

S E C O N D
R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

INDIAN TERRITORIES ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
12 May 1853.

Lunæ, 15^o die Novembris, 1852.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Operation of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 85, for effecting an Arrangement with the East India Company, and for the better Government of Her Majesty's Indian Territories till the 30th day of April 1854.

Martis, 16^o die Novembris, 1852.

Committee nominated of—

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Herries. | Mr. Milner Gibson. |
| Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer. | Mr. Mangles. |
| Lord John Russell. | Sir James Hogg. |
| Mr. Baring. | Mr. Hume. |
| Sir Charles Wood. | Mr. Bankes. |
| Mr. Baillie. | Mr. Vernon Smith. |
| Mr. Gladstone. | Mr. Robert Hildyard. |
| Mr. Newdegate. | Mr. James Wilson. |
| Mr. Labouchere. | Mr. Spooner. |
| Sir James Graham. | Mr. Keogh. |
| Mr. Alderman Thompson. | Mr. Macaulay. |
| Sir William Molesworth. | Lord Stanley. |
| Sir Robert Harry Inglis. | Mr. Robert Clive. |
| Viscount Jocelyn. | Mr. Edward Ellice. |
| Mr. Cobden. | Viscount Palmerston. |
| Mr. Hardinge. | |

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

Veneris, 18^o die Februarii, 1853.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Wilson be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Lord John Russell, Sir Charles Wood, Sir George Grey, Sir Thomas Maddock, Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. John Elliot, and Mr. Löwe be added thereto.

Martis, 22^o die Februarii, 1853.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Chichester Fortescue be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. John Fitzgerald be added thereto.

Jovis, 28^o die Aprilis, 1853.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, from time to time, to The House.

Lunæ, 2^o die Maii, 1853.

Ordered, THAT the Report of the Select Committee on Indian Territories of last Session, and copy of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the same subject (communicated 1st December) be referred to the Committee.

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SECOND REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Operation of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 85, for effecting an Arrangement with the EAST INDIA COMPANY, and for the better Government of Her Majesty's INDIAN TERRITORIES till the 30th day of April 1854, and to whom several Petitions, and the Report of the Committee on Indian Territories of last Session, and also the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords on the same subject, were referred, and who were empowered to Report the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them, from time to time, to The House :

HAVE made further progress in the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to make a Second Report of the Minutes of Evidence taken before them.

12 *May* 1853.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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| | | |
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| | | |
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| Frederick James Halliday, Esq. | - - - - - | p. 26 |
| John Clarke Marshman, Esq. | - - - - - | p. 48 |

Jovis, 12° die Maii, 1853.

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| John Clarke Marshman, Esq. | - - - - - | p. 53 |
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A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. Peacocke.

ROADS, BENGAL, 1829.

MINUTE of Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart.

I FEAR that my notions on the subject of roads will seem heterodox.

In the course of much travelling in various parts of India, I have not been impressed with the belief that there is any general want of communication proceeding from a want of roads.

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It seems to me that there is commonly a sufficiency of communication according to the demands of the people.

There may not be everywhere a road for an English carriage; but how little is this needed by the mass of the inhabitants.

Even in this respect there is much greater facility than might be expected. Fourteen years ago I travelled in a sociable from Futtehgurh to Meerut in the rainy season, and 5½ years ago in a curricule from Masulipatam to Hydrabad in dry weather. In both instances the roads were for the most part the common roads of the country, and similar attempts might have been made with the same success; and no doubt have been on numerous lines of similar ordinary roads.

In those parts of the country to which I have been most accustomed, whether within or beyond our own territories, there is scarcely a village that has not carriage roads through its lands in several directions. By a carriage road, I mean a road traversed by the carriages of native gentlemen and ladies, and by the common carts of the country.

Mountainous and swampy regions must be excepted; and in many parts the rainy season makes a road impassable or difficult which was good in dry weather. This defect cannot be peculiar to India, but must be common wherever such a continuance of excessive rain prevails.

In Bengal, which is subject to inundations and torrents, and where it is hyperbolically said to rain 14 months in the year, nature seems to have declared against the continual use of roads, and to have furnished navigable streams as substitutes, for the purposes of commerce and intercourse.

In such a country, roads cannot be made perfect throughout without immense expense. By perfect, I mean fit for conveyances of every description, in all parts, during all seasons, rising above inundations, and able to resist torrents. As to mere communication, that already exists. I have travelled twice from Calcutta to the Upper Provinces by dawk in the rainy season; once in the middle of it, the month of August, by the direct road to Bancoora, and the other time at the end of the season, by Burdwan; the road was passable on both occasions, and was probably as good as it ever will be without great and interminable expense; on the latter, I went for different parts of the way in a carriage, for which the road was in those parts and some others sufficiently good.

Where the rain can run off, and the soil is such as does not become swampy from wet, there roads can be made easily and with little expense, but there, also, roads will generally be found already existing, which sometimes might be more spoiled than improved by new making.

Where there are difficulties which render the roads nearly impassable, they cannot be remedied without heavy expense.

For instance, a road might be easily made from Dehlee to Agra; one has existed from time immemorial, composed of the soil of the country, and running level with the flat surface, which without much difficulty or cost, could receive either repair or improvement, if needed, and is equally passable for the most part all the year round. On the other hand, take the valley of Berar, from the river Wurda to the Adjuntee Pass. The country is flat, and the road is equally good with the other in the dry season, and might be made to look smart with little cost; but to make a road in that valley that should be serviceable throughout the rainy season, would require an excessive expense, the soil being a sticky clay, which, when

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soaked with rain, sucks in the foot of man or beast, and will hardly let it out again. The materials for a road there must be brought from a distance, and the road must be raised above the level of the country, and have numerous arches to let the water pass under it. It must in short be a bridge or causeway, from one end of the valley to the other.

Expense may be lavished on roads where serviceable roads already exist. I am inclined to think that the road from Benares to Allahabad is a specimen of that mode of proceeding. I had travelled frequently from Benares to Allahabad before that road was made, without being struck with the idea that any other road was required than that which then existed; and I have travelled there since the road was made, without being aware of the improvement. I do not mean to say, nor do I suppose, that there has not been any improvement; but merely, that I was not struck with the deficiency before, nor with the improvement since; doubtless there has been improvement, but perhaps it might equally have been obtained without making a new road. Another instance that has come under my observation is the road from Hyderabad to Masulipatam; this has been made by the Madras Government, at a great cost of money, time, and labour. There was previously a road on which I travelled, as before-mentioned, in a curricule. Let it be granted that the old road, in some places, needed improvement; had attention been duly paid to that object exclusively, all the essential benefit of the new road might have been obtained at comparatively little cost; instead of which, a new road has been made, I understand, from beginning to end. All the labour, time, and money expended on that work, beyond what was required to make the old road serviceable throughout, I cannot avoid regarding as absolute waste.

But it is very likely to happen, when any person is specially appointed to the superintendence of road making, that unnecessary expenditure will follow; he has a natural desire to form a complete work which may be creditable to himself. He must therefore have a spick and span new road, and will not be satisfied with merely doing what is required to improve the old.

I observe that Captain Vetch, with reference to the intended repair of the Burdwan road to Bancoora, proposes to bring it into good travelling condition for wheeled carriages during the dry season, and for foot travellers during the rains. I should suppose that it is already in that condition, or in one so near it, that the little required can be done by the magistrates, without any considerable expense. If, however, by wheeled carriages Captain Vetch means English carriages, the case may be different; and, I fear, that in our road-making our attention is directed too exclusively to such. I have heard of the carts of the country not being allowed to go on roads made for English carriages; and there is some reason in this, if it can be deemed proper to make roads for the exclusive use of the small English community scattered over the country, for the ruts made by the country carts must soon spoil the best made road as to its fitness for English carriages, and whether it be pukha or kutchra, of brick or of earth, this evil cannot be prevented without almost daily repairs.

I hope that I shall not be suspected of maintaining the absurd proposition that a good road is not a good thing; or that the providing of good roads is not an object worthy of the attention of a Government. What I really mean to advance is, that these roads are generally sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants of the country; that roads may be superfluously made when they are not urgently required; that a great deal of money may be thrown away, without making good roads; and that, finally, the state of our finances does not admit of our incurring a large expenditure on this, or any other object, even of real improvement, that does not afford a reasonable prospect of return.

In the last year of which we have an actual account, 1827-28, the second year of peace, our expenditure exceeded our income by 2,68,00,000 rupees; and, as if to show the uncertainty of estimates, the actual deficit exceeded that estimated by no less than 1,28,00,000 rupees.

The result of 1828-29 will of course be better, and that of 1829-30, it may be hoped will be better still; but until we spend less by 2,68,00,000 rupees than we did in 1827-28, or have so much more revenue, or by the joint operation of the two processes, have wholly got rid of our deficit, we shall be in the situation of the spendthrift who, having already exhausted his means, has nothing to spare that can properly be laid out on supposed improvement, of which no result but expenditure is certain.

Mr. Bayley, in speaking of making roads as necessary in some places for the increase of our revenue, alludes, I believe, to the Nerbudda territories, where we have been for some years spending money in making roads on that speculation. I am sceptical as to the expected result, and doubtful as to the utility of the outlay incurred, but we are informed by the local officers that great benefits are to ensue, and have more reason therefore than generally exists, for venturing on the expense.

I acknowledge for my own part that if I had my will no expense of this kind, that did not obviously promise decided financial advantages, should be incurred until we had a clear surplus revenue, of which, although even then the greater part ought to be devoted to the reduction of our debts, a portion might be assigned for improvement. Much of our borrowed money has been squandered on undertakings beyond our means; our outrageous expenditure at the new mint, in buildings as well as machinery, has raised a monument of wasteful extravagance, in which the Government at home and the local Government are both concerned. The unnecessary magnificence of the machinery recently brought out for the cannon foundry is another specimen of the same spirit, and as we have no building that can contain it, we shall be called on here to erect another sumptuous pile for its reception. Unless the Honourable Court of Directors practice economy in our territorial expenses at home,

home, the efforts of the Government in this country to keep our expenditure within our income will prove unavailing.

With a surplus revenue objects of outlay might be selected, but with an excess of expenditure over income, and a debt larger than at any former period, there does not seem to be any safe course but in abstaining from every extra expense that is not necessary.

To a certain extent the care and repair of roads must be considered necessary, and if what is proposed with respect to the road between Hoogly and Bancoora, come under that description, it must, I conclude, be adopted. Although my supposition would be to the contrary, I have not such minute information on the subject as would alone justify an assertion to that effect; I therefore confine my objections to the general remarks which I have offered on the inexpediency of incurring a large expenditure, even on objects of supposed improvement at a time when our expenses exceed our income.

In general it would, I conceive, be sufficient that the magistrates should take care of the roads in their respective districts, by the use of convicts, or occasionally hired labourers; and that when any important work be deemed necessary, the corps of Pioneers should be employed in executing it.

23 August 1829.

(signed) C. T. Metcalfe.

Appendix, No 1.

VILLAGE SYSTEM.

MINUTE by the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor North West Provinces, dated 25th September 1848, on Joint and Separate Responsibility in Coparcenary Mehals.

1. IN considering the question of the joint responsibility of the coparceners in putteedaree estates, it may be advantageous to inquire what is the actual state of the law in this respect; how far it is in harmony with the feelings and institutions of the people, and how far it is consistent with the general rules of expediency and good policy.

2. The state of the law is this: that when a body of men remain voluntarily associated together for the joint management of an estate, and one of them falls in balance, the whole body are liable to be called upon to make good the balance.

3. The course of legislation regarding the division of estates shows, that the Government were quite sensible of the dangers to which private rights might be exposed, from the well-known principle that joint proprietors were "considered jointly and severally responsible for the payment of the public revenue assessed upon the estate;" and that the Government also recognised, as the safeguard against this danger, the power possessed by proprietors in a joint estate, "at any time to obtain a division and separation of their respective shares of the lands, whenever they may deem it conducive to their interests to have recourse to that measure."

See Sect. 3, Reg. VII., 1805.

