. 86.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM:

7th May 1779.

SIR,

We desire you will conclude the settlement of your districts for the present year upon the terms prescribed in our orders of the 7th April and 8th May 1778, transmitting to us the Aumilnamas, as usual.

You will also conform to our above-mentioned orders, with respect to the close of your annual accounts.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EYRE COOTE.

No. 87.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the other
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

12th May 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

On my arrival here, on inspecting the towjee account for the month of Chyte, I found the balance due from the different zemindars to be very considerable. I accordingly called on them for the amount, and took every means in my power (excepting corporal punishment) for its recovery. I was in hopes that the publication I had made for the sale of their lands conformable to the orders of the Hon'ble Board would have had the desired effect, and though it has not altogether failed, as you will perceive when, I have the honor to transmit you the accounts for Bysack yet, the balance being still considerable I am obliged to apply to you for leave to carry my threats into execution, as the only resource left to recover the just dues to Government. And I have not the least doubt when they find I have authority to proceed to extremity, that the amount will be forthcoming. I take the liberty to request your reply to this letter as soon as possible.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD,

Acting Collector.

No. 88.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

CALCUTTA.

[Not dated.]

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to send you a state of the claim of Government upon the shroffs of Rungpore.

It is necessary to observe that Manick Chund's deposit bags were delivered under the sanction of the head shroffs, and are therefore included in this account is the balance of the amount of Rs. 61,234-15, a sum supposed to have been in the deposit bags, which (according to custom) were taken from the treasury by the four head shroffs, named Ramcunt Shaw, Bungbeharry Shaw, Radachurn Shaw, and Peratram Chowdhury. Part of it has been repaid in French Arcot rupees, and even a small sum after their departure from Rungpore, as you will observe by the account, viz., Rs. 644-5. The deposit bags were said, according to the labels tied to them, to contain Kazanna Shi rupees (a specie equal in value to French Arcot rupees only current in Rungpore, but the coin which was paid on account of the revenue). The business of the head shroffs was to receive the Kazanna Shi rupees, part of which they delivered out as they thought proper to the petty shroffs to be exchanged into French Arcot rupees and part they exchanged themselves. For this sum it was (called *tubdulca baukee*) the shroffs had peons put mohsul over them by the Treasurer and the Dewan. For when the deposit bags were once in the treasury as they were supposed to contain the real specie of their collections and their full amount and were only deposited till the shroffs themselves should exchange it, no restraint could be put on them on that account.

The different species of rupees mentioned in the account are valued in the presence of other shroffs by the Treasurer, according to their estimation in those parts.

The New Narianny rupees have a very large exchange deducted from them, because that is the actual valuation of them at Rungpore at this time, and the shroffs must become liable to this loss, as it may be proved from the account of the zemindars of the Coachwarra districts that no such specie was ever paid to the shroffs by them, nor indeed would they have received it. The nature of the shroffs' situation gave them power, influence, and advantage, and though they complain of the very little restraint they suffered (being under the charge of two or three peons and allowed daily to go to their houses to eat and sleep there, and only brought to the Cutcherry at the hours of business) as a destruction of their credit and character, they constantly exercised the same authority over the zemindars and their naibs.

The claims against the shroffs stand thus :—

	Rs. a. g.
Amount deficiency in the bags they deposited in the treasury as revenue.	15,555-9-0
Amount (<i>tubdulca baukee</i>) balance in their hands of a sum delivered to them to be exchanged.	61,23-0-15

F. A. Rs. 1,76,789-9-15

Among the shroffs named at the head of the account there is one who was not included in the warrant named Radaeunt Shaw. It may be necessary to require his attendance in Calcutta. Another man named Mattaub Roy, being threatened by the shroffs for not coming away with them, sent his nephew and partner Bussunt Roy to Calcutta, who will at any time attend your Board. The examination of these men as to the nature of their connection with the other shroffs may elucidate the whole of this business.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD,
Acting Collector

No. 89.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
20th May 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have now the honor to forward you the general accounts of this province for the Bengali year 1185, consisting of General Treasury Account, Jumma, , Wassil Baukee, and General Account Sebundy, together with the report of the Aumeen deputed to examine into the loss sustained by the river Attrie, having overflowed its banks and thrown a quantity of sand on some of the cultivated lands of the pergunnah of Bullechar.

I remain, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 90.

TO MR. E. E. POTE, Assistant, Commercial Department, Rungpore.

RUNGPORE :
24th May 1779.

SIR,

I am favoured with your letter of the 23rd instant. It is not in my power to advance you the money you require. The orders I have received from the Hon ble Governor-General and Council forbid me in a manner to receive any more bills on the Board of Trade. The Gentlemen of that Board had agreed to receive the amount of their investment from the Treasury in Calcutta, from whence I imagine you are in future to be supplied with money for your investment. I therefore return you your bill, and have the pleasure to enclose you copy of my instructions.

I remain, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 91.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

24th May 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

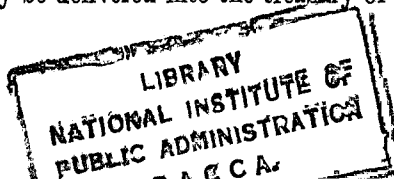
Having observed by a late letter of Mr. Purling that he has informed you that seven shroffs had engaged themselves to make good the deficiencies that might arise from the mode of receiving the revenue by pants and deposit bags, and that they would take upon them to answer for the failures of the body at large, and that he has sent you a state of the claim upon the seven shroffs, I called upon the people, whom Mr. Purling has named as the evidence to his transaction, and received from them the enclosed written declaration; a translation of which I beg leave to forward with it. I thought it necessary to furnish you with this information, as it appears that the claim is hereby fixed for all failures whatever (which shall arise in the transactions of the shroffs with Government in the time of Mr. Harwood and the year 1184) upon the three most responsible people, Ramcaunt Shaw, Radachurn Shaw, and Peritram Chowdry, who have always benefited most by this business. By enquiry I learn that Mr. Purling has been led into this mistake by seven people being brought to him, though only the abovenamed three took upon them the responsibility. There seems to have been some neglect in this business, for I find Mr. Purling ordered, at the time the declaration was made, that a writing should be executed by the persons in whose presence it was done, and that it should be kept as a record in the Dewany Sherista, but no such paper was executed, and I have had since my coming here to call on those who heard it to give the writing now. I beg leave to also send another account, stating the claim of the Company against the three people who became answerable.

I am, etc.

RICHARD GOODLAD.

(Translation of a Gawiebundy attested by some of the principal inhabitants of Rungpore relating to the nature of the Hon'ble Company's transactions with the three capital shroffs, Ramcaunt Shaw, Radachurn Shaw and Peritram Chowdry.)

On the 4th of Caurtick 1184, Bengal style at about 9 o'clock in the morning, we were sitting with Gunga Persaud, Dewan, and Bridgoo Roy, when the following shroffs by name, Nundo Duland Shaw, Tarif Shaw, Rogunaut Dutt, Mahataub Roy, and Radacant Shaw came to us in a body. Gunga Persaud Dewan addressing himself to Ramcaunt Shaw, Radachurn Shaw and Peritram Chowdry said to them, the bags which are on account of the taveel-bukey in the time of Mr. Harwood and which have received from Choyton the cazanghy, do you open and give an account of. Ramcaunt Shaw, Radachurn Shaw, and Peritram Chowdry replied, we will be accountable for all the bags that were received to the end of Mr. Harwood's time and we will make good the deficiencies occasioned by the death, desertion or inability, and hereafter whatever pants may be delivered into the treasury or bags that may



be given in lieu of them, any loss that may arise from death, desertion, or inability, we will also be accountable for. Gunga Persaud then said to them, you have now taken upon you to be answerable for any loss that may arise from death, desertion or inability: give us this in writing. They replied we are mahajins and never gave anything of the kind. Our words are sufficient, which we now utter in the presence of ten people. ••

The above we are witness to, which we most religiously assert is a matter of fact, and, should it hereafter be found necessary to swear to the truth of it, we are all ready to take out oaths.

KISHEN CANT GHOSE.

SURAJI NARAIN.

HURRY CHUND GHOSE.

DHUNNY RAM.

GOPAL CHUND DUTT.

NUR NARAIN SURMA.

No. 92.