Vide preamble of Reg. VII., 1805.

4. This was provided for by section 31, Reg. XXVI., 1803, which declared, that "when the proprietor of a joint undivided estate is desirous to have separate possession of his share, the collector shall immediately proceed to make the division of the joint property."

5. The temporary and partial forgetfulness of this principle, which caused the enactment of Reg. VI. 1807, to prevent the formation of estates paying less than 1,000 or 500 rupees jumma annually, only led to its more distinct and perfect recognition by Reg. V., 1810, which rescinded Reg. VI., 1807, and declared, that the restriction "laid on the partition of small estates had been the cause of considerable injury to numbers of individual sharers, thereby inducing a sacrifice of private rights, which the degree of public inconvenience, arising from the minute division of landed property, does not appear of sufficient magnitude to justify or require."

6. Reg. XIX., 1814, re-enacted, with some modifications, the former laws, and maintained the obligation on the collector to divide the estate, on application from one or more of the joint proprietors, provided there were no disputes regarding the shares. But it left untouched the provisions of Reg. IX., 1811, which afford peculiar facilities for the separation of properties in Putteedaree estates, on the ground that, "the interest and welfare of the landholders require that the division of portions of estates should be easily effected."

7. If there be any dispute regarding the shares, or if the collector hesitate on any account to act under the obligations imposed upon him by the law, to divide an estate, on application from the proprietors, it is in the power of one or more of the proprietors to compel division by suit in the civil court; it is, therefore, altogether optional with a proprietor, whether he remain liable to the joint responsibility which attaches to all sharers in joint undivided estates.

8. If the estate remain undivided, and one of the sharers fall into balance, the amount may be realised from him individually, or from the whole body collectively. In practice, it is customary to attempt to realise first from the individual; then to offer his property to any coparcener who will pay up the arrears; and if no one accepts this offer, then to hold the entire body jointly responsible for the balance.

9. It is well known that these principles of administration have been introduced to meet the circumstances of what are commonly designated village communities in the provinces. These communities cannot be better described than in the words of the late Lord Metcalfe, in his Minute of 7 November 1830:

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See Appendix, No. 84, to Report of Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Affairs of the East India Company, dated 16 August 1832.

"The village communities are little republics, having nearly everything that they want within themselves, and almost independent of any foreign relations. They seem to last where nothing else lasts. Dynasty after dynasty tumbles down; revolution succeeds to revolution; Hindoo, Patan, Mogul, Mahratta, Sikh, English, are all masters in turn; but the village communities remain the same. In times of trouble they arm and fortify themselves; an hostile army passes through the country, the village communities collect their cattle within their walls, and let the enemy pass unprovoked. If plunder and devastation be directed against themselves, and the force employed be irresistible, they flee to friendly villages at a distance; but when the storm has passed over, they return and resume their occupations. If a country remain for a series of years the scene of continued pillage and massacre, so that the villages cannot be inhabited, the scattered villagers nevertheless return whenever the power of peaceable possession revives. A generation may pass away, but the succeeding generation will return; the sons will take the places of their fathers; the same site for the village, the same positions for the house; the lands will be re-occupied by the descendants of those who were driven out when the village was depopulated; and it is not a trifling matter that will drive them out, for they will often maintain their post through times of disturbance and convulsion, and acquire strength sufficient to resist pillage and oppression with success."

10. Any person who is conversant with the social state of the agricultural classes in these provinces, knows that these communities are found in the most perfect state in the Delhi territory and in Bundelkund, and that they are commonly met with throughout the Doab, on the right bank of the Jumna, and in the southern and western parts of Rohilkund; and that even in the province of Benares they are frequently found, little altered from the state in which they existed when the province first came under our rule, half a century ago.

11. The sentiments of the same high authority, regarding the course which should be pursued towards these communities, is entitled to respect:

"This union of the village communities, each one forming a separate little state in itself, has, I conceive contributed more than any other cause to the preservation of the people of India, through all the revolutions and changes which they have suffered; and is in a high degree conducive to their happiness, and to the enjoyment of a great portion of freedom and independence. I wish, therefore, that the village consuetudine may never be disturbed; and I dread everything that has a tendency to break them up. I am fearful that a revenue settlement, separately with each individual cultivator, as is the practice of the Ryotwar settlement, instead of one with the village community through their representatives the head men, might have such a tendency. For this reason, and for this only, I do not desire to see the Ryotwar settlement generally introduced into the Western Provinces. The experienced advocates of that mode of settlement would, I believe, maintain, that it need not produce that effect. It appears to me, however, that it must tend to loosen, and ultimately dissolve, the ties which bind the village communities together. Instead of all acting in union, with a common interest as regards the Government, and adjusting their own separate interests among themselves, according to established usage, each would have his separate independent arrangement directly with the Government, and could hardly fail to be thereby less linked with his brethren."

12. If the settlement is made with all the members of the community jointly, it follows that the whole are jointly responsible for the whole demand; and unless the joint responsibility be merely nominal, it must, as a general rule, be maintained. It is a principle maintained by all former Governments; it is one, the justice of which the people never dispute, and it is one of which distinct traces have been left in many of the customs which prevail in the communities.

13. The expediency of maintaining the principle of joint responsibility is supported by many arguments, besides that of general adaptation to the feelings and customs of the people.

14. It greatly promotes self-government, and renders unnecessary that constant interference with the affairs of individual cultivators on the part of the Government officers which must otherwise exist; it saves them from much expense, which would otherwise fall upon them, and it facilitates their union for many purposes of municipal economy, which could not otherwise be effected. The efforts of the prosperous and industrious members of a community will often be directed to stimulate the idle, to assist the unfortunate, and to give additional value to the labours of their thrifty brethren. Property being minutely divided, and each proprietor clinging with the greatest tenacity to his patrimony, it would be difficult to devise a civil institution better calculated to add to the happiness and prosperity of the people.

15. And, as a system, it does work well. Year after year, thousands of communities pay up their Government demand without any demur or difficulty, and manage their own affairs without needing the intervention of any revenue officer of the Government. It is most desirable, that they should continue to do so; and if difficulties do arise, the law has invested the village representative with full power to realise the balance by summary suit or distraint. But exceptional cases will occur. Dissensions amongst the old members of the community, the intrusion of strangers, or the pressure of calamitous seasons, will throw the whole community into difficulty; and great judgment will be necessary in then dealing with the case. It is not impossible that there may be a general alarm; and that even the solvent co-parceners will withhold payment of what is primarily due from them, lest they be held responsible also for the default of others. This need never proceed to any great extent; for on the first occurrence of a balance, the collector can attach the whole village,

village, and can hold each proprietor responsible in his person and personal property for the sum due from him. This power, when rightly wielded, is quite sufficient to prevent any substantial proprietor from wilfully withholding what it is in his power to pay. But, even if individual damage and loss to the Government did occasionally occur, this would be quite insufficient to warrant the rejection of a principle otherwise sound, and generally beneficial in its operation.

16. In order that the people should experience the full benefits which the observance of these principles is calculated to confer on them, it is necessary that the revenue officers of the Government should comprehend the full extent of the obligations which rest upon them. They should understand all the advantages attending each state of property; that which involves the maintenance of the joint responsibility, and that which is consequent on its dissolution. They should recognise the duty of rapidly, cheaply, and readily, dividing estates, whenever application to that effect is made, with an understanding of the question on the part of the applicant; they should feel and understand the facilities for divisions occasioned by the late settlement, and above all, they should observe a marked distinction in the mode of dealing with joint undivided estates, and with separate estates on the occasion of a balance.

17. A reference to statement, No. V., shows that there is much diversity of practice regarding divisions. Such divisions, by consent of the parties, are numerous in Rohtuck, (74), and in Agra (62), whilst in Goruckpore there are no less than 1,358, being about two-thirds of the number (1,920) in the whole provinces. In Saharunpore and Boolundshahur there have been none, whilst in many districts there are very few. In Rohilkund the practice is uniformly general. The number of divisions by order of Court is generally small; but in Shahjehanpore it seems to have suddenly mounted up to 141, which is in itself more than half of the whole number (274), in the provinces. These irregularities, no doubt, arise from local misapprehensions, or from whims and fancy on the part of particular officers. There is good reason to believe that, except under peculiar circumstances, the members of a community when the merits of a case are fairly stated to them, would rather remain united.

18. Statements will not so easily expose irregularities of practice regarding joint undivided estates in balance; but there is reason to apprehend that when a balance is due, and even before the time on which it is legally due, the collector frequently permits separate dussucks to be served on all members of the community, and treats them as if they were severally responsible, without any attempt to enforce, through the Lumberdar, the joint responsibility, which is an essential feature of the Settlement Contract Act, I., 1841, has done much to prevent cases of injustice and hardship, which formerly occurred; but its too general and indiscriminate use may undermine the very constitution of the village communities.

19. When a balance has actually occurred in a putteedaree estate, it is evident, that if, as the senior member seems to desire, the joint responsibility of the whole community be immediately repudiated, the efficacy of the principle is destroyed, at the very time when it should come most into operation. A few examples, even of ruin to a community by the enforcement of the principle, might possibly be beneficial in their moral effect upon many other communities. Instances may, however, be adduced, in which it may be wise to remit a balance, rather than attempt to enforce payment by the whole community; as it may be wise sometimes to remit a balance from an individual, rather than bring his estate to sale for its liquidation; but it is unnecessary to contemplate the existence of such cases. The joint responsibility of the whole community is understood by the people; it is in unison with their established customs, and is in itself equitable and politic. Being so, its maintenance should be the rule, and exceptional cases should be treated on their merits; it being understood that strong grounds must be shown to warrant the exception.

20. In para. 11 of the secretary's letter, the senior member justly remarks on the importance of facilitating the investment of capital in land. Of this there can be no question; and it is gratifying to observe how eagerly land is now sought after as an investment by all classes of natives.

21. This will be more and more the case in proportion as titles to land are defined and rendered secure. It may be doubted whether the principle of joint responsibility materially affects this. In many cases it certainly increases the desire to obtain the rights and interests of a coparcener in a joint undivided estate, because the purchaser hopes to make his first acquisition the means, either by fair or unfair methods, of obtaining the whole estate. This is occasionally forced upon notice by the odious efforts of some intriguing oppressor to usurp the property of a whole community; but it also happens, far more frequently than is generally supposed, when a friendly capitalist is introduced, to relieve the proprietors of a burden which they find themselves unable to bear, and to afford them the chance of recovery. Undoubtedly the right of pre-emption, which naturally results from the principle of joint responsibility, tends much to the consolidation of small properties. It may be apprehended, that "small and independent holdings" would be found so expensive to manage and so open to vexatious interference on the part of Government officers, that they would be shunned rather than sought after as an investment.

(signed) *J. Thomason*, Lieut.-Governor N. W. P.

Agra, 25 September 1848.

Appendix, No. 2.

NUMBER of SHIPS in the BENGAL MARINE in each of the last Ten Years, distinguishing those for External and the Amount Received, and the Net Charge

EXTERNAL SERVICE.

STEAM VESSELS.

| SHIP'S NAME. | Whether Built of Iron or Wood. | Built by Contract or Purchased. | 1842-43. | | 1843-44. | | 1844-45. | | 1845-46. | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | | | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. |
| Ganges | Wood | - - Contract at Kidderpore. | Co.'s Rs. - | Co.'s Rs. 44,550 | C. Rs. - | Co.'s Rs. 46,797 | Co.'s Rs. 19,411 | Co.'s Rs. 35,040 | Co.'s Rs. 30,618 | Co.'s Rs. 18,1 |
| Diana | " | - - Contract at Calcutta. | - | 19,260 | Employed in the Straits | | 27,777 | 57 | 47, | |
| Enterprise | " | - - Contract at Calcutta. | - | *58,144 | - | 51,112 | 43,569 | 66,158 | 7,205 | 76, |
| Nemesis | Iron | - - Private agreement in England. | - | *49,969 | - | 41,140 | 394 | *36,836 | 315 | *51, |
| Hooghly | Wood | - - Contract at Calcutta. | - | *45,888 | - | 24,572 | 5,839 | 14,955 | 136 | 21, |
| Irrawaddy | " | - - Contract in India. | Launched this year | | - | 30,847 | 390 | 32,353 | 7,200 | 31 |
| Proserpine | Iron | - - Private agreement in England. | - | *48,563 | - | *44,972 | - | *55,025 | 761 | 66, |
| Phlegethon | " | - - Private agreement in England. | - | *44,552 | - | 20,805 | 22 | 55,033 | - | 51, |
| Tenasserim | Wood | - - Contract at Moulmein. | - | *12,830 | - | 54,142 | 97,072 | 97,072 | 3,189 | 1,18, |
| Pluto | Iron | - - Private agreement in England. | - | *31,380 | - | - | - | - | - | *40, |
| Fire Queen | Wood | - - Purchased by Bengal Government, 1847. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mahamuddy | Iron | - - Late an inland steamer. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL Company's Rupees | | | - | 3,55,136 | - | 3,14,387 | 1,66,697 | 4,20,249 | 49,481 | 5,25, |

* This mark indicates that the ships, in the co

PILOT VESSELS.

| SHIP'S NAME. | Whether Built of Iron or Wood. | Built by Contract or Purchased. | 1842-43. | | 1843-44. | | 1844-45. | | 1845-46. | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expe |
| Sangor | Wood | Built by the East India Company in their dockyard at Bombay | Co.'s Rs. - | Co.'s Rs. - | C. Rs. - | Co.'s Rs. - | Co.'s Rs. 532 | Co.'s Rs. 24,314 | Co.'s Rs. 622 | Co.'s Rs. 23, |
| Megna | " | | - | - | - | - | 513 | 19,000 | 241 | 16, |
| Krishna | " | | - | - | - | - | 49 | 19,585 | 822 | 10, |
| Cavery | " | | - | - | - | - | 952 | 17,148 | 858 | 21, |
| Caleroon | " | | - | - | - | - | 560 | 21,462 | 586 | 17, |
| Salween | " | Built by contract at Moulmein | - | - | - | - | 4,044 | 18,536 | 269 | 17, |
| Tavoy | " | | - | - | - | - | 2,891 | 20,743 | 375 | 19, |
| Fame | Iron | Built in England by private agreement | - | - | - | - | - | - | 740 | 19, |
| Add Receipts and Expenses incidental to the Pilotage of the Port of Calcutta | | | - | - | - | - | 9,541 | 1,40,789 | 4,513 | 1,45, |
| TOTAL Company's Rupees | | | - | - | - | - | 5,09,125 | 8,48,608 | 5,66,397 | 8,53, |

Appendix, No. 2.

from those for Internal Service; and (as far as the same can be ascertained), the Gross Expense for the same, also, whether Built by Contract or Purchased.

EXTERNAL SERVICE.

STEAM VESSELS.

| 1846-47. | | 1847-48. | | 1848-49. | | 1849-50. | | 1850-51. | | 1851-52. | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. |
| Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. |
| - - - Sold | - - - | - - - Sold | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - |
| 643 | 27,269 | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - |
| 48,150 | 78,983 | 26,325 | 92,600 | 49,738 | 81,908 | 31,760 | 77,485 | 78,841 | 69,387 | 61,174 | 69,351 |
| - - - | - - - | * Employed on Her Majesty's Service | | - - - | - - - | - - - | 62,175 | - - - | 3,057 | 610 | 36,567 |
| - - - | - - - | Employed in the Straits | | - - - | - - - | - - - | 34,298 | 8 | 37,858 | 96 | 31,804 |
| 6,234 | 47,692 | 3,944 | 34,772 | 276 | 36,330 | 70 | 28,751 | 3,234 | 8,476 | - | Broken up. |
| 253 | 46,515 | 444 | 86,447 | - - - | 43,952 | 127 | 38,739 | - - - | 46,204 | 100 | 44,343 |
| 93 | 26,476 | * Employed on Her Majesty's Service in China and Straits | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,31,640 | 1,28,785 | 10,688 | 1,11,130 | 28,187 | 1,16,019 | 49,551 | 1,12,227 | 59,711 | 1,50,699 | 47,130 | 1,26,133 |
| - - - | - - - | Employed on Her Majesty's Service | | - - - | - - - | 751 | 77,749 | 1,283 | 90,502 | H. M.'s Service. | |
| - - - | - - - | 31,527 | 46,579 | 1,430 | 29,656 | 22,750 | 41,535 | 323 | 9,432 | 29,971 | 87,833 |
| - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | - - - | 20,613 |
| 1,87,013 | 3,55,720 | 72,928 | 3,71,528 | 79,631 | 3,08,365 | 1,05,009 | 4,72,959 | 1,43,400 | 4,15,615 | 1,40,003 | 4,32,122 |

of the year, were employed in Her Majesty's service.

PILOT VESSELS.

| 1846-47. | | 1847-48. | | 1848-49. | | 1849-50. | | 1850-51. | | 1851-52. | |
|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. | Receipts. | Expenses. |
| Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. |
| 704 | 20,307 | 2,601 | 14,533 | 272 | 26,199 | 203 | 13,783 | 220 | 16,188 | 604 | 13,005 |
| 529 | 19,163 | 49 | 13,979 | 2,295 | 24,250 | 141 | 18,285 | 357 | 17,077 | 150 | 11,065 |
| - - - | - - - | Employed surveying the coast of Coromandel, and the entrance of Moulmein river | | | | | | | | | |
| 292 | 14,633 | 224 | 19,763 | 1,931 | 18,572 | 795 | 21,850 | 533 | 18,366 | 273 | 24,651 |
| 286 | 17,810 | 435 | 15,664 | 2,204 | 28,286 | 331 | 16,524 | 396 | 17,794 | 182 | 16,705 |
| 75 | 15,575 | 828 | 13,473 | 3,431 | 22,869 | 196 | 13,359 | 174 | 17,205 | 130 | 18,512 |
| 528 | 18,003 | 1,979 | 21,626 | 20 | 14,440 | 603 | 15,367 | 591 | 19,615 | 1,724 | 20,283 |
| 264 | 17,954 | 23 | 17,989 | 102 | 19,014 | 273 | 20,603 | 191 | 15,655 | 56 | 13,452 |
| 2,676 | 1,23,445 | 6,139 | 1,17,027 | 10,255 | 1,53,630 | 2,542 | 1,19,771 | 2,462 | 1,21,900 | 3,119 | 1,17,673 |
| 570,027 | 7,15,419 | 5,29,338 | 6,60,402 | 5,28,180 | 7,74,114 | 5,73,988 | 7,00,073 | 5,80,944 | 7,07,210 | 6,58,724 | 6,79,140 |
| 5,72,703 | 8,38,864 | 5,35,477 | 7,77,429 | 5,38,435 | 9,27,744 | 5,76,530 | 8,19,844 | 5,83,406 | 8,29,110 | 6,61,843 | 7,96,813 |

NUMBER of Ships in the Bengal Marine in each of the last Ten Years,

INTERNAL SERVICE,

CONSISTING of STEAM VESSELS, with Accommodation, Cargo, and Troop Boats.

| NAMES of VESSELS and BOATS. | Whether Built by Contract or Purchased. | 1842-43. | | 1843-44. | | 1844-45. | | 1845-46. | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. |
| STEAM VESSELS: | Launched | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> |
| Thames - - - | 1834 | - | - | - | - | 1,758 | 43,988 | 183 | 43,686 |
| Jumna - - - | 1835 | - | - | - | - | 2,592 | 32,235 | 15 | 32,540 |
| Megna - - - | 1835 | - | - | - | - | 625 | 37,357 | 194 | 36,640 |
| Berhampoota - - | 1841 | - | - | - | - | 1,893 | 29,623 | 178 | 39,387 |
| Horingotta - - | 1840 | - | - | - | - | 650 | 34,586 | 242 | 43,570 |
| Indus - - - | 1842 | - | - | - | - | 608 | 33,219 | 31 | 40,699 |
| Damoodah - - | 1843 | - | - | - | - | 1,378 | 33,015 | 134 | 37,050 |
| Mahanudda - - | 1843 | - | - | - | - | 1,177 | 36,084 | 87 | 38,995 |
| Lord William Bentinok | 1845 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 996 | 36,407 |
| Nerbuddah - - | 1845 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 174 | 31,459 |
| | | - | - | - | - | 10,681 | 2,80,107 | 2,234 | 3,82,333 |
| ACCOMMODATION BOATS: | | | | | | | | | |
| Soorma - - - | 1836 | - | - | - | - | 60,043 | 18,216 | 66,593 | 10,322 |
| Mattabanga - - | 1836 | - | - | - | - | 82,687 | 10,240 | 91,757 | 9,579 |
| Jellinghee - - | 1835 | - | - | - | - | 80,338 | 8,962 | 86,911 | 9,358 |
| Sutledge - - - | 1842 | - | - | - | - | 94,437 | 9,441 | 84,712 | 9,425 |
| | | - | - | - | - | 3,17,505 | 46,859 | 3,29,973 | 38,684 |
| CARGO BOATS: | | | | | | | | | |
| Kallegunga - - | 1840 | - | - | - | - | 85,633 | 10,754 | 1,01,065 | 8,518 |
| Luckia - - - | 1841 | - | - | - | - | 94,714 | 9,391 | 75,216 | 8,880 |
| Goomtee - - - | 1842 | - | - | - | - | 1,07,712 | 7,883 | 70,509 | 7,997 |
| | | - | - | - | - | 2,88,059 | 28,028 | 2,46,790 | 25,395 |
| TROOP BOATS: | | | | | | | | | |
| Bhugerutta - - | 1845 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 72,186 | 6,323 |
| Soane - - - | 1845 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,23,000 | 8,979 |
| | | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,95,186 | 15,302 |
| Internal Steam Charges General | - | - | - | - | - | - | 27,850 | - | 33,536 |
| GRAND TOTAL Company's Rupees | - | 4,01,025 | - | 5,21,562 | - | 6,16,245 | 3,82,844 | 7,74,183 | 4,95,250 |

The whole of these Vessels and Boats are of iron: they were constructed in England by private agreement, sent out in pieces to Calcutta, completed in India, and launched for service at the dates specified.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN TERRITORIES.

111

distinguishing those for External from those for Internal Service, &c.—continued.