TO RICHARD GOODLAD, Esq., Assistant, Revenue Department.

RUNGPORE FACTORY:

23rd May 1779.

SIR,

I do myself the pleasure to enclose you a bill drawn by the Chief of Cossimbazar as the President and members of the Board of Trade in favour of the Hon'ble Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor-General, etc., and Council for sicca Rs. 40,000, to be advanced to me for the purpose of Hon'ble Company's investments at this factory for the year 1779-80; and request the favour of you to furnish me with cash for the amount.

I am, etc.,

E. E. POTE,

Assistant, Commercial Department.

No. 93.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

24th May 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

These districts are infested with dacoits to such a degree that the inhabitants are under continual alarm. No longer ago than the 19th instant, a large body of them entered Bowanygunge and robbed the houses of two merchants of Rs. 4,000 in money and as much in goods. The remainder of the merchants being apprehensive their property might also suffer were preparing to quit the gunge altogether and retire to Dinagore as a place of greater security.

I wrote them perwannahs, and sent them a guard of burcundosses, which have for the present quieted their fears. The dacoits keep in such large bodies that no force I have here could effect anything against them. I am, therefore, under the necessity of requesting that you will be pleased to order some seapoys to be stationed here, that by their assistance the inhabitants may be relieved from so great a calamity.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 94.

To MR. E. E. POTE, Acting Resident, Commercial Department, Rungpore.

RUNGPORE :
24th May 1779.

SIR, —

I am favoured with your letter of this date. I am surprised you have received no orders from the Chief of Cossimbazar. It is not in my power to honor his bills, as it may create a confusion in the accounts in Calcutta for which I may be severely reprimanded. To prevent the Company's Investment from suffering by the delay in transmitting you your instructions, I will advance you from the treasury on your receipt any sum you may require, to be replaced from such sources as the Chief of Cossimbazar shall point out for supplying you with money for your investment. I have ordered twenty thousand sicca rupees to be paid immediately, which is the sum you require in your letter.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD,

No. 95.

To MR. RICHARD GOODLAD, Acting Collector, Rungpore.

RUNGPORE FACTORY :
24th May 1779.

SIR,

I am favoured with yours of this date, enclosing a copy of instructions to you from the Supreme Company, dated the 5th instant, and returning the bill on the Board of Trade for sicca Rs. 40,000.

As yet I have received no orders from the Chief of Cossimbazar, directing a new mode of procuring cash for the provision of this investment. Your refusal to honor his bill on the Board of Trade is peculiarly distressing to me in my present situation. As it will be some time before I can be favoured with his instructions in answer to your letter, and its enclosure, which I shall despatch by this night's dawke, and that, must unavoidably occasion a delay

in my advances greatly detrimental to the provision of this investment, I must particularly request the favour of you to supply me with 20,000 sicca rupees upon my note payable on the first receipt of money on account of the Hon'ble Company's investment, either for Cossimbazar, or any other method which the Chief of Cossimbazar may please to instruct (me) to draw for my future supplies.

I am, etc.,
E. E. POTE.

No. 96.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
25th May 1779.

SIR,

1. We have received your letters of the 17th January, 17th February, 17th March, 17th, 24th and 28th April, and 4th instant with those of your assistant under date the 6th, 7th and 12th instant.

2.—24th April. We must refer you to the Dinagepore Council for the adjustment of the demand of Government upon Mirza Mahomed Tuckee.

3.—6th May. We have referred the subject of the demand of Government upon the shroffs to the Advocate-General for his opinion and advice upon the means to be taken for the recovery of the sums due from those people. In the meantime you will direct your assistant to seize their effects.

4.—7th May. We direct that the elephants be sold, and that publication for the sale be made both at Moorshedabad and Calcutta.

5.—7th May. You will strike off such articles of the charges of the Booteah Mahal as relate to the collection of the duties, and the rest you will write off to profit and loss.

6.—12th May. We authorize the sale of the lands of the zemindars in balance.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
P. FRANCIS.

No. 97.

To MR. RICHARD GOODLAP, Acting Collector, Rungpore.

RUNGPORE FACTORY :
26th May 1779.

SIR,

I am favoured with your's of this date enclosing a copy of instructions to you from the Supreme Co., dated the 4th instant, returning the Bill on the Board of Trade for 40,000 sicca rupees.

As yet I have received no orders from the Chief of Cossimbazar directing a new mode of procuring cash for the provisions of the Investment. Your refusal to honour his bill on the Board of Trade is peculiarly distressing to me in my present situation. As it will be some time before I can be favoured with his instructions in answer to your letter and its enclosure which I shall despatch by this night's dawke, and that must unavoidably occasion a delay in my advances greatly detrimental to this Investment, I must particularly request the favour of you to supply me with 20,000 sicca rupees upon my note, payable on the first receipt of money on account of the Hon'ble Company's Investment, either from Cossimbazar, or any other method which the Chief of Cossimbazar may please to instruct me to draw for my future support.

I am, etc.,
E. E. POTE.

No. 98.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

31st May 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Gunga Persaud, Dewan of this province, who was suspended from his office, conformable to your orders of the 13th ultimo, has, without asking permission or giving me the least warning, privately eloped for Calcutta. Indeed so very secret was his departure that it was not till the third day I had the least intelligence of it, his palankeen and everything being in his house the same as if he had been there and his servants reporting him sick. The conduct of Gunga Persaud and since Mr. Purling's absence has been highly reprehensible. Had he paid the least attention to that Gentleman's orders, the collections would have never fallen so backward. He has plainly shewed that he is not to be trusted singly, and I doubt not that his presuming to quit the place while he lay under your displeasure, without your permission or waiting for an enquiry to be made into his conduct, will not escape your censure.

I have, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 99.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM:

1st June 1779.

SIR,

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council have directed me to transmit you the accompanying copy of a letter which they have received from

your Assistant Mr. Goodlad, and to require your sentiments upon the measures necessary to be pursued for apprehending and bringing the dacoits to justice.

I am, etc.,
 GEORGE HODGSON,
Secretary.

No. 100.

To Mr. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rangpur.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
 FORT WILLIAM :
 1st June 1779.

SIR,

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council directed me to transmit to you the accompanying copy of letter which they have received from your Assistant Mr. Goodlad, and to require your sentiments upon the measures necessary to be pursued for apprehending and bringing the dacoits to justice.

I am, etc.,
 GEO. HODGSON,
Secretary.

No. 101.

To Mr. WILLIAM HARWOOD, Chief, etc., Provincial Council of Revenue at Purnea.

PURNEA :
 3rd June 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

When you settled your accounts of this district with Mr. Purling on the 2nd September 1778, there appeared in the Hawaulut to be a balance of Narianny Rs. 21,002-6-0 due from Mahmud Tuckee to Government. The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council have, by a letter under date the 25th ultimo, directed me to apply to you for information concerning this balance. I am to request therefore you will acquaint me how it arose, with the reasons alleged by Mahmud Tuckee for withholding payment ; at the same time you will favor me with all the proofs and vouchers you possibly can, so as to enable me to establish a legal claim against him.

I am, etc.,
 RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 102.*

To EDWARD BABER, Esq., Chief, etc., Council of Revenue at Moorshidabaa.

RUNGPORE :

3rd June 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council have in a letter under date the 25th ultimo, directed me to seize the effects of sundry shroffs of Rungpore, who are considerably indebted to Government, Ramcaunt and Bungbehary, two of the principal shroffs who are partners and the greatest debtors reside in the village of Sherepore, in pergunnah Mamanshy in Raey Bhowanny's zemindary. I could have wished to have applied to you for assistance but as a step of this nature is never efficacious unless executed with the utmost secrecy and dispatch, I have taken upon me to send people to seize their effects, and have to request you will as soon as possible send a perwannah and a harcarrah to Sherepore, giving sanction to what I have done. Should the perwannah not be sent instantaneously I am apprehensive the zemindar will interfere.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 103.

To THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

5th June 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I am honoured by the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, and have conformable to your orders contained in the 2nd paragraph, applied to the Council of Dinagepore for the particulars of the demand on Mirza Mahmud Tuckey. The 3rd paragraph directing me to seize the effects of the shroffs, I would have carried into immediate execution, but being uncertain as to the extent of your orders, I have postponed them till I am honoured with your further instructions, not knowing whether it is your intention I should seize the effects of all the shroffs who have had any concern in the Rungpore Treasury or only the three principal shroffs, who were responsible to Government for the whole body, as particularised in my letter of the 24th ultimo. I take the liberty to observe the effects the shroffs have here are very inconsiderable, and I am given to understand that they have removed whatever was valuable to Chinsura. †

I have fixed on the 6th July for the sale of the Hon'ble Company's elephants, and have written to the Council of Moorshidabad to make it public.

I shall according to your orders proceed in the sale of the lands of the zemindars in balance.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

* This letter is scored out in the letter copy book.

† That is to a Dutch possession.

No. 104.

To GEORGE HODGSON, Esq., Secretary to the Revenue Department at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

7th June 1779. ••

SIR,

Mr. Purling having directed me to invest Hurry Ram with the office of Dewan of these districts, and inform you of the same, I beg leave to acquaint you I have caused him to take charge of that station conformable to that Gentleman's orders.

Enclosed I do myself the pleasure to return you your public letter to the late Dewan, it being near ten days since he absconded from home. As the letter was directed on the service, I took the liberty of opening it, not knowing but the orders it contained might require immediate attention.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 105.

To THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

CALCUTTA :

7th June 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I am honoured with your commands of the 1st instant, through your Secretary, requiring me to give you my sentiments upon the measures to be pursued for apprehending and bringing the dacoits to justice.

I beg leave to observe that very few complaints were made by the royts concerning dacoits, while a force was stationed at Rungpore, and as I believe the dacoits to be people who live as ryots in different parts of the country, I am of opinion that they will be quieted by some sepoys residing at Rungpore, and perwannahs given to the zemindars with sepoys to apprehend them upon the zemindars' complaining. The common practice, however, of the dacoits is to commit the robbery in the jurisdiction of one phouzdar, and to take shelter in that of another, unless therefore there is a very quick communication or their habitations ascertained, it will be no easy matter to apprehend them.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 106.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

15th June 1779.

SIR,

We have received your assistant's letter of the 5th instant.

If the balances are due from all the shroffs, respectively, and engagements executed by them, our order of the 25th ultimo extends to them

all; but if they are due only from three principal shroffs who have made themselves wholly and absolutely responsible for the rest, in that case it is on them only that we make our demand, and authorise you to enforce it.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 107..

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the other Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

17th June 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have now the honour to transmit you the monthly accounts of these districts for the month of Jail, and at the same time beg leave to lay before such particulars as I have been able to obtain and, as I imagine, will tend most to give you an exact insight into the state of the balances. I have only to request you will honour me with your determination regarding the zemindars in balance as soon as possible, as the success of any plan you may adopt depends on its being speedily carried into execution.

Puttypore—9½ annas.—This pergunnah is indebted the sum of Rs. 4,051. The Zemindars by name Seebehund and Sirrydur represent their pergunnah has not yielded the amount of its jumma, and beg an aumeen may be sent to form the hustabood, according to which their zemindary may be rated. From every information I can obtain of the state of this pergunnah, I find it will hardly yield the amount of its jumma, so that there is no provision either for the mofussil charges or the zemindar's expenses. The zemindars last year borrowed money to complete their engagements in hopes the pergunnah would have reimbursed them, but though their zemindary has, I understand, yielded them something more than last year, it is yet inadequate to the amount it is rated at. I have the honour to enclose you translate of the zemindars' petition No. 1.

Battishazarry.—This pergunnah is indebted the sum of Rs. 2,311-15-10. The zemindar Durrup Deo represents he is unable to pay this amount, and begs it may be deducted from his jumma. He has paid as much as he did the last year. This balance I do not esteem irrecoverable.

Cooch Beyhar.—The balance of Rs. 86,847-14-9 that appears against this pergunnah has, in a manner, been paid, and wants only your approbation to be carried to account. The case is the Zemindar, Raja Durdjinder Narain, in 1184 petitioned to pay his revenue in Kazannah Shi rupees, which you have honored by your approval in your letter of the 7th October 1777.

But this year, being unable to accumulate more than half of his revenue in that specie, he deposited the remainder in New Narianny rupees, which are now in the treasury, and for this I want your commands. I take the liberty to observe, I do not think it will be in his power to perform his engagement. You may probably require to know the reason of his being able to comply with it for the Bengal year 1184 and not for 1185. The case was in 1184 he had recourse to the shroffs, to whom he paid his revenues in New Narianny rupees, and they deposited their sealed bags in the treasury for the amount, but this traffic with the shroffs being abolished as highly detrimental to the Hon'ble Company, the Zemindar has no other resource than to throw himself on your indulgence to release him from his engagement, and to admit the New Narianny rupees now in deposit in the treasury to be carried to his credit. I have the honor to enclose you translate of his petition to this purpose No. 2.

Baharbund.—Zemindar Loke Naut Nundee.* The revenues of this pergunnah has been collected for these two years past by a sezawal on the part of Government who has remitted to Rungpore, whatever he has been able to collect. From every information I can obtain the amount that has been carried to the credit of Government this last year is the full produce of the pergunnah. The zemindar has presented a petition that he may put in possession of his zemindary, rating his jumma at the amount paid by the pergunnah this last year. Enclosed I have the honor to transmit translate of it (No. 3) and an account hustabood of the pergunnah formed by the sezawal (No. 4), and beg to be honored with your commands whether the balance that now appears against the pergunnah is to remain in the account as such or to be wrote off. I beg leave to observe I have every reason to think it is totally irrecoverable, and that the pergunnah will not yield more than was brought to account last year, which amount exceeded the preceding one and at which rate the Zemindar petitions to take it in future.

Rangamatty.—Cossinaut Ghose, farmer. This balance of Rs. 655-4-3 is disavowed by the Farmer as he declares the amount has been expended on the Hon'ble Comapny's elephants. This plea I have looked on as inadmissible, since no plausible reason can be alledged for the expenses being greater than the foregoing year. I have hitherto endeavoured to collect this amount and hope to be able shortly to effect it.

Bullechar.—Zemindars Hurry Deb, etc. This balance of Rs. 390 is occasioned by the river Attrie having overflowed its banks and thrown a quantity of sand on cultivated lands. An aumeen was sent to examine into the damage, and from his report, the loss sustained appears to amount to the above sum. This I had the honour to represent in my letter of the 20th May.

The foregoing is as exact a state of the balances of these districts as I have been able to form since I have been here, the whole of which excepting Battishazarry and Rangamatty I look on to be irrecoverable, Futtypore, 9½ annas not having yielded its jumma, Baharbund having been managed by a sezawal on the part of Government, and Bullechar having suffered a loss from the river which it was not in the power of the zemindar to prevent.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

* Apparently the son of Hasting's famous banian—Kantu Babu, and an ancestor of the Cossim bazar Raj family.

No. 1.

(Translation of the Petition of Seeb Chand and Sirrydur, Zemindars of 9½-anna division of Futtypore).

In the Bengal year 1184 we were honoured with our proportion of the pergunnah as rated in the hustabood, which year with the utmost difficulty and by having recourse to loans from merchants we performed our engagements. In the said hustabood no deductions were allowed either for mofussil charges or our maintenance. In the Bengal year 1185 our zemindary was continued according to that said hustabood, and though we have paid in whatever our zemindary has produced, there is still a balance of Rs. 4,051 occasioned by want of produce and mofussil charges that were inevitable. We therefore humbly request an aumeen may be appointed to form the hustabood, when, after deducting the mofussil charges and allowing us wherewithal for our maintenance, the remainder may be our fixed jumma.

No. 2.

(Translation of the Petition of Raja Dudjinder Narain, Raja of Cooch Behar).

At the first settlement of the Tanna Behar the bundabust was made in New Narianny rupees. In the year 1184 according to my own desire and the favour of the Gentlemen of Council it was altered to Kazannah Shi rupees. At the time I made the request, I was unacquainted with the difficulty of procuring that specie. In that year with the utmost difficulty and trouble I obtained sufficient to pay my rent. In this year 1185, though I have done everything I could to complete my engagements, I have found it impossible, and have therefore deposited New Narianny rupees in the treasury equal to the amount. I humbly request that you will permit the said New Narianny rupees now in the treasury to be carried to account, and suffer me in future to pay (as formerly) my rents in that specie.