INTERNAL SERVICE,

CONSISTING OF STEAM VESSELS, with Accommodation, Cargo, and Troop Boats.

| 1846-47. | | 1847-48. | | 1848-49. | | 1849-50. | | 1850-51. | | 1851-52. | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. | Received or Realised. | Expenditure. |
| Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. | Co.'s Rs. |
| 71 | 34,504 | 5,231 | 38,845 | 2,586 | 42,219 | 962 | 38,808 | 1,352 | 40,045 | 10,769 | 24,721 |
| 4,585 | 44,002 | 1,877 | 37,721 | 9,663 | 41,539 | 24,026 | 32,449 | 29,584 | 31,647 | 14,476 | 31,819 |
| 747 | 40,044 | 1,315 | 45,294 | 1,939 | 49,347 | 10,979 | 26,195 | 1,649 | 23,668 | 1,884 | 27,218 |
| 143 | 41,942 | 40 | 38,087 | 10,254 | 40,870 | 2,656 | 43,770 | 1,251 | 34,375 | 1,057 | 30,536 |
| 245 | 36,515 | 22 | 31,551 | 697 | 48,380 | 612 | 35,276 | 2,114 | 35,718 | 1,712 | 29,557 |
| 5,969 | 39,361 | 49 | 36,417 | 467 | 38,851 | 900 | 40,060 | 7,585 | 35,341 | 7,984 | 33,188 |
| 4,559 | 36,184 | 1,660 | 33,161 | 2,193 | 30,274 | 6,560 | 54,684 | 12,102 | 39,171 | 18,469 | 30,238 |
| 4,955 | 40,595 | 287 | 48,074 | 431 | 47,054 | 15,458 | 42,020 | 155 | 34,389 | — | — |
| 1,491 | 46,483 | 1,302 | 52,209 | 948 | 63,545 | 1,952 | 53,966 | 2,517 | 47,207 | 772 | 44,543 |
| 908 | 47,444 | 471 | 49,327 | 537 | 57,040 | 2,347 | 52,177 | 9,045 | 46,568 | 4,475 | 54,025 |
| 23,673 | 4,09,074 | 12,254 | 4,10,686 | 29,715 | 4,59,119 | 66,452 | 4,18,605 | 67,354 | 3,68,124 | 61,598 | 3,05,835 |
| 81,249 | 11,319 | 56,268 | 13,275 | 59,697 | 11,027 | 64,018 | 11,026 | 72,544 | 11,034 | 48,396 | 9,595 |
| 73,644 | 11,898 | 55,539 | 10,996 | 66,418 | 11,433 | 39,969 | 11,920 | 127 | 9,816 | 27,232 | 24,042 |
| 54,978 | 8,662 | 22,290 | 24,116 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1,01,997 | 10,605 | 59,623 | 11,475 | 83,991 | 12,111 | 93,325 | 11,884 | 77,540 | 10,510 | 57,614 | 10,787 |
| 3,11,868 | 42,484 | 1,93,720 | 59,862 | 2,10,106 | 34,571 | 2,02,312 | 33,930 | 1,50,211 | 31,360 | 1,33,242 | 44,424 |
| 91,653 | 8,700 | 73,294 | 8,795 | 87,829 | 9,135 | 1,10,565 | 8,213 | 98,214 | 8,936 | 86,004 | 7,743 |
| 1,23,503 | 8,096 | 96,047 | 9,510 | 91,696 | 10,097 | 1,10,361 | 10,184 | 93,801 | 8,485 | 82,590 | 6,804 |
| 64,881 | 8,888 | 73,596 | 8,893 | 96,903 | 8,570 | 92,540 | 9,373 | 77,797 | 8,387 | 69,479 | 10,271 |
| 2,80,037 | 25,684 | 2,42,937 | 27,198 | 2,76,428 | 27,302 | 3,13,486 | 27,769 | 2,69,812 | 25,808 | 2,38,073 | 24,818 |
| 71,964 | 10,066 | 1,06,335 | 6,783 | 80,363 | 11,519 | 1,42,334 | 10,883 | 1,39,281 | 10,523 | 98,262 | 9,927 |
| 97,150 | 10,573 | 1,04,240 | 8,846 | 1,27,551 | 10,657 | 1,36,818 | 8,861 | 1,22,148 | 9,305 | 86,806 | 8,970 |
| 1,69,114 | 20,639 | 2,10,575 | 13,579 | 2,07,914 | 22,176 | 2,79,152 | 19,744 | 2,61,429 | 19,828 | 1,84,868 | 18,867 |
| — | 33,652 | — | 52,795 | 142 | 37,079 | — | 40,505 | 97 | 44,385 | 102 | 43,961 |
| 7,34,692 | 3,31,534 | 6,59,486 | 5,64,120 | 7,24,305 | 6,80,747 | 8,61,402 | 5,40,553 | 7,48,903 | 4,89,505 | 6,17,883 | 4,37,935 |

A B S T R A C T.

| YEARS. | EXTERNAL SERVICE. | | | | | | | | INTERNAL SERVICE. | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | STEAM VESSELS. | | | | PILOT VESSELS. | | | | Number of Vessels, &c. | | | Received or Realised. | Gross Expense. | Net Charge. | Amount Realised. |
| | Number of Ships. | Receipts. | Gross Expense. | Net Charge. | Number of Ships. | Receipts. | Gross Expense. | Net Charge. | Steamers. | Accommodation Boats. | Cargo and Troop Boats. | | | | |
| | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | | | | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | <i>Co.'s Rs.</i> | |
| 1842-43 | 9 | - | 3,55,136 | - | - | - | - | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4,01,025 | - | - | - | |
| 1843-44 | 8 | - | 3,14,387 | - | - | - | - | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5,21,562 | - | - | - | |
| 1844-45 | 9 | 1,66,697 | 4,20,249 | 2,53,552 | 7 | 5,09,125 | 8,48,668 | 3,39,543 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6,16,245 | 3,82,844 | - | 2,33,401 |
| 1845-46 | 10 | 49,481 | 5,25,047 | 4,75,556 | 8 | 5,66,397 | 8,53,916 | 2,87,519 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 7,74,183 | 4,95,250 | - | 2,78,933 |
| 1846-47 | 6 | 1,87,013 | 3,55,720 | 1,68,707 | 7 | 5,72,703 | 8,38,864 | 2,66,161 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 7,84,692 | 5,31,534 | - | 2,53,128 |
| 1847-48 | 5 | 72,928 | 3,71,528 | 2,98,600 | 7 | 5,35,477 | 7,77,429 | 2,41,952 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 6,59,486 | 5,64,120 | - | 95,366 |
| 1848-49 | 5 | 79,631 | 3,08,365 | 2,28,734 | 7 | 5,38,435 | 9,27,744 | 3,89,309 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 7,24,305 | 5,80,747 | - | 1,43,558 |
| 1849-50 | 7 | 1,05,000 | 4,72,959 | 3,67,950 | 7 | 5,76,530 | 8,19,844 | 2,43,314 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 8,61,402 | 5,40,553 | - | 3,20,349 |
| 1850-51 | 8 | 1,43,400 | 4,15,615 | 2,72,215 | 7 | 5,83,406 | 8,29,110 | 2,45,704 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 7,48,903 | 4,89,505 | - | 2,59,693 |
| 1851-52 | 5 | 1,40,003 | 4,32,122 | 2,92,119 | 7 | 6,61,843 | 7,96,813 | 1,34,970 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6,17,883 | 4,37,935 | - | 1,79,949 |

MEMORANDUM respecting the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE on account of the PILOT SLOOPS, and INLAND STEAM SERVICE.

PILOT SLOOPS.

The receipts include the sums derivable from pilotage of the ships entering and leaving the Port of Calcutta; from the hire of moorings; hauling and transporting ships from place to place; from duties on dhonies, buoys, lights and beacons, &c.

The expenses embrace the charges incurred for the maintenance of the pilot brigs and sloops; for the surveying and floating light vessels; for the establishments of the master attendant's and harbour-master's departments, and a proportion of the expenses of other departmental establishments; also the expenses of hawser, anchor, and other boats, besides marine charges in general.

INTERNAL STEAM SERVICE.

The receipts and earnings of the inland steamers and boats include the amount of freight and passage-money received from the public, and paid into the general treasury at Calcutta; and the credits carried to account as the savings rendered to the State by the employment of these vessels, instead of hired craft, in the conveyance of Government troops and stores, camp followers, &c.

The expenses comprise the charges of maintaining the steamers and boats; the freight office establishment; salaries, &c., of agents at stations; wages to native pilots; and a proportion of the expenses of various departmental establishments.

N. B.—No charge is included for interest on capital laid out in ships, buildings, docks, &c., nor for depreciation of property.

Marine Department,
7 July 1853.

J. C. Mason.

Appendix, No. 3.

Appendix, No. 3

LIST of PETITIONS referred to the Select Committee on INDIAN TERRITORIES,
Session 1852-53.

| PRESENTED. | PETITIONERS. | PRAYER. | PAGE. |
|----------------|--|--|-------|
| 5 July 1852-53 | - East Indians resident in London | Suggesting measures of amelioration - | 113 |
| 5 July " | -- Jevanjee Prestonjee and Rustomjee Viccajee. | For redress - - - - - | 115 |
| 7 July " | -- Members of the Madras Native Association, and others. | -- For a thorough inquiry into all the points affecting the welfare of India - | 120 |
| 8 July " | Dr. George Buist - - - | -- Complaining of statements made in reference to newspapers in India - - | 123 |
| 11 July " | -- Ministers and Missionaries in Madras, composing the Madras Missionary Conference. | -- For inquiring into the condition and government of British India - - - | 129 |
| | Members of the Bombay Association, and other native Inhabitants of the Presidency of Bombay. | - - - ditto - - - - - | 131 |
| 13 July " | Meern Omaid Singh - - - | For redress - - - - - | 136 |
| 4 July " | - - Merchants, Shipowners, and others, Liverpool. | -- Complaining of duty levied by East India Company - - - - - | 138 |
| | Merchants, Manufacturers, and others, St. Helen's. | - - - ditto - - - - - | 139 |
| 7 July " | -- Inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Winsford, in the county of Chester. | -- For reduction of the duty on salt, imported into British India - - - | 139 |
| 11 July " | -- Vice-President, and Directors of the Worcester Chamber of Commerce. | -- Complaining of duty levied by East India Company - - - - - | 140 |
| 13 July " | -- Chairman of Bristol Chamber of Commerce. | - - - ditto - - - - - | 141 |

The MEMORIAL of *East Indians* of the Presidencies of *Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay*, at present residing in *London*,

Most humbly sheweth,

1. THAT your memorialists are natives of India, and members of a numerous and increasing class of subjects of the Crown of Great Britain at present sojourning in this country.

2. That the community to which your memorialists belong are chiefly descended from European fathers, and from natives of India on the mother's side, and from intermarriages between the offspring of such connexions.

3. That your memorialists' community forms a distinct one throughout the continent of India, and dates its existence long prior to the establishment of British rule there.

4. That ever since Great Britain has acquired permanent possession in India, your memorialists' community has increased in number more rapidly.

5. That your memorialists, although at present remotely situated from their native land, feeling the deepest solicitude in the well-being and every particular the ordinary interests in life of their countrymen, cannot therefore refrain from manifesting their own heartfelt sense at the present juncture as regards the public administration of the affairs of British India.

6. That your memorialists consider it imperative upon them to submit to your Honourable House the following grievances; and, although it may be urged that they have been virtually and positively removed by the East India Company's charter of 1833, your memorialists, nevertheless, beg leave most respectfully to assert that, in spirit or operation, that charter in relation to such grievances remains up to the present period a dead letter.

7. That your memorialists' community in India is entirely destitute of any rule of civil law. Those who are beyond the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's supreme court of judicature, and who may be temporarily or permanently residing in the interior provinces, are there made amenable to the Mahomedan and Hindoo criminal laws.

o.10.

P

8. That

Appendix, No. 3.

8. That although a right of appeal is sometimes allowed to the superior tribunal, designated the Sudder Nizammut Adawlut, of the East India Company, yet such is the extraordinary power it possesses that it can increase punishment without allowing the common privilege of producing further evidence.

9. That as British subjects, and more especially as professing the Christian religion, it is extremely repugnant to the feelings of your memorialists' community to submit to the Mahomedan or Hindoo code in the provincial courts.

10. That, by Regulation VIII. of 1813, enacted by the East India Company, your memorialists' community are expressly classed among native subjects of the British Government, and consequently to all the disabilities of their Hindoo and Mahomedan fellow-subjects; and by Regulation III. of 1818, enacted by the local Government, they have been deprived of the protection of the Habeas Corpus Act, besides being liable to be taken up on mere suspicion, punished, and imprisoned as State prisoners, without the slightest chance of legal protection or hope of release, since the only channel of appeal is the local Government, and thus placing their property, their liberty, and even their lives at the mercy of every public functionary who may happen to be vested with power or authority.

11. That by Regulation III. of 1821 your memorialists' community is subjected in all cases to be dealt with as Hindoo and Mahomedan natives of the lowest grade, by being fined, imprisoned, and subjected even to corporal punishment, not only at the discretion of the European judges or magistrates of the East India Company's service, but even of the Mahomedan and Hindoo officers of justice.

12. That the criminal code to which your memorialists' community have been subjected is felt by them as not only a direct outrage to the religion they profess, but as an act of positive personal degradation and gross injustice.

13. That although the Act of the last charter, namely, of 1833, throws open all places of trust and emolument in the civil, military, and other branches of the East India Company's service, without distinction of caste, colour, or creed, yet the door to preferment is literally closed against your memorialists' countrymen, while many of them are perfectly qualified to fill them; and they continue to be superseded by Europeans quite inefficient, both from their standing and inexperience, as well as from their want of general knowledge with respect to the manners, habits, and notions of the people of the country.