No. 3.

(Translation of the Petition of Loke Naut Nundoe, Zemindar of pergunnah Baharbund).

The pergunnah Baharbund, etc., Sircar Bengal Boom, is my zemindary. In the Bengal year 183 I was obliged to pay up the russud baukee, etc., according to the Committee's settlement, though the other zemindars throughout Bengal were honored with remissions. In the year 1184 I petitioned for deductions, which not meeting with approbation, a sezawal was appointed on the part of Government to take charge of my zemindary. The said sezawal in that year collected according to the hustabood, and paid into the treasury the sum of Rs. 81,525, and in this last year 1185 he paid the sum of Rs. 82,639. From the favour and indulgence of the Gentlemen of Council, all the zeminders of Bengal have been honored with the management of their zemindaries. I only have been excluded and that for these two years past, in which time the sezawal, on the part of Government has fully investigated what my zemindary is able to produce. I, therefore, now hope that indulgence which has been extended to all the zemindars in Bengal may not be withheld from me, and that you will from that goodness which they have experienced at your hands permit me also to have possession of my lands at the net revenue of 82,609 sicca rupees, being the amount paid by the sezawal into the treasury this last year, and

that this may be my fixed jumma, that I, by attending to the cultivation of my country, may be enable to pay my revenue to the Sircar, and pray for the prosperity of the Government that has permitted me also to share the general indulgence the zemindars have been honored with.

No. 108.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

23rd June 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Enclosed I have the honor to transmit you translate of a petition that has been presented me by the Chowarannee of Bamindungah, and beg to be favoured with your commands concerning it. The peons appointed to serve the warrant refused for some time to shew their authority. They said they came from the Supreme Court, but would neither sell or produce what power they were invested with, and it was not till I had sent to them twice that I obtained a sight of the warrant. If the Court peons are not obliged to produce the authority by which they act, it will subject the inhabitants to numberless abuses, as any designing person has only to declare he comes from the Supreme Court (the very name of which carries terror throughout the mofussil) * to enable him to extort what money he pleases from the people. I beg to be honored with your directions in what manner I am to act, should a similar circumstance occur of a peon coming to Rungpore and refusing to produce his authority.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

(Translation of the Petition of Joy Durra Chowdrannee of pergunnah Bamindungah.)

The pergunnah Bamindungah is my zemindary. It is now near two months that two peons have seated themselves at my door and say they are from the Supreme Court with a warrant at the suit of Mr. Feake. I am a widow and have concerned myself with nothing, but the business of my Malguzarry. I have neither been a servant of the Company nor of any individual European, and am entirely ignorant of the customs of the Court of Calcutta. This I am willing if called on to take oath of, besides which I am a woman of some character, whose public attendance on a Court of Justice would entail on her a disgrace she could never surmount. The presence of the peons has caused all my amlahs to run away, and I have no one to settle with the ryots for the ensuing year's Malguzarry. I therefore hope you will represent my case to the Supreme Court that the peons may be withdrawn.

* During the progress of our conquests in the North-West many of the inhabitants were encountered flying from the newly-occupied territory. "Lord Luke coming?" was the enquiry. "No," was the reply "the Adawiat is coming." Life of Elphinstone. 11-131.

No. 109.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM :

25th June 1779.

• SIR,

• This serves to advise you that this day [we have] drawn on you for the following bill for sicca Rs. 40,000 at a fix day, sought in favour of Mr. Edward Ephrain Pote, which you all please to honour, your Province having been credited for the same.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 110.

To MR. WILLIAM DOW at Jugeegopah.

RUNGPORE :

26th June 1779.

SIR,

I was yesterday favoured with your letter of the 16th instant, and am much obliged to you for informing me of the ill behaviour of the sezawal, whom I have ordered to repair to Rungpore that his conduct and accounts may undergo a strict scrutiny. The sezawal was appointed from here to enforce a decree of the Dewanny Adawlut in favour of Huckoomut Roy against the zemindar of Bijnee, passed, when Mr. Purling was at Rungpore. and by him directed to be enforced. If he has wantonly abused his power he shall be punished ; but it is well known that money in this country is not recovered by asking for. I know not who gave you your intelligence regarding Huckoomut Roy, but it is very erroneous. I belonged to the Dinagepore Council from the time of its first establishment to my appointment here, and am, therefore, well acquainted with the circumstances. Huckoomut Roy, whatever may be his private character I know not, but • this I know that his injury is no pretence. As a proof of this, the Zemindar of Bijnee to my knowledge offered him ten thousand rupees to compromise the matter, which he would not have done for a pretended injury. It is not Huckoomut Roy who lays his damages at twenty thousand rupees, but the Court of Dewanny Adawlut, who have decreed him that sum or the amount of his loss. You say that Mr. Harwood on the complaint being made to him, dismissed Huckoomut Roy with infamy and reproach, you have been misinformed. To my knowledge Mr. Harwood did all he could to afford him redress, and esteemed him so far injured that he has written to me since I have been here to beg. I would assist him, as far as was consistent with my duty, in the recovery of the money. If a man's house being plundered, some of his people murdered is an invidious complaint, Huckoomut Roy's is one. The decree was passed with the consent of both parties, the

Vakeel of Bijnee giving us writing that his constituent should pay the amount. From everything I can understand the matter has undergone as equitable and thorough an investigation as possible, and the Zemindar must pay the amount. Your charges against the sezawal are only general ones, excepting that of confining the Raja's Vakeel, which I do not esteem incompatible with the duty he was sent on. If he confined him in irons, he has done wrong, and as to his going to the Raja's residence, it is where he ought to have been all along. If he has set out now with only an intention to insult him, he shall repent it. You represent him as having made a general plunder. It is strange people should submit to it without complaining to me and your's is absolutely the first complaint against him. If you will only point out any people whom he has extorted money from, or any ways oppressed on conviction, he shall be made an example of. At present I can only call him to examine his accounts, as I have no one to confront with him to the charge you allege against him. While they run in general, they will want proof. In which case if his accounts are just, he will return again, for, it is not the Raja of Bijnee complaining against the man sent to enforce this decree that will exempt him from the payment of it. At any rate the end of recalling the sezawal would only be to appoint another, for the money must be paid.

I again return you my thanks for informing me of what you thought an act of injustice, and shall be much obliged to you to acquaint me when any of my people misbehave.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 111.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

29th June 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I am honoured by the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant; directing me to seize on the effects of the shroffs indebted to Government. Your letter being an explanation of your commands of the 25th ultimo, according to the tenor of it, the seizure would fall on the three principal shroffs, as being the only people immediately responsible to Government for the rest.

I accordingly, as a necessary and previous step to the carrying of your orders into execution, endeavoured to discover what effects the shroffs Ram Caunt and Bungbeharry and Radha Churn had at Rungpore. The following is the intelligence I have been able to obtain, which I take the liberty to represent to you, having little reason to doubt its authenticity.

Ram Caunt and Bungbeharry, who are partners and much more considerable than Rada Churn, have removed whatever they had valuable at Rungpore to their capital house in the village of Sherepore, pergunnah Moman-shi, in the district of Rajshahi. Radha Churn, as if apprehensive of the

arrival of an order of this nature, has distributed whatever he had among different people in Rungpore. I would have executed your commands on such part of Radha Churn's effects as I could, but for the following reason which I doubt not will appear proper to you and excuse me for not immediately complying with your orders.

• The principal house of the three shroffs is Ram Caunt and Bungbeharry. The property of these people is, I understand, fully sufficient to indemnify Government for their loss, provided it could be got at. These people have everything they possess of value in Rajshahi which is not under my authority. Was I now to make any seizure here, it would instantly give the alarm, which would in all probability frustrate every resolution you might come to concerning them, as they would instantly conceal their property. Anything I could seize here would be very trivial indeed. I thought it my duty to represent these circumstances to you.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 112.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM :

29th June 1779.

SIR,

As the zemindars of the Soubahs of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, receive deductions from the rents of Government, both in specie and lands, for the support of pykes, etc., servants for the defence of their respective districts in conjunction with the Fougedarry officers, we direct that you furnish us with an account of the expence charged in each district, and that you ascertain the number of servants of each denomination actually kept up, and the pay actually received by them.

And it having been proposed to us by the Naib Soubah that the appointment and dismissal of these servants, the settlement of their allowances, and the management of the deductions made on this account, be placed in his hands, to the entire exclusion of any interference from the zemindars and others, of whatever denomination; we desire to receive your opinion on the expediency and probable effects of their dismissal.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 113.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
27th July 1779.

SIR,

Paragraph 1.—We have received your assistant's letters of the 20th, 24th and 31st May; the 7th, 17th, 23rd and 29th June, with your letter of the 7th June, and the several papers and accounts mentioned to be enclosed in the former.

2.—20th May. As the enquiry relative to the loss sustained in pergunnah Ballohar has been made without our authority and is grounded on a principle which we do not admit; we cannot allow of the claim of deductions founded upon it; and therefore direct that you do not issue any future orders for investigations of this nature by which an unnecessary charge may be incurred and expectations raised, without the previous authority of the Board.

3.—7th June. We have given orders that two companies of Militia sepoys of the establishment of Dacca, be detached to Rungpore for the protection of your districts, to be, while they remain there, under your orders, or of the person acting for the time in your absence.

4.—7th June. We approve of the temporary appointment of Hurry Ram to be the Dewan of your districts.

5.—17th June. We direct that you receive the amount of the balance of the account of the zemindar of Cooch Beyhar in new Narianny rupees.

6.—17th June. We direct that you write off the balance which appears against the pergunnah of Baharbund.

7.—17th June. With respect to the balances of Fattypore 9½ annas Battishazarry, Rangamatty and Ballechar, we direct that you exact the payment of them.

8.—23rd June. We are surprised at the question contained in this letter. Upon every similar occasion, we direct that you oppose the peons until they shall have produced their warrants, and if they shall refuse to shew their warrants, you will take them into custody, reporting the same to us. You will, however, be careful to appoint witness to be present at what passes between your officers and the persons so styling themselves Officers of the Supreme Court.

9.—29th June. We direct that you carry our orders, respecting the shroffs, into execution in the best and most effectual manner you can, requiring the assistance of the Provincial Council of Moorshidabad; for the attachment of such of the effects of the shroffs as are in the districts under jurisdiction.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 114.

TO RICHARD GOODLAD, Esq., Acting Collector of Rungpore.

RUNGPORE FACTORY:

5th July 1779.

SIR,

I do myself the pleasure to enclose you a bill upon Mr. Purling, Collector of Rungpore, in my favour for 40,000 sicca rupees, an advance made by you in May last. I have to request the favour of you to furnish me with the remainder.

I am, etc.,

E. E. POTE,

Assistant Collector of Rungpore.

No. 115.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

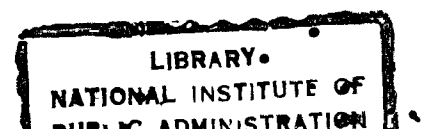
17th July 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have now the honour to transmit you the monthly accounts for Assar 1186, and beg leave to inform you of the reason there is so large a balance. It is occasioned by a combination of the zemindars who requested of me in the beginning of the year to allow them half a month's credit to each kist that is the kist due the end of Assar to be paid by the 15th Sawun. This I refused them as Mr. Purling had taken the utmost pains to make their kistbundee (fussul warree) or according to the harvests, at the same time that a compliance with their requests would have been highly impolitic as it would have made the last kist excessively heavy, and consequently very difficult to be got in. The zemindars finding I would not consent to it determined at all events not to pay, but as they had pointed out and have accordingly withheld the balance that now appears in the towjee. I beg to be honored with your commands as soon as possible, or whether their request is to be complied with, or if it is not that you authorise me on their refusal to sell such part of their lands as may amount to the balance of the kist, or to make their zemindary khas. Should your orders not arrive speedily, I shall in my next towjee be able to bring to account no more than the balance of this kist, for the zemindars that have now paid up, when they find those who withheld payment did it with impunity, they also will undoubtedly fall in arrears.

I am, etc., •

RICHARD GOODLAD.



No. 116.

To CHARLES PURLING, Esq., Collector of Rungpore.

KHALSA:

19th July 1779.

•SIR,

I have the pleasure of transmitting to you enclosed copy of a petition presented to the Khalsa on the part of Joydurga Choudrayn, concerning which I have already addressed you under date the 17th August last; but, the party still complaining at the Khalsa, and no answer having been received to my former reference on this subject, the regulations of my office in that respect render it incumbent as one to trouble you with this second address. I, therefore, beg leave to forward you the complaint for enquiry.

I am etc.,

G. G. DUCAREL,

Superintendent, Khalsa Records.

No. 117.

To MR. WILLIAM DOW at Jugeegopah.

RUNGPORE:

29th June 1779.

SIR,

The number of complaints that have been presented me of the oppressions committed by Kali Churn Ghose, oblige me to require his attendance at Rungpore. As I understand he is connected with you, I have informed you of the circumstance that it may be attended with as little inconvenience to you as possible. I have only to request you will send him away as soon as you can with the least prejudice to yourself. For this purpose, the harcarrahs have liberty to remain at Jugeegopah ten days.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 118.

To THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

24th July 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I beg leave to lay before you some particulars regarding the pergunnah Bycuntpore, the zemindary of Durup Deo, and inform you of the steps I have been obliged to take the immediate necessity, of which will, I hope, be sufficient excuse for having acted without your orders.

* This letter is scored out in the letter copy book.

The pergunnah of Bycuntpore had been managed by one set of aumlahs for the space of 18 years, last year in the month of Assar, Anoup Surma, Nundram and others of very inferior station procured their dismission, and at the same time obtained the sole management of the zemindary themselves. They accordingly collected last year everything they could force from the ryots, amounting to considerably more than the jumma, greater part of which they embezzled. The balance of last year, and the great distress of Durup Deo for money are but too convincing proofs of their rapacity. On my arrival here I called on Durup Deo for the amount due from him, and have repeatedly sent people with perwannahs to him, but I have never been able to procure an answer, at least none but what has come verbally from his vakeel. On closing my accounts for the month of Assar, I was about to apply to you to send a sezawal and cause Durup Deo to come to Rungpore, as I could get no answer from him about the balance of last year or procure payment from him for the first kist. I was actuated to this by an intimation that Durup Deo wished to reinstate his old aumlah, but that the new ones had brought him in their debtor and prevented his removing them. My design was to have caused the sezawal to have taken the wassilaut of last year, by which means I could have detected their frauds, and set Durup Deo free from them. I two days ago received information that these people, apprehensive I should call them to account for their misconduct, without paying regard to the times of harvest, had issued at one time demands on the ryots for half the year's revenue—a measure, that is sufficient to ruin most flourishing district, and must have arisen from a certainty they could not continue long in power and from a view of making the most of their time. Had I permitted this, Durup Deo must at the end of the year have lost his zemindary, that is, as it must have been sold to have paid his balance. And as from every information I could obtain I found my interference would not endanger the public revenue, at the same time it would save the Zemindar, who is ignorant and inoffensive, and prevent a general plunder of the ryots, I did not hesitate to require Durup Deo's attendance at Rungpore, and appoint a sezawal to take the management of everything out of the hands of his rapacious ministers. I beg to be honored with your commands regarding the future management of this pergunnah.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 119.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
24th July 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

The Zemindar of the pergunnah of Muntenna, who is a woman by name Joydurga, having absented herself for the space of a year from Rungpore and retiring to Batoriah, and her Gomastah with whom she left the management of her business being lately dead, and no one here on her part to take charge of the pergunnah, I have, for the security of the public revenue, sent a sezawal to carry on the collections till I am honored with your commands.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 120.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

3rd August 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Having received information of the death of Gocul Gosaul,* inhabitant of Calcutta, and zemindar of 1 anna 5 ganda division of the pergunnah Coondy, and it being customary for zemindary officers on the death of a zemindar to embezzle whatever they possibly can, I have for the security of the current revenue attached the said division on account of Government till I am honored with your commands.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 121.

TO MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM:

20th August 1779.

SIR,

Loke Naut Nundy, the Zemindar of Baharbund, having represented to us that some disputes have arisen between him and Nazir Deo, concerning the right to some villages in the pergunnah of Ghybarry, which are asserted by the Zemindar to belong to him as part of that pergunnah; we direct that you immediately enter on an examination of the disputes in question, and report to us the result of your enquiry. The Provincial Council of Dinagore have been directed to furnish you with a copy of such of their proceedings as have a relation to this subject.