14. That the charter of 1833 not having realised the expectations of your memorialists' countrymen, by a fair distribution even of many of the subordinate appointments under Government in the gift of heads of departments, and which are almost invariably conferred on others, will be borne out by the fact of the paucity of your memorialists' body holding any such places in all the Presidencies of India.

15. That your memorialists cannot refrain from objecting to the *primâ facie* evidence recently given by some officials of the East India Company's service before the Committee of your Honourable House, in terms no less unmeasured than disparaging as they are galling to the feelings of your memorialists and of their community.

16. Your memorialists think it needless to cite minutely instances of the general efficiency of fitness of their community towards being raised to superior offices equally with Europeans, beyond the facts that General Jones, who was at the head of the Bombay army in 1803, 1804, and 1805; General Lang, of the Madras army; and the distinguished and celebrated Colonels Skinner and Gardener, and Colonel Stevenson, a late quartermaster-general of the Bengal army, belonged to the class of your memorialists; and that the few who had been admitted prior to the prohibitory regulation, and others now belonging to the military and civil services of the East India Company, were and are sufficiently reputed for their high integrity, superior qualifications, and extensive information, is abundantly testified by the chronicles of India, the public testimony invariably borne in their favour by such eminent statesmen as the late Sir John Malcolm, the late Lord Metcalfe, the late Lord William Bentinck, the late Sir Alexander Johnston, and a host of other public characters, and is further testified by the several highly respectable and eminent members of our community who have adorned the bar, the pulpit, and the faculty, and who are now heads of several banking and mercantile firms of the first respectability, and constitute living proofs of the general respectable capacity of your memorialists' community, which must be well known to your Honourable House, and cannot require any further or lengthened illustration.

17. That your memorialists finally, most humbly, and with the greatest deference, venture to state that were the feelings, opinions, or wants of their community consulted, they would one and all exclaim and demand that legislators should also be chosen from among their own body, as well as from the various classes or tribes of the people, to fairly represent their diverse interests in the councils of the future administration of India, as pre-eminently qualified by their local knowledge. And, although millions of the population of India have hitherto most patiently submitted to be taxed, neglected, misrepresented and misgoverned by an oligarchy chiefly chosen by an unquestionably objectionable constituency of both sexes, and that too composed of the fractional atom of the great bulk of the talent, experience, and respectability of the English nation, your memorialists beg leave most respectfully to assure your Honourable House that, whether the reins of the future Govern-
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ment of India are to continue to be vested in the hands of the East India Company, or to be placed immediately under the supreme control of Her Majesty's Government, your memorialists do not feel solicitous of any change whatever beyond the desire to perfect equality of privileges and justice being both practically and theoretically meted out to them, not only as British subjects, but as inheritors of their native land, and who, for loyalty and attachment, stand second to none in the British empire, and who are still and ever will be found ready to defend the empire of Great Britain.

And your memorialists, in submitting the foregoing statement of their grievances to the serious consideration, wisdom, and justice of your Honourable House, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of a Meeting of East Indians of the Presidencies of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, at present residing in London, held at the residence of John B. Pharoah, Esq., Ennore-house, Lower Tulse-hill, Brixton, near London.

John Wollaston, Chairman.

The humble PETITION of *Jewanjee Pestonjee* and *Rustomjee Viccajee*, the Sons and Representatives of *Viccajee Merjee* and the late *Pestonjee Merjee*, British subjects and Parsee inhabitants of *Bombay*, lately carrying on the business of Bankers and Merchants at *Hyderabad* in the *Deccan*, as well as in *Bombay*, and other Places in British *India*,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners, as well as their fathers, who are British subjects, have suffered and have been for more than eight years suffering under grievous wrongs done them by his Highness the Nizam's Government, involving as well personal injuries as pecuniary losses; wrongs which your petitioners confidently believe no British subject other than those under the Government of the East India Company would be allowed to undergo with impunity to the wrongdoer. For the redress of those wrongs and losses your petitioners, as well as their fathers, have appealed to the British Government in India, and to the authorities in England, to whom the administration of affairs in India has been confided; but your petitioners and their fathers, in spite of their acknowledged rights as British subjects, have unhappily failed to obtain redress, which they could with all ease have procured for themselves had they been subjects of the Nizam's Government, or the subjects of any other native state in India, as your petitioners will hereinafter show; and your petitioners now humbly approach your Honourable House as the last means of obtaining redress for the cruel wrongs and injuries they have sustained, for which, in consequence of their being subjects of the British Crown, they have hitherto been unable to obtain any compensation.

In order to explain the circumstances which led your petitioners' fathers, *Viccajee Merjee* and *Pestonjee Merjee*, to go to the Nizam's territories, they beg to premise that *Viccajee Merjee* and *Pestonjee Merjee*, according to the usage of their ancestors for several generations, were employed in the administration of districts in the northern Concan, under the Paishwa's dynasty. From the time the British took possession of the country, *Viccajee Merjee* and *Pestonjee Merjee* in the very beginning assisted the British Government in the management of the revenues of a portion of that part of the country, and were afterwards entrusted by that Government with the farm of land and sea-customs, which they held up to 1836, when it was extended from the Candeish collectorate as far as the precincts of Goa, the Portuguese settlement. The manner in which they fulfilled this important trust has been appreciated by the Government of Bombay in one of their letters to your petitioners' fathers, dated 28th March 1836, at the time of abolishing the land customs, in the following words: "The correctness and punctuality displayed by you in your extensive dealings with Government entitle you to every consideration." The result of these extensive dealings has been recorded by one of the officers of Government in his letter to the Revenue Commissioner, dated 31st August 1835, in the words following: "Viccajee Merjee, on the contrary, takes an honest pride in showing the extent to which, by his enterprising spirit, he has not only more than doubled the resources of Government during the short space of seven years, but accumulated for his descendants a competency; and he may well boast of never having given Government a single cause to regret their having given to him, a private individual, the management of an extent of territory and a sum of money never before equalled in the records of any Government." To this your petitioners could add many other testimonies equally pointed and conclusive.

In 1836, when the land customs were abolished, *Viccajee Merjee* and *Pestonjee Merjee* were of necessity unemployed, and as they were excluded from all occupation suitable to their birth, position, and abilities in the British territories, they were induced to repair to the Nizam's country, which is bordering on the Bombay presidency, with the object of increasing the cotton trade from Berar to Bombay, which they had the honour of first opening during their farm of the land and sea customs entrusted to them by the British Government. On this occasion the Nizam's minister, the late Rajah Chundoolall, repeated an offer which he had previously made, to put certain cotton districts of Berar under their management; and on their agreeing, after obtaining possession of those districts, to give loans to the Government, *Viccajee Merjee* and *Pestonjee Merjee*, according to the policy

Appendix, No. 3. invariably pursued by the English Government in India, having no chance of obtaining employment in the British territories suitable to their rank and position, accepted the offer, and agreed to give, and did give, the loans required by the Nizam's Government, it being an express condition, on their making the said advances, that they should hold possession of certain districts in Berar.

The demands for such loans grew gradually more pressing from day to day, and in 1841 seriously alarmed your petitioners, as well as their fathers, and those towards whom they themselves had contracted engagements, in order to obtain the means to meet the demands of the Nizam's Government. However, at this time, Viccajee Merjee and Pestonjee Merjee, as security for the loans, made a security, in which many British subjects had a deep interest, held possession of certain Berar districts, yielding a gross revenue of 23 lacs of Hyderabad rupees, or 200,000*l.* On this occasion they submitted to the Nizam's minister the circumstances which had put their credit in danger, and it was thereupon agreed, with the consent of both parties, namely, of Viccajee Merjee and Pestonjee Merjee, and the Nizam's Government, that they should give up possession of nearly half of the districts then held by them, and should retain that of the other half on the condition that an instrument should be deposited in the British residency, specifying the districts that were to remain in their possession, and that such possession should be confirmed and continued until the claims of the firm of Pestonjee Viccajee were liquidated in full. This arrangement was accordingly carried into effect, the instrument or deed giving effect to it bearing date 18th October 1841, which concludes in these words, that "it has been decided by the Government that, until the liquidation of the aforesaid sum, with interest, the possession of the districts is confirmed, and will be continued to him (Pestonjee Viccajee)," was deposited by the Nizam's government in the British residency; and on the execution of such deed, the possession of nearly half of the districts held by the firm was then, and not till then, given up by them to the Nizam's Government. By this arrangement your Honourable House will observe that, if there had been no meaning in the condition that the instrument in question should be deposited in the British residency, for the security of the possession of the districts specified in it, which were of the gross revenue of 13 lacs of rupees, your petitioners, as well as their fathers, would not have agreed to the arrangement specified above in preference to the actual possession of the whole of the districts, which were of the annual value of 23 lacs of rupees. The cession of the districts yielding a revenue of 10 lacs of rupees was solely made for the sake of obtaining what your petitioners, as well as their fathers, considered the specific security of the British Government, or at least the recognition by that Government of the transaction.

The original instrument now lies in the British residency, and your petitioners' fathers were furnished with an authenticated copy of it by the Resident for the satisfaction of their creditors, as by himself notified to the Nizam's Government, in his letter dated 19th October 1841, before sending a copy to your petitioners' fathers.

Your Honourable House will observe that your petitioners and their fathers were aware that as British subjects they could not have recourse to those means of resistance to the unjust violence of the Nizam which the subjects of the Nizam employ without scruple, and invariably with success; and therefore your petitioners' fathers provided as they conceived, for their security, and the security of their creditors, by depositing the aforesaid instrument in the British residency, representing the British Government in India, and by obtaining a copy of it from the Resident, under his official authentication, for the satisfaction of their creditors.

Now your petitioners beg to show how much confidence they and their creditors had in this arrangement, and in this satisfaction, and in what manner subjects of the British Crown in India have endured wrong because they have faithfully performed their duty by claiming the mediation, and relying on the protection of their own Government, in preference to any attempt to obtain redress by violent resistance to the unjust and illegal conduct of the Nizam.

The financial position of the Nizam's Government becoming every day more critical, by reason of continuing demands upon it for the pay of the British contingent and for other equally urgent State purposes, while the Government treasury became every day less able to meet them, the Government was on several occasions obliged to have recourse to the firm of Pestonjee Viccajee, who again assisted it in its difficulties, by making the necessary advances, with a stipulation in writing from the Nizam's government, bearing date the 5th of May 1843, in the words following, "That until the liquidation, with interest, of your claims, former and present, agreeably to the signed accounts, the possession of the said districts is confirmed and will be continued to you, of which you may rest satisfied." The last sum that was advanced by the firm was only 5 lacs of rupees, given to the Nizam himself, on his solemn assurance of good will, and on his engagement to repay it in six months.

Just four months after this, towards the end of June, 1845, the Nizam's Government, then indebted to the firm to the extent of about 300,000*l.* acknowledged by the Government, issued orders to its own troops to wrest the mortgaged districts from the possession of the firm. These orders were in such direct contravention of the aforesaid arrangement and satisfaction, that it may be asked what could have led the Nizam's Government to such outrages and breach of faith pledged to British subjects, through the mediation of the British representative, by an instrument deposited in his residency.

Your petitioners beg to state that the Nizam's Government, instead of assigning any reason for such a breach of faith even assured the British Resident, at the time the orders of violence

violence were issued, by a letter dated 30th June, 1845, that the claims of the firm would be paid in cash by 6 lacs of rupees annually, through the Resident, until they were liquidated, which promise however has never been fulfilled, but has shared the same fate as the mortgage arrangement, and the satisfaction; but your petitioners having every reason to believe that this breach of faith, on the part of the Nizam, emanated from a conviction that a British subject, in consequence of his allegiance to the British Government, could not follow the example of his Highness's own subjects, and enforce justice for himself by taking the law into his own hands.