The Zemindar of Baharbund having offered to hold his zemindary on a mocurrery or fixed lease at the jumma of Rs. 82,639, being the amount of the collections of the last year, we have consented thereto; and have accordingly directed a bundibusty sunnud to be prepared and granted him. We shall cause a caboleat to be taken from him conformably thereto; and you will call upon him to execute the kistbundy in the usual manner.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.

RICHARD BARWELL.

P. FRANCIS.

EDWARD WHEELER.

EYRE COOTE.

* Vide: Cotton; *Memorandum on the Early Revenue History of Chittagong*. P. 61.

No. 122.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:

24th August 1779.

SIR,

This serves to advise you that we have this day drawn upon you a Bill of Exchange for sicca Rs. 40,000 in favour of Mr. E. E. Pote, to be paid as the state of your treasury will admit of, from this date to the 31st October 1779, which you will be pleased to honour, your district having been credited for the same.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS,
RICHARD BARWELL.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 123.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

FORT WILLIAM:

30th August 1779.

SIR,

After the peremptory orders we have given to all the Provincial Councils to remit the balance of cash in their respective treasuries to the Presidency at the end of each month, we cannot observe without surprise that you had suffered the balance to accumulate in your collectorship to Rs. 10,89,246-3-6 at the end of July. We now order that you send down every part of this sum which you can possibly realize, except the amount which may be in nariany rupees, to the Provincial Council at Moorshidabad, who are distressed for funds to answer the immediate calls upon them.

We are, etc.,

WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 124.

To MR. CHARLES PURLING, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM:

31st August 1779.

SIR,

Enclosed we return the Aumilnamahs for the Settlement of your division for the present year, which we desire you will forthwith deliver to the proprietors; and at the same time we direct you to collect a fee of two

Decreted by
Mr. Salim Ullah Fakhri

rupees per mille on the jumma, the amount of which you will remit to our Secretary in a Bill of Exchange, or with your first remittances.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
RICHARD BARWELL.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 125.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the other Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
19th August 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

It being some time since any force was stationed in these districts, there are not at present quarters in Rungpore to accommodate the two companies of seapoys you have been pleased to order here. I have endeavoured to find out what expense would accrue in building the seapoys' huts and a bungalow for the black officer, and am informed that it will require nearly the sum of Rs. 400. I beg to be honored with your commands.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 126.

TO LIEUTENANT MICHAEL BARNEWALL, Commanding the Militia Seapoys at Purnea.

RUNGPORE :
24th August 1779.

SIR,

Two companies of Militia Seapoys being arrived here from Dacca for the service of these districts, I have no further occasion for the detachment of yours which has hitherto been stationed here. I have therefore ordered them to join your corps at Purnea, and this letter will accompany them.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 127.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
10th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

The pergunnah of Bycuntpore, the zemindarry of Durup Deo, being considerably indebted on account of the revenue of the Bengal years 1184, 1185, and 1186, Mr. Goodlad, in order to recover the just due of Government, appointed Rishen Kinker Dais as sezawal, and sent him into the pergunnah to collect the amount from the Zemindar who wished (*sic*) of admitting him as an

officer of Government, has set on him with an armed force, wounded some, and murdered one of his attendance, and had it been the misfortune of the sezawal to have fallen into his hands, he would in all probability have lost his life. For your further information I transmit you translate of the arzie the sezawal has written me. I have for the present sent a guard of 25 seapoys for his protection, and, as I should wish to obtain more authentic intelligence before I use any coercive measures with the Zemindar, I have ordered the attendance of the people who were present at the fray, when, should I find the representation that has been made by the sezawal to be matter of fact, I will, if it is your pleasure, issue the enclosed publication, requesting at the same time that I may be honored with an answer as speedily as possible.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

(Translation of an Arzie from Kishen Kinker Dass, who was sent into the pergunnah of Bycuntpore as sezawal to collect the balance of revenue due from Durup Deo, the Zemindar).

Conformable to your orders and the tenor of my appointment, I proceeded to Nabobgunge, when I was informed by different people that the Zemindar had employed dacoits to murder me, and finding on enquiry that it was true, I, accompanied only by two kidmutgars, retired privately to Maria in the pergunnah of Boda, from whence I wrote you all particulars of the Zemindar's misbehaviour, intending to remain there till I was honored with your answer. To-day which is the 22nd of Baudon, at about 9 in the morning, the Zemindar's troops, accompanied by some sepoy's accoutred like those of the Sircar, came to Nabobgunge, seized on all my people, wounded some with swords, threw others into the river and actually murdered one of the burkundojes you sent with me for my protection. They next took everything they could find, for it was in vain that my people called on them in the name of the Company to desist. I have no orders from you to oppose the Zemindar by force. I therefore remain at Maria till I am favoured with your commands, which I will punctually execute.

KISHEN KINKER DASS.

Whereas it has been represented by the sezawal sent into Bycuntpore for the recovery of the balance due from that pergunnah under a perwannah from Rungpore that the zemindar has refused attention to the orders contained in such perwannah, has prevented the aumlah of the pergunnah from attending the sezawal, and set upon him with sepoy's armed with swords and fire-locks, and wounded, and murdered several of his attendants. This is to give notice that if the Zemindar Durup Deo does not deliver himself up to answer the above charges in the space of 15 days from the date hereof, he will forever be excluded from possession of his land which will be made over to his brother Dirjee Deo, as the said Durup Deo is now in an actual state of rebellion, and all such of his attendants whether peons, pykes, barkundajes or sepoy's as shall remain with him will be apprehended as rebels and treated as the laws direct. It is required of all the ryots in the pergunnah Bycuntpore to assist in apprehending the sepoy's now in the employ of Durup Deo and to give information where they have secreted themselves to the Zemindar* who has gone to Bycuntpore for the protection of the sezawal, the enforcing of Government's orders, and the apprehension of Durup Deo and his sepoy's.

* Jemmadar.

No. 128.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

10th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I am honored by the receipt of your letter of the 30th August, directing me to remit to the Council of Moorshidabad such part of the treasury as was not in Narianny rupees. Prior to the receipt of it, my Assistant had remitted, you whatever amount he had been able to exchange agreeable to his challan under date the 20th August, which amount, together with the sums advanced to the Factory for the provision of the Hon'ble Company's Investment has exhausted. Whatever specie there was in the treasury, excepting the Narianny rupees, such sums as I may hereafter be able to exchange, I will send to Moorshidabad conformable to your commands and I am in hopes that I shall next month be able to make them a despatch of 1000,00 rupees.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 129.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

11th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Two of the principal shroffs, by name Rada Chund Saw and Ram Cant Saw as also their Chowdry Peritram, together with the three inferior shroffs Dulol Saw, Ragunaut Saw, and Zarree Saw arrived here this morning under charge of the peons of the Roy Royan. The third principal shroff Bungbehary Saw and Manik Chund, who is largely indebted to the shroffs, are not arrived.

I am, etc.,

No. 130.

TO EDWARD BABER, Esq., Chief, etc., and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad

RUNGPORE :

11th September 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

I am favoured with your letter of the 6th instant. Just before the receipt of the orders of the Hon'ble Governor-General and Council, Mr. Goodlad had made a despatch of sicca Rs. 165,000 to Calcutta, which prevents my

being able at present to supply you with any money. I am in hopes during the course of next month to make you a remittance of Rs. 1,00,000, of provided in that time, I am not drawn on in favour of the Board of Trade.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.



No. 131.

TO MESSRS. LEAR, DOW, AND RAUSCH, at Jugeegopah.
GENTLEMEN,

Enclosed I send you a copy of a representation made to me by Mr. Williams. It is needless to mention how very incompatible the proceedings related therein are with the intention of that Government to which you are subjects. If people are placed on the banks of the Burrampootra to prevent merchants from going to the chokey and any persons have been stopped, if the Bunooahs of the Assam chokey are under confinement or such restraint as to preclude a free trade, if an armed force is made use of to carry on your trade to the annoyance of other settlers at your place, I need not warn you how fatal the consequences of such conduct must prove to your own interests, and even to your residence in those parts.