Your petitioners would here point out how the subjects of the Nizam compel their Government to do them justice. It is a fact well known to the British residents and officers who have resided in the Nizam's country, and of course through their reports to the Government of India, and a fact attested by a letter now in possession of your petitioners from the English officer in command of the contingent troops stationed in the districts, that when the Nizam's Government issues orders to its troops to sequester districts held by its own subjects for the liquidation of their claims on the Government, they, the district holders, resist the Nizam's troops by all possible means, maintain possession of their districts, and thus compel the Government to act in conformity to its engagements and agreements. During a period dating from a year previous to the dispossession of your petitioners from their mortgaged districts up to the present time, such instances of the district holders offering open resistance to the Nizam's Government have occurred more than 10 times under the eyes of the British authorities there; a fact which your petitioners are ready to prove, if required.

If these district holders have been able to protect their property against the violence of the Nizam, though their districts were of much less extent in value than those assigned to the firm, and being much less beloved by the inhabitants of those districts than your petitioners' fathers, it is reasonable to suppose that your petitioners, and their fathers, who had the possession of a part of the Berar districts, yielding 13 lacs of Hyderabad rupees, or 110,000 L. per annum, and extending from the eastern frontier of the Nizam's territories as far as the western, could (and the fact is so) have maintained possession of the country mortgaged to them in defiance of the illegal orders and violence of the Nizam. But the fact of their being British subjects imposed on them the necessity of submitting to wrong instead of following the example of others by taking the law in their own hands.

Your petitioners' fathers, therefore, as British subjects, appealed to the British Government for protection, by a petition dated the 24th of June 1845, at the very moment the orders of violence were issued by the Nizam's Government at Hyderabad, and handed that petition to the British representative at his Highness's court.

The Resident, before dispatching the petition to the Government of India, considered it his duty to endeavour, in the first place, to prevent the injury and wrong being inflicted on your petitioners and their fathers; and with that view interfered by addressing a letter of remonstrance to the Nizam's Government at the very time the orders of violence were issued, but it had no effect; the Resident, therefore, dispatched the petition to the Government of India for further orders, together with the copies of the correspondence on the subject.

In the meantime the Nizam's troops wrested the possession of the mortgaged districts from your petitioners' fathers by violence and bloodshed, the particulars of which were duly reported by them to the Resident by two letters, dated 2d and 9th August 1845, and by the latter to the Government of India for consideration in continuation of the appeal which they had already made.

Soon after your petitioners and their fathers had thus been unlawfully and forcibly dispossessed of the districts formally transferred to them, as security for the advances made by them to the Nizam's Government, and after having had their servants remorselessly murdered (no pretext for such violence and cruelty having been afforded by resistance on their part to the troops of the Nizam), your petitioners and their fathers had the disappointment of receiving a letter on the 9th of August 1845, in reply to their aforesaid petition, refusing all protection or interference on the part of the British Government.

Your petitioners humbly implore your Honourable House to consider the ruinous consequences to them of this refusal on the part of the Indian Government to extend to them that protection which they humbly ventured to think they were, as British subjects, entitled to demand, and they would hope not the less so from the confidence and reliance they had always placed in the disposition, no less than in the power, of the British Government to protect all its subjects from acknowledged injury and wrong; and the consequent determination of your petitioners, as well as their fathers, to abstain from those means of obtaining redress for themselves which would have been sanctioned by the lawless practices and customs of the Nizam's dominions, but which would have been plainly at variance with their duty and allegiance as subjects of the English Crown.

Since that period, namely, June 1845, up to the present time, namely, June 1853, your petitioners, as well as their fathers and their creditors, being British subjects, have incessantly submitted their wrongs and claims to the consideration of the British Government, both in India and in England, at the several times hereinafter stated:

1. Petition to the Government of India from the Hyderabad firm of Pestonjee Viccajee, dated 24th June 1845.
2. Ditto to ditto, from the Bombay firm of Viccajee Merjee, dated 7th July 1845.
3. Ditto to the Government of Bombay from ditto, ditto, ditto, submitting the above petitioners

- Appendix, No. 3. tion of the 7th July 1845, for transmission to the Government of India, with a recommendation on behalf of the petitioners.
4. Ditto to the Government of India from the Hyderabad firm of Pestonjee Viccajee, dated 4th March 1848.
 5. Ditto to ditto from ditto, dated 11th May 1848.
 6. Ditto to ditto from the Bombay creditors of the firm of Viccajee Merjee, dated 13th March 1848.
 7. Ditto to the Government of Bombay from ditto, dated 28th February 1848.
 8. Ditto to the Government of India from the creditors of the firm of the Calcutta branch, dated 15th March 1848.
 9. Memorial to the Court of Directors from the Hyderabad firm of Pestonjee Viccajee, dated 9th November 1850, submitted through the Government of India.
 10. Memorial to the Court of Directors from the creditors of Viccajee Merjee and Pestonjee Merjee, made on their behalf by their trustees, dated Bombay, 29th October 1850, submitted through the Government of India.
 11. A brief statement of facts laid before the Court of Directors by a letter dated London, 23d April 1851, from Jevanjee Pestonjee and Rustomjee Viccajee.
 12. Petition to the Government of India from the firm of Pestonjee Viccajee, submitted by their agents in Calcutta, dated 18th February 1852.
 13. Ditto to ditto from ditto, dated 26th May 1852.
 14. Memorial to the President of the Board of Control from the firm of Pestonjee Viccajee, submitted by their agents in London, accompanied with a case dated 21st March 1853.
 15. Letter to the President of the Board of Control from Jevanjee Pestonjee and Rustomjee Viccajee, dated 9th June 1853.

Nevertheless, your petitioners, as well as their fathers and their creditors, have unhappily hitherto failed in getting redress. No reason whatever is given by the President of the Board of Control for denial of protection to British subjects in India, as prayed by your petitioners in their memorial to him. But your petitioners believe that the argument which the Court of Directors urge is, that they have laid down a principle of non-interference in native states in India, lest the interference of the irresistible power of the British in the weak state of the Nizam may be supposed to give the force of dictation to their representations. Your petitioners however humbly submit to Your Honourable House that whereas in their case a very weak power has committed a very grievous wrong with perfect impunity, to which their duty as British subjects has compelled them to submit without resistance, it follows conclusively that if the policy adopted by the authorities in India shall be maintained, the consequence of being a subject of the British Crown in India must be, that such subject must either desist from all transactions with the government of a native or foreign state, or must consent to the unresisting victim of the violence or oppression practised upon him.

Your petitioners beg the attention of your Honourable House to a principle adopted by one of the most distinguished men whom India has ever produced, namely, Lord Metcalfe, who held the office of British Resident at the court at Hyderabad, and with whose views and opinions none of the authorities of his time, either in India or in England, were known to differ. Lord Metcalfe, when resident at Hyderabad, wrote in a despatch, dated 31st August 1822, to the Government of India as follows: "I suppose our interference in his Highness's affairs to be not merely a right, but a duty arising out of our supremacy in India, which imposes upon us the obligation of maintaining the tranquillity of all countries connected with us, and consequently of protecting the people from oppression, as no less necessary than the guaranteeing their rulers against revolution." "Interference in the internal concerns of states under our protection is neither desirable nor generous when it can be avoided, and should only then be resorted to when it is clearly necessary for the preservation of the people from the misery and destruction which must ever attend oppression and misrule." "In every case where we support the ruling power, but more especially in such a case as that last described (supporting the minister of the Nizam) we become responsible in a great measure for the acts of the Government, and if they are hurtful to the people, we aid in inflicting the injury." Your Honourable House will further observe, that the Court of Directors, in their despatch to the Government of India, dated 21st January 1824, have issued instructions in the words following: "We agree with Sir Charles Metcalfe, that 'a system of non-interference, founded on regard to the rights of an independent sovereign, if practicable under the circumstances of our intimate connexion with the Nizam's government, would have great and decided advantages, and is that which we ought to endeavour to establish, provided always that the irresistible strength which our protection affords to the Government be not converted to the oppression of the people.' The concluding consideration in the foregoing passage is most important, and constitutes in our mind the strongest objection against our withdrawing from all interference in the concerns of a Government which we are bound by treaty to protect, however tyrannical and oppressive may be its proceedings." Such was the policy of the authorities in India and in England, based upon sound, moderate, and just principles, while Lord Metcalfe was in India; and your
petitioners

petitioners do not hesitate to state the subsequent deviation by the Court of Directors from the very principle laid down by a statesman of great experience and undoubted ability in the organisation of Indian politics, and adopted by the authorities of his time in India and in England, has been the very direct and immediate cause of anarchy, oppression, and tyranny over millions of human beings in that country, whose only refuge, when intolerably oppressed, is in emigration or insurrection, the former of which they sometimes adopt with the greatest pain, and the latter of which they could not and dare not have recourse to, whilst their sovereign and his government are supported by the irresistible power of the British. It is clear that the experience and knowledge of that great and good man Lord Metcalfe, acquired and formed upon the spot, as well as that of those that concurred with him, have had no weight with the authorities, situate at so great a distance, who have latterly laid down the principle of non-interference even in cases of the utmost hardship, such as that of your petitioners. However this principle may be defended as a general rule, it will be found, if invariably carried out, to be based on unwise and unjust presumptions, and to sanction indirectly acts of oppression and of wrong, utterly repugnant to the spirit and practice of English government.

It may be said that, as your petitioners and their fathers hazarded their fortunes in a foreign state, they must run the risk and abide by the consequences arising therefrom. Your petitioners humbly beg to assure your Honourable House that nothing but the invariable internal policy of the English in India, which deprived them from having any share in the government of their own country, as enjoyed by their ancestors, induced them to leave their native land, the Bombay Presidency, and hazard their fortunes in a foreign state; that there your petitioners did not give loans on mere drafts upon revenues, but solely upon the security and possession of certain landed property; and if when there, while your petitioners are under the duty of allegiance to the British Government, at the same time they are denied protection in return for that allegiance, for the sake of the external policy now laid down by the Court of Directors, the condition of the natives of India under the British rule could not be better, but would be worse, than slavery elsewhere, which the English Government have so long endeavoured to abolish.

Your petitioners need not remark how much more in this case the interests of the rulers of British India have been thought of than their duty in respect to the subjects under their rule. The duty of allegiance is enforced against British subjects by their rulers; instead, however, of giving them protection in return, the rulers of British India, in 1851, did actually enforce from the Nizam, by means of intimidation and threat of confiscation of his territory, a payment in cash of about 333,000*l.* on account of the debt due to them by the Nizam, a debt incurred for a purpose similar to that of the claims of your petitioners, viz., the pay of the British contingent; and thus, in preference to fulfilling the most solemn duty imposed on every State, and which binds it to its subjects in consideration of their allegiance, the British Government paid themselves. Not only so, but the last mail from India, which left Bombay on the 23d of May 1853, has brought intelligence which exhibits the conduct of the rulers of British India towards their subjects in a still more striking light. It is to the effect that, in lieu of the arrears and claims in full for the pay of the British contingent, the Governor-general has demanded from the Nizam (to which demand his Highness has acceded) a perpetual cession of that part of his territories, viz., the Berar Valley, which includes nearly two-thirds of the districts mortgaged by the Nizam's government to your petitioners' fathers. These districts were placed in their uncontrolled possession; upon them they gave loans to his Highness; and when they were deprived of them by violence, your petitioners and their fathers, as British subjects, have incessantly appealed to the British Government in India and in England for restitution and redress. That Government, being fully and minutely acquainted with all the facts of this remarkable case, has deliberately thought it just and proper to pursue the course of paying themselves, by the seizure of the property mortgaged to its own subjects: a course which would have been impossible had it not been for the irresistible power vested in the hands of the rulers of British India by the British Crown, and Legislature, but who are by their constitution responsible for the ill use of that power.

If anything could add to the sense of injustice under which your petitioners, as well as their fathers and creditors, are now labouring, it would be found in the fact that the advances in exchange for which they received security by a mortgage on the districts in question were almost entirely required for and spent in the payment of the British troops, as the bills now in the hands of the firm signed by the officers in command prove beyond dispute. This money was advanced at a most critical period before the war in Afghanistan, and during that war. The refusal of the advance by the firm of Pestonjee Viccajee would, beyond all doubt, have provoked a mutiny, and the consequences of that mutiny would have been most serious and full of danger to British interests; and now the East India Company, whose troops have been paid by the money advanced by Pestonjee Viccajee, has taken possession of a large portion of the district mortgaged to Pestonjee Viccajee for the repayment of those advances, and refuses to pay any portion of the debt secured upon those very districts.

These are the facts which are submitted to the mature and deliberate consideration of your Honourable House, and which will be found to prove—

First. That your petitioners and their fathers are acknowledged subjects of the British Crown in India, and therefore bound by the duty of allegiance to the British Government.

Secondly. That they are denied protection, and that the property mortgaged to them, after being

Appendix, No. 3. being plundered by the Nizam, is arbitrarily taken possession of by the British Government in payment of their own claims. To preserve the rights and property of your petitioners inviolate they should either receive protection from those who claim their allegiance, or they should be allowed to protect themselves. Your petitioners are confident that they could do so by following the example of the subjects of the Nizam. But, before taking the law into their own hands, your petitioners, as loyal subjects of the British Crown, consider themselves in duty bound to have the question of their allegiance settled; and they desire, as a bare act of justice, to be informed whether they can proceed to enforce their own claims on the Nizam (and if necessary by violent means) without being guilty of a misdemeanour, and being liable to punishment for violation of the law. If your petitioners follow the example of the Nizam's subjects it may excite revolt, and it may possibly disturb the peace and tranquillity of the neighbouring British provinces; for when hostilities once begin no one knows where they will end.

Your petitioners are therefore unhappily constrained to their last extremity to lay their humble petition for assistance and redress before your Honourable House, and to pray that, if the British Government have a right to claim the allegiance of your petitioners and their fathers to their laws, they should reinstate your petitioners as well as their fathers in possession of the districts solemnly pledged and assigned to them, with all the rights as were vested in them at the time when the Nizam, by violence and a military force, dispossessed them; or that the British Government should allow your petitioners and their fathers to follow the example of others in taking the law into their own hands, and that the British Government should not interfere in the matter whilst your petitioners and their fathers thus seek redress for wrongs, and attempt to repair the injuries done them.

And your petitioners humbly pray for such further assistance and redress as your Honourable House may think fit to grant.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

12, Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, London,
5 July 1853.

Jevanjee Pestonjee,
and
Rustomjee Viccajee.

The humble PETITION of the *Madras* Native Association, and others Native Inhabitants of the Presidency of *Madras*.

Showeth,

1. THAT your petitioners, having read * * * * * in the "Times" and other English newspapers, that Her Majesty's Ministry considers most of the subjects of their petition would be more properly left for the action of the local government, your petitioners beg to represent that the revenue system, against which your petitioners have stated their strongest objections, was called into operation in consequence of the Fifth Report from the Select Committee on the Affairs of the East India Company, dated the 28th July 1812, and printed by Order of your Honourable House, which states at pages 123, 124—

"It appears to the Committee, from the examinations which they have made into the effects of the ryotwar principle of settlement throughout the modern possessions of the Company under the Madras presidency, that it has greatly improved the situation of the cultivator by limiting the bounds of the public assessment, and adjusting the actual demand on each person subject to such assessment according to his ability to satisfy it, by relieving him from the oppressive exactions of the native revenue officers, and securing him in the protection of his property and rights. So favourable a change in their condition has necessarily excited a confidence among the ryots in the equity and justice of the Company's government, and this confidence has derived material strength from having periodically and frequently opened to them a ready and direct channel of communication and intercourse with the immediate representatives of Government, on all matters connected with their interests and grievances, which has had the effect of binding them, as it were, to it, and of rendering them the real instead of nominal subjects of the Company; while the natural consequences have been that the ryots have received a new incentive to industry, cultivation has been gradually extended, by which an augmentation of the public revenue has been yielded without an increase of assessment."

2. That this favourable opinion respecting the ryotwar was given at an early period of its trial on a small scale; and it appears, from the preceding paragraph of the Report, to have been derived from the opinion of three or four collectors who had been instrumental to the introduction of the experiment, among whom was Sir Thomas Munro; but eight years afterwards, during which it had continued on an increasing scale, and in a modified or improved form, called field ryotwar, when Sir Thomas came out as Governor of Madras, he found it absolutely necessary, as stated in your petitioners' former petition, to reduce the amount of the assessment in the district in which ryotwar pressed lightest on the people, namely, the Ceded Districts, 25 per cent. on dry and wet lands, and 33 per cent. on garden lands. Sir Thomas died in India in the year 1827, at which period it was found that the public revenue from the land had then decreased to 42½ lacs, from a revenue of 57 lacs in the year 1807; a convincing proof that the new system up to that date had been a failure.

3. That your petitioners have not the means of knowing the present revenue arising from the ryotwar, but they know that under its operation the ryots have been reduced to poverty
and

and wretchedness; and your petitioners pray that, as the Parliament has been the author of it, or that at least it has been established by its sanction, although in opposition to the opinion and wishes of the local authorities, who declared it to be contrary to the ancient national institutions, and unsuited to the condition and genius of the people, the same authority may now be the instrument of its abolition; not by acting upon the evidence of the Company's servants taken in England, but by instituting a full and impartial inquiry into its merits and demerits on the spot where it is in operation, and among and from the people who are suffering under its withering oppression.

4. That your petitioners are convinced that by no other mode will your Honourable House be able to form a just and clear judgment on the question so momentous to the native subjects of the Crown in the Presidency of Madras; for, without reference in this place to the bias from which the servants of the Company cannot be supposed to free themselves, when speaking as to the effects of the favourite system of their employers, and which they have contributed to enforce and maintain, your petitioners will advert to a particular instance of misinformation given by a gentleman, who, without being suspected of bias, has given positive evidence, the contrary of fact, before the Committee of the Right Honourable the House of Lords.

5. That the gentleman alluded to is Mr. Charles Hay Cameron, formerly the fourth or law member of the Council of India. This gentleman having been interrogated by the Committee which sat during the course of last year, regarding the *lex loci* of 1845, framed, as your petitioners have reason to believe, by himself, and having admitted the receipt of a remonstrance against it from the Hindus of Madras, and Mr. Secretary Bushby's reply, is asked:

"No. 2098. What was the end of it?"

"The law was not passed then, but it has been passed since.

"No. 2099. Was any reply made on the part of the remonstrants to the paper which you have read?"

"No reply; I believe the justice of the doctrine was acquiesced in."

And in a subsequent examination the same gentleman is asked:

"No. 2359. Was there any reply received from the petitioners after that document (Mr. Secretary Bushby's letter of the 24 May 1845) had been communicated to them?"

"There was no reply received: there was another remonstrance of the same kind from some Hindoos at Calcutta, in reply to which we enclosed the answer that we had previously sent to the Madras Hindoos, stating that that contained our principles on the subject.

"No. 2363. After the passing of the *lex loci* had been suspended, in the manner which you have described on a former occasion, at what period was the subsequent law of the three articles introduced, proposing to re-enact those provisions with respect to the property of Christian converts?"

"Legislative consultations of the 2 August 1845, I find to be the marginal note on the draft made by me.

"No. 2364. Are you aware of any remonstrance, analogous to that from Madras which had been previously addressed to the Government, having been repeated when those clauses were proposed as a separate measure?"

"I have no recollection of any such remonstrance; I never heard of any after the two I have mentioned."

6. That Mr. Cameron had no intention to mislead the Select Committee of the House of Lords is clear, from his reply to question

"No. 2366. Your evidence as to the appeal against the clauses applied to what occurred during your own stay in India?"

"To what occurred during my own stay in India."

But, as the fact of silence on the part of the Madras Hindus seems to be implied by another evidence, Sir Herbert Maddock, who, when stating in answer to No. 2,239, that a remonstrance was made to Mr. Bushby's reply, points out, No. 2,241, that it was from the Hindu inhabitants of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, the inference left on the minds of the Committee, your petitioners apprehend, must have been that the Madras memorialists acquiesced in the justice of the doctrines, as stated by Mr. Cameron; and, as such an inference is not warranted from the facts of the case, your petitioners deem it of consequence to explain the circumstances as they actually occurred.

That no reply was sent to Mr. Bushby's letter from the Hindus of Madras during Mr. Cameron's residence in this country is undoubtedly correct; but as soon as the draft of the Act of Three Articles was promulgated in the Fort of St. George Gazette, at this presidency, in November 1849, a remonstrance was immediately forwarded against it to the Supreme Government, regarding which Mr. Bethune, who had succeeded to council as law member, observes, "a great part of it is taken up with an elaborate argument in reply to Mr. Bushby's answer to the memorial of 1845." This remonstrance was printed along with other papers by order of your Honourable House on the 7th May 1851; and your petitioners beg to state that neither they, nor the remonstrants, nor the Madras Hindu community, have ever acquiesced in the doctrines laid down by Mr. Bushby; but, on the contrary,

Appendix, No. 3. contrary, they consider the legislation on the *lex loci* to be a direct infringement of the civil rights, and a positive violation of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 21 Geo. 3, c. 70, ss. 17 and 18, as well as of the 53rd section of the present Charter Act.

8. That your petitioners allude to this circumstance chiefly to show the manifest uncertainty of the evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committees; and, as the witnesses examined, without a single exception, are persons who have received, or are still in the receipt of, benefits from the East India Company, your petitioners are compelled to believe that the actual state of things cannot be correctly ascertained without sufficient evidence being admitted on both sides of the several questions which have to be determined; and your petitioners, therefore, humbly represent that nothing but a full and impartial investigation in this country, accessible to the complainants as well as to the defendants, can place before your Honourable House the real state of India, and the existence of the many and heavy grievances of which they have complained as regards the presidency of Madras; they therefore respectfully request that a Royal Commission may be appointed, before which they may have the opportunity of substantiating the facts advanced in their former petition.

9. That your petitioners beg to represent that an Indian Commission is not altogether a novelty, there being a precedent in the one appointed in the year 1814, of which Sir Thomas Munro was the head, for the purpose of inquiring into and amending the judicial system then obtaining at this presidency; but, as not only the judicial system, but likewise that of the revenue, as also the various other complaints preferred by your petitioners, imperatively demand investigation at this critical period, your petitioners pray that the Commission they now seek may be constituted upon the widest practicable basis, to the end that the inquiry may be searching, impartial, and complete, and that no permanent legislation for India may be undertaken until the fullest information possible shall have been laid before and fully discussed by the Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom.

10. That your petitioners have already requested the continuance of the councils at the minor presidencies, and they now respectfully reiterate their prayer to have them constituted on the precedent of the council on the island of Ceylon, in which your petitioners' countrymen have enjoyed seats for a series of years; and, as your petitioners understand that constitutions have been, or are on the eve of being, granted to the settlements of the Cape of Good Hope and New Zealand, admitting the natives there to the same electoral and municipal privileges as the European colonists, they humbly and anxiously trust that your Honourable House will not deem the barbarians of the former, and the cannibals of the latter colony more deserving or more fitting to be entrusted with a share in the management of their own affairs, than the inhabitants of a country which for scores of centuries has been renowned throughout the world for its civilisation, literature, and commerce, and which had its own sovereigns, governments, and codes of law, long before the English nation had a name in history.

11. That, while your petitioners acknowledge and have asked for the advantage of a reconstruction and improvement of the home and local administration of India, yet that alone will be of no avail to redress the grievances and reform the abuses of the local governments, so long as they are composed of two or three Company's officials, legislating in the utmost secrecy, and concealing with the most assiduous carefulness the whole of their transactions, secure not only from all check, but from the least shadow of knowledge on the part of the people, whose interests are unfortunately considered of not the slightest consequence to the Government whose duty it is to legislate for their sole benefit.