As Calichurn Ghose is mentioned in the instrument of the above proceedings as the Phouzdar of Rangamatty under the name of his son, Cossikaunt Ghose, who is a child in Calcutta, and numberless complaints are now before me against his proceedings—some even transmitted to one by the Governor with directions to remove the former, if I found them true, as I find that, by the representation of two of the Adaulut peons given on oath, that Calichurn Ghose has, even under the authority of that very appointment he received from me, prevented the enforcing of the decree of the Dewanee Adaulut in favour of Pookmut Roy, although a sezawal and peons were sent under a perwannah with my signature, I insist that there be no excuse whatever made for his detention, but that he be permitted to pay obedience to the perwannah he will receive at the same time you receive this.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 132.

TO WILLIAM HARWOOD, Esq., and the Gentlemen of the Provincial Council at Dinagepore.

RUNGPORE :
15th September 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

The Hon'ble Governor-General and Council, having directed me to apply for a copy of your proceedings and all papers relative the dispute between Nazir Deo and Loke Naut, the Zemindar of Baharbund, about the lands of Geoborra, I am to request you will favour me with all possible information on that subject.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 133.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

17th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have now the honour to transmit you the monthly accounts of these districts for the month of Baudon. The reason of the large balance is the zemindars at the beginning of the year required I would allow them 15 or 20 days credit to each kist, and represented it was impossible they could pay without such time being given them, as they could not realise the money from the country. This I refused them as it was contrary to your orders, and I was apprehensive would render the last kist very heavy, and by shortening the time for their payments make it very difficult to be got in. In consequence the zemindars fell in balance the very first kist, which Mr. Goodlad represented to you in his letter under date the 17th July, and requested permission to expose their lands to sale which is prohibited except under a special license, but is the only means I have of obliging them to comply with the terms of their kistbundee. I must now, Hon'ble Sir and Sirs, take the liberty of representing to you that there is no other alternative than either arming me with a general power to sell their lands when they deviate from their kistbundee, and the orders I am under for realising it within the month, or allowing the zemindars the time they require. I request I may be honored with your answer as soon as possible, for it is a matter of great uneasiness to me to see so large a balance in my accounts without any means of remedying it.

I am, etc.,

No. 134.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

17th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have been honored with your letter of the 27th July, containing directions concerning the balances of last year, and that of the 31st ultimo, enclosing the aumilnamas for the present year, all of which have been delivered, but the following which I have delayed till I receive your further orders.

The Coondy pergunnah was indebted on account of pants of 1179 in the sum of Kazannah Shi Rs. 24,213-14-17-1. The enclosed extract of my correspondence with you on the subject of this balance will shew that you relinquished one-half, and that the other was settled to be paid by a kistbundee

of three years. This kistbundee signed by the zemindars' naibs, under date the 13th Poose 1184, was deposited with the Dewannee Sherishtadar :—

				Rs.
To be paid in the year 1184	...	...	...	1,805
Ditto ditto 1185	...	...	...	4,500
Ditto ditto 1186	...	...	...	5,800
Kazannah Shi rupees				12,105

Two years are elapsed and not a cowry of the above sums have been paid, which you will observe by the monthly accounts, besides that the zemindars are, in arrears of the present year upon the towjee of Baudon as follows :—

Coondy	...	...	...	annas 4	Rs. blank.
"	...	...	...	annas 3-15	" "
"	...	...	...	annas 7	" "

As it is in vain to proceed with such continual indulgence, especially as the pergunnah is not over-rated, I have put up a publication for proposals to let the pergunnah in farm to any responsible person inhabitant of Rungpore, who will give security for the performance of his engagements which are to include the present year's settlement with the old balance of 1179. It is probable that no offers will be made, and I have no alternative but to sell the zemindar's lands to the amount of their balances. For this I shall wait your further orders.

The Futtypore 9½-annas Zemindars have been before me, and declare themselves utterly unable to pay the balance of last year being Rs. 4,051, but say they are ready to abide by any investigation you are pleased to make of the ability of their pergunnah. I proposed to them to include the above balance in their engagements for the present year, and endeavour to recover the loss. But they have refused to consent, and declare that, so far from engaging to pay the last year's balance in the present year, they will not receive their lands upon the jumma of last year, as the sources are actually deficient. They are every kist now falling at the rate of the above Rs. 4,000 in arrears, and I must add that the assertion of the Zemindars is confirmed by the Revenue Officers in general. I have, however, in conformity to your orders contained in the 7th paragraph of your letter of the 27th July, put up a publication similar to that concerning pergunnah Coondy, and request I may receive your instructions for my proceeding, in case no one should offer any proposals to farm them. You will be pleased also to signify your orders in both these cases, whether the zemindars are to receive their 10 per cent. commission on the jumma of the present year, or whether it shall be made over to the Farmer to answer the old balances incurred by the zemindars.

The Zemindar of the pergunnah Bullehar is summoned to give answer to the demand against him on account of the balance. The amount is sicca Rs. 390. In case he refuses to pay it, I request to be honored with your directions for the sale of such part of his lands as will make up the amount.

The Farmer of Rangamatty is likewise sent for, and will be confined if he does not pay the amount demanded from him for the balances of last year being sicca Rs. 665-4-3.

The Zemindar of the pergunnah Muntunna having absented herself for many months from Rungpore, and the Gomastah she left to manage the business dying, I have been obliged to appoint a sezawal to carry on the collections till such time as the Zemindar either returns or appoints somebody to act for her.

On the death of Gocul Gosaul, the Zemindar of the 5½ division of Coondy, I had sent a sezawal to manage the collections till his successor should be announced, and finding it is Jogernaut Surma, I have recalled the sezawal and delivered charge of it to his Gomastah.

The balances due from Buttishazarry on account of the years 1184 and 1185 have been most of them recovered by sending the sezawal there, and I do suppose that the whole would have been by this time paid, if the Zemindar, Durup Deo, had not thought proper to resist my authority, drive the sezawal out of his country, and assemble an armed force on the bounds of the pergunnah. But for a more circumstantial detail, I beg leave to refer you to my letters, dated the 6th and 14th instant.

I am, etc.,

C. PURLING.

No. 135.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

20th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

Conformable to your orders contained in your letter of the 25th May, I applied to the Provincial Council of Revenue at Purnea for information concerning the amount haulaut due from Mirza Mahmud Tuckey. Enclosed I have the honor to transmit you copy of their reply, as also the original bond executed by Mirza Mahmud Tuckey to Gunga Persaud, the Company's Dewan, which was delivered to me by the Naib Dewan Soogenarain Mojumdar. Both Gunga Persaud (who is now in Calcutta), and Soogenarain, who is here, are proofs fully sufficient to establish the validity of the bond.

I am, etc.,

C. PURLING.

No. 136.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

— 25th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I am honored with your letter of the 16th instant, and shall in consequence set off in a few days in order to take charge of the station you have been pleased to appoint me to.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 137.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

25th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

In consequence of the appointment I have received from the Governor-General and Council to succeed Mr. Nathaniel Middleton as Resident of Oudh, I have delivered over charge of the districts and collections entrusted to my management to Mr. Goodlad together with all the papers and accounts.

I am, etc.,
C. PURLING.

No. 138.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

27th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Mr. Purling having, in consequence of his appointment to the Residency of Oudh, delivered charge of these districts to me, enclosed I have the honor to transmit you state of the Treasury.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 139.

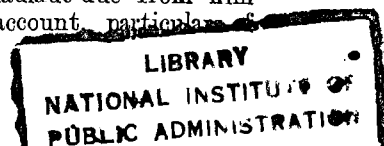
TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE:

27th September 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Since Mr. Purling's letter of the 20th instant, transmitting you Mirza Mahmud Tuckey's bond on account of the amount haulaut due from him I have obtained from the Naib Dewan the enclosed account, particulars of



which will clearly point out the nature of the Hon'ble Company's claim upon him. Should this account require any explanation, Gunga Persaud, who is now in Calcutta, and through whom the whole business was transacted, can give you full information concerning it.

I am, etc.,
RICHARD GOODLAD.

• No. 140.

To MR. GEORGE BOGLE, Collector of Rungpore.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM :
1st October 1779.

SIR,

1. We have received your Predecessor's letter and those of your Assistant of the 17th and 24th July; the 3rd, 17th, 19th and 20th August; the 10th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 18th and 20th ultimo, with the several papers and accounts mentioned to accompany them.

2. 17th July.—We direct you to carry into execution our general orders of the 14th October 1777 for the confinement of such zemindars as shall fail to pay their monthly kists after the expiration of 15 days of the ensuing month; and if after that term they shall still remain in arrears, you will keep them in confinement until they shall have paid up the arrears, as well as the growing kists; taking such means as you shall think most expedient for securing the current revenues.

3. 24th July.—We approve of the appointment of a sezawal to carry on the collections of pergunnah Muntenna.

4. 3rd August.—We also approve of the measure taken respecting the one anna 5 gunda division of pergunnah Coondy.

5. 19th August.—It is not customary to build huts or quarters for sepoy. We cannot therefore allow the charge proposed on this account.

6. 10th September.—We approve of what has been done respecting the Zemindar of Bycuntpore, but direct that you suspend the proposed publication; and in the meantime you will summon the Zemindar to attend, either by a written order transmitted to him, or by proclamation, and answer to the charges alleged against him.

7. 14th September.—And we direct that any further proceedings against the Raja of Bycuntpore be suspended until your arrival at Rungpore.

8. 18th September.—We wait the result of the publication issued for farming the pergunnahs of Coondy and Futtypore 9 annas, before we give you any orders upon the subject.

9. 20th September.—We shall hereafter furnish you with our instructions respecting the claim on Mirza Mahomed Tuckey.

We are, etc.,
WARREN HASTINGS.
EDWARD WHEELER.

No. 141.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

12th October 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

The seapoys Mr. Purling detached against Durup Deo, the Zemindar of Bycuntpore, having apprehended him without any kind of difficulty and brought him to Rungpore, I have sent an aumeen accompanied by an officer from the Foujdar to enquire into the particulars of the murder said to be committed by his people on those of the sezawal, I had sent to collect the balance due from the pergunnah. Whenever I receive the report, I will immediately transmit it to you, and, till I am honored with your commands, shall detain the zemindar under a guard at Rungpore. I have left ten seapoys with the sezawal for his immediate protection, and I have recalled all the rest, as I can be under no great apprehensions of a disturbance from the Zemindar's people while the Zemindar is in custody at Rungpore.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 142.

TO GERARD GUSTAVUS DUCAREL, Esq., Superintendent of the Khalsa Records,
Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

14th October 1779.

SIR,

The accompanying tuxeem papers of the pergunnah Ijiabarra having been delivered me by the canungoes of Baharbund, I request the favour of you to compare them with the Sudder papers in the Khalsa, for till such time as I am assured of their authenticity, I cannot determine on the dispute now subsisting in that pergunnah. Should the papers I send you differ from the Sudder records, oblige me by favoring me with a copy of the latter.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GOODLAD.

No. 143.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

22nd November 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I am favoured with your commands of the 1st ultimo.

On my arrival here, I found in confinement the Zemindar of Bycuntpore, who had delivered himself up on the summons of my Predecessor, and paid

the arrears of his revenue. In consequence the sezawal and sepoy had been recalled from his country, and his officers put in possession. I have furnished him with a copy of the accusations brought against him by the sezawal, the truth of which I expect in a few days to be able to judge.

I have now the honour to transmit the accounts of this district for the month of Cartick. The balance in the treasury as given in by the officers consists chiefly of rupees peculiar to this ~~part~~ of Bengal which I shall endeavour as expeditiously as possible to shroff, exchange, and remit to Moorshodabad agreeable to your orders. •

You will please to observe that a very large part of the treasure is in New Narianny rupees, which are current only in Cooch Beyhar and the country subject to Bootan. The state of this coin having been brought so fully and repeatedly before you, it is unnecessary for me at this time to say much on the subject. New Nariannees are nominally estimated at the proportion of 13,674 to 100 siccas, which is much higher than their actual value. The butta at which they have continued to be converted, since your orders of the 20th January 1778, is six annas in the French Arcot rupee; but the sum exchanged even at this rate being less during these two last years than the annual revenue received from Cooch Beyhar, it is likely to require some exertion to prevent their accumulating. The present season of the year, when merchants proceed towards the hills to purchase cotton and other goods, has hitherto afforded the best and indeed almost the only opportunity of realising them. And as I find it impossible to exchange them at the ideal discount of 3,674 per cent. I shall endeavour to dispose of as large a quantity as possible to the merchants at the rate you were pleased formerly to approve.

I am, etc.,
GEORGE BOGLE.

No. 144.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General, and the
Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :
10th December 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

A considerable quantity of indigo is produced in this province which is chiefly purchased by the Booteas and transported into Thibet. It is subject to an inland duty of 4 rupees 8 annas per maund, equal to 20 per cent. on its gross value. This duty which has long been farmed out at an annual rent of Rs. 225 and forms part of the revenue of Bannudanga naturally tends greatly to discourage the culture and trade of indigo.

I am inclined, therefore, to hope that your Hon'ble Board, in consideration of the eventual importance of this article and the small revenue which Government derives from it, will be pleased to order the duty and farm to be abolished.

I have, etc.,
GEORGE BOGLE.

No. 145.

WILLIAM PAXTON, Esq., Mint Master, Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

22nd December 1779.

As I find it will be necessary to address the Hon'ble Board on the state of the coin of this province, and wish to bring the subject before them as completely as possible, I beg leave to transmit two parcels containing specimens of the different kinds of old and new Narianny rupees marked with the name of the Rajahs of denominations by which they pass, and request you will be pleased to assay and furnish me with an account of the quantity of pure silver in each class together with that in a sicea rupee, in order that I may be enable to compare the intrinsic value of the two coins together.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE BOGLE.

MEMORANDUM OF CLASSES.

					Rs.
1. Cohna	...	...	8 half or	...	4
2. Metrass	...	...	"	...	4
3. Furcha	...	...	"	...	4
4. Kazana Shi	...	...	6 halves and 1 whole or	...	4
5. Debender Narain	...	...	8 halves or	...	4
6. Marrinder Narain	...	...	"	...	4
7. Durga Narain	...	...	"	...	4
8. Roopinder Narain	...	...	"	...	4

No. 146.

TO THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and the Gentlemen of the Council of Revenue at Fort William.

RUNGPORE :

22nd December 1779.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have now the pleasure to transmit enclosed the accounts of this district for the month of Augun.

The two Aumeens, who, previous to my arrival, were sent on the part of Government and of the Fauzdar to enquire into the complaints brought against the Raja of Bycuntpore having returned and delivered in an account of their commission, and the sezawal having been able to produce no evidence of his charges, I have ordered the Zemindar to be released. In the course of the examination it appeared that the sezawal had entertained and sent dacoits into Bycuntpore who had plundered the country, and I have therefore, delivered him over for trial to the Fauzdary Audalaut.

I have, etc.,

GEORGE BOGLE.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
D A C C A.

No. 147.

Our Governor-General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

LONDON :

28th December 1779.

As the term of five years from the time of the Governor-General and Council having taken upon themselves the Government of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal will expire in October 1779, and, as from and after the expiration of the said term of five years, the power of nominating and removing the succeeding Governor-General and Council will be in the Court of Directors, it is our pleasure and we hereby direct, that all the power and authorities vested in the Governor-General and Council, shall rest and continue in, and to all intents and purposes, be exercised and executed by the Governor-General and Council for the time being, until a succeeding Governor-General and Council shall have been duly appointed, and until such appointment shall have been signified to you under the hands of thirteen or more of the Court of Directors, and also until the persons so to be appointed as aforesaid, or the major part of them, shall arrive or be present at the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, in order to take upon themselves the Government thereof.

We are,
Your affectionate Friends,

G. WOMBWELL.
WILLIAM JAMES.
L. SULLIVAN.
JOSEPH SPARKES.
SAMUEL PEACH.
H. FLETCHER.
CHAS. BODDAM.
ROBERT GREGORY.
J. STABLES.
JOHN SMITH.
W. G. FREEMAN.
WM. MILLS, JUNR.
BEN. BOOTH.
R. HALL.
JOHN ROBERTS.
THOS. CHEAP.

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Bangladesh Public Administration
Training Centre, Savar, Dhaka

(A true copy.)

J. P. AURIOL,
Secretary.