12. That your petitioners will consider themselves and their community deeply humiliated and deeply aggrieved, if, after the open acknowledgments of persons high in office in this country and in England, that they are as capable to hold responsible employments as the members of the now exclusive civil service; that they are their equals on the bench, and successful competitors in the study of European arts, science, and literature, they are longer shut out from the offices for which they are confessedly qualified, while the savage Hottentot and New Zealander are preferred before them.

13. That your petitioners finally conclude with the expression of their earnest hope and prayer that sufficient time may be granted for a thorough inquiry into all points affecting the welfare of this country, as distributed under the eight heads laid down by the Committee of your Honourable House; that the local councils may be retained, and modelled upon the constitutional principle before adverted to; and that a Royal Commission, composed of Europeans and natives conjointly, chosen partly in Europe and partly in India, may be issued, to enter upon and complete the necessary investigation in this country.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

T. Auroomoogavy.
V. Somasoondram.
S. Namasevogum.
&c. &c. &c.

Madras, 21 May 1853.

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain and Ireland* in Parliament assembled.

Appendix, No. 3

The PETITION of Dr. *George Buist*, Editor of "*Bombay Times*," Secretary to the Geographical Society, founder and superintendent of the School of Industry, late Sheriff of *Bombay*, and formerly in charge of the Astronomical, Meteorological and Magnetic Observatories of the East India Company at *Bombay*; formerly Secretary to the Agricultural Society of *Western India*, and in charge of their Experimental Gardens,

Showeth,

THAT your petitioner has been close on 20 years connected as editor with the newspaper press; for a third of that period as editor and proprietor; having for nearly eight years conducted, with credit and success, newspapers in the central counties of Scotland, Forfar, Perth and Fife, and for more than 12 been editor; and for six, editor and principal proprietor of the oldest and most extensively circulated journal in Western India, the "*Bombay Times*;" and that for the whole of this long period he has had constant occasion to study most carefully newspapers from nearly all parts of the world; those of London in particular, to some of which he has been a large and highly-paid contributor, having occupied his closest attention.

That the "*Bombay Times*," one of three daily papers published at the presidency, was brought into existence in 1838, shortly after the passing of the Charter Act (1834), and the removal of the disabilities of the press by Lord Metcalfe (1835); and with the express view of advocating public improvement, and devoting itself to the interests of the country, to the discussion of the views and policy of Government, and the examination and diffusion of those opinions, facts and doctrines, the circumstances of the occasion and exigencies and prospects of the period rendered expedient, with the cordial approval of Sir Robert Grant, the Governor of the time, and countenance and support of the most distinguished servants of Government. Its projectors and proprietors comprised amongst them 11 of the principal European houses in *Bombay*; the oldest and most distinguished native merchant; two of the most eminent barristers before the Supreme Court, and the most distinguished private medical practitioner in Western India. That they selected as their editor Dr. Brennan, a lecturer of eminence on anatomy, in Dublin, whose health rendered a warm climate desirable, and who, on his arrival at *Bombay*, was elected to the then responsible office of secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, besides being editor of the "*Times*."

That the proprietors of the "*Courier*," the principal paper in *Bombay* up to 1838, and long the recognised organ of Government, were equally eminent as those of the "*Bombay Times*;" and that the paper had engaged from time to time the services as editors of many of the most talented servants of Government.

That the first editor of the "*Bombay Times*," Dr. Brennan, having died in 1839, the paper was for a time conducted by Professor Henderson, of the Elphinstone College, a servant of Government; afterwards by Dr. Knight, at present Residency Surgeon, Khota, and of the Bengal Medical Service; and that your petitioner having been selected, from the eminence he had attained as a provincial journalist in Scotland, to the editorship of the "*Bombay Times*," entered on his duties in May 1840, and has continued to conduct the paper ever since, with the highest approbation of his employers, on the principles on which it was originally started.

From the constant fluctuations in the mercantile community in *Bombay*, numerous changes in the proprietary have from time to time taken place; and the "*Times*" having always yielded, as it continues to yield, from 30 to 40 per cent. of dividends annually on the amount originally invested, a number of the most distinguished servants of Government became proprietors soon after the promulgation of the permission of the Court of Directors for its civil and military servants to connect themselves with the press. In 1847, the principal proprietors, after your petitioner, were the Puisne Judge of the Sudder Adawlut, the Collector of Customs, the Deputy Quarter-master-general, now Quarter-master-general of the *Bombay* army, the Secretary to the Medical Board, afterwards Physician-general, and the Medical Storekeeper, now Superintending Surgeon at the Presidency; and, with two exceptions, one from retirement from the service, and the other from promotion, these gentlemen still continue principal proprietors of the paper.

That your petitioner has not only devoted the columns of the "*Bombay Times*" to the advancement of good government, to the spread of education, of improvement, and economy, to the denunciation of those bloody and superfluous wars which, within these 12 years, have cost us 30 millions sterling, and that policy which, under the name of expediency, disregards the principles of truth and justice, and sets up a standard of morals for statesmen opposed to the principles of Christianity, and the evils of which to our name and character, as Wellington has so well remarked, cannot be compensated by the most brilliant victories; but has, as far as circumstances permitted, endeavoured, in his private capacity, to promote the improvements he, as an editor, recommended: a circumstance to which numerous letters of acknowledgment received from Government bear ample testimony.

Under these circumstances, it is with much surprise, mortification, and chagrin, that your petitioner has seen it stated in the evidence laid before the Committee of your Honourable House, that the newspapers in India, with the exception of a Bengal journal, called "*The Friend*

Appendix, No. 3. Friend of India," are uniformly and universally hostile to the Government, and are continually engaged in impugning and slandering its proceedings; and that though they admit of corrections, when made to them, still their tendency is that of unceasing and continual hostility to the authorities.

That so far is this from being the fact in the case of your petitioner, that he has been frequently charged by his brethren with being the organ of the local Government; and in the majority of cases coming under discussion, his views and those of the Government have coincided with each other. That being averse to needless aggression and uncalled-for war, he was opposed to the general policy of the Government from 1840 to 1845; that since then he has been a warm supporter and ardent admirer of the proceedings of the Governor-general of India almost throughout. Your petitioner was at one with the Bombay Government in the deposition of the Rajah of Sattara; in their views of the war of Affghanistan, and on the conquest of Scinde, in their views of the conduct of the Nuffoosh Commission; the Court of Directors having in 1851 expressed themselves in nearly the same terms as were used by your petitioner on the subject in the previous year. That your petitioner highly applauded the revenue arrangements of Government; their anxiety to promote improvements in the culture of cotton; their desire to advance native education by conferring Government appointments on the most distinguished of the native scholars, and the employment of natives more extensively than before in the public service; in their appointments of the residents at Sattara and Baroda, and the Commissioner in Scinde, and in the great majority of other arrangements: an evidence at once, it is hoped, of the merits of the Government, and the independence and soundness of the views of your petitioner.

Your petitioner, at the commencement of his editorial career, strongly condemned the existing state of the Post-office arrangements, and in recommending their improvement, collected, with great labour and care, and published, a vast mass of steam and mail statistics which he found scattered about in a hundred different quarters, and which your petitioner, for the first time, put into a convenient and popular form; and the desired changes were, in a great measure, brought about in the course of two years. That your petitioner in 1840 condemned the arrangements then made for the reception of sick soldiers from Aden, and a general order was a few weeks afterwards issued securing the remedies suggested. That your petitioner was opposed to the Government in the late discussions on Baroda matters, but had a very large number of the Court of Directors on his side; and, but for the principle of supporting the authorities, would most likely have had them all of his opinion. That your petitioner has been all along hostile to the existence of sinecure sheriffships, and the appointment has accordingly been abolished. That in 1849 your petitioner pointed out the enormous sums expended in the Affghan war, and the derangement of our commercial relations, which the transmission of so much specie into a country from which it would not for many years return, must occasion; and the views of your petitioner were fully borne out by the state into which the finances of India had been brought in 1841, when the Honourable Mr. Bird, then President in Council, stated to Sir Henry Willock that the shutting of the treasury in September had been contemplated; by the statement made by the late Sir Robert Peel, in assigning this as one of the reasons for the imposition of the Income Tax, and by the accounts of the Honourable East India Company, since then published; and that, in like manner, in the great majority of occasions in which your petitioner has chanced to be opposed to some one division of the authorities, his views have been borne out by the others, and have been afterwards shown to be in consonance with fact. He considered the annexation of the Punjaub unwise and unjustifiable in 1846, and it was left in the hands of the Sikhs; and he deemed its annexation inevitable in 1848, and in 1849 it was annexed.

That your petitioner has observed that, in the examination of Mr. John Stuart Mill, of the India House, before the Committee of the House of Lords, it is insinuated that the press of India is inferior to that of England in its tone: that in England the tone of newspaper writing is in general superior to that of ordinary conversation; that in India it is the reverse to such an extent, that a most erroneous view of English society would be taken were it judged of by the press; that newspapers in India are of very little use to Government, unless in promoting inquiry; that the English newspaper press in India is only the organ of English society, chiefly of the part of it unconnected with Government, and has little to do with natives or the interests of the country.

The groundlessness of the last of these imputations will be apparent, when it is recollected that there are seven daily and 20 or 30 tri-weekly or bi-weekly newspapers in India, and that there are not as many Europeans in the country altogether, not connected with Government, as could provide subscribers or supply intelligence for a single daily newspaper.

That in point of fact, a large number of the newspapers are principally or wholly the property of servants of Government, and are conducted by retired invalid officers from the Queen's or Company's army. That your petitioner is prepared to prove, what must be well known to many Members of your Honourable House, who have long been readers of the "Bombay Times," that however inferior the best of the newspapers of India may be to those at home in point of talent, that in point of propriety of expression and decorum of language, and in point of amount of space devoted by them to important subjects of discussion, or in point of the magnitude and importance of these as bearing on the interests of the country, they are second to no newspapers in existence.

Setting

Setting aside the space required for advertising, for military and shipping lists, general orders, and prices current, a full third part of the area of the journals of India is occupied by extracts from the very best home publications; from the Edinburgh, Quarterly, North British and Westminster Reviews; from Blackwood's, Fraser's, Tait's, and other magazines; from the Athenæum, Literary Gazette, Chambers' and Hogg's publications, together with carefully selected extracts from the very best of the London daily and weekly newspapers; that fact of papers being got up at home once a fortnight expressly for the use of subscribers in India, relieving the Indian newspapers of the Parliamentary and other reports, which often occupy so unprofitably so large a portion of the journals at home, affords room for selections they could not otherwise command; that so far from directing less space to the cause of good government, the spread of education and public improvement than is devoted to these subjects by the papers at home, they devoted a vast deal more of dealing with statistics, agriculture, police, municipal, sanitary, commercial, and other such like matters bearing directly on the improvement of the country, and welfare of the people is to be considered such where party politics are things unknown, rather than the political controversies and factious disputes and abuse from which their columns are exempt. That by means, such as those now related, a vast quantity of valuable and interesting information, much of it gathered from printed public documents, but transmuted into a condensed, popular, and readable form, is diffused amongst the members of the service, and more intelligent of the native community; the former of whom are, in India, very apt to lose habits of reading altogether; the latter of whom require still in a great measure to acquire them; both turning to the local newspapers as the chief sources of supply.

That it is difficult to define what the precise tone of conversation is amongst the reading classes either in England or in India, and therefore impossible to compare the one with the other, or to ascertain the precise relation the tone of newspaper speculation bears to that of conversation in the one country or in the other; but your petitioner has already shown that the newspapers in India are in no respect, save talent and magnitude, behind their English brethren; the chief imperfection with which they are chargeable being due to those enormous postage charges imposed upon them, and the limited size to which they are restricted, these two combining to induce them to concentrate more of their attention on, and devote more of their space to, local incidents of little general importance than they otherwise would do. That they are not even in this respect behind the spirit of the age, may be judged of from the recommendation of the report of the Post-office Commissioners, now under the consideration of Government, to the effect, that such an additional postage be imposed on newspapers imported from England as virtually to exclude them from all parts of India but the presidencies.

That not only is the newspaper press of India at least equal in its tone to that of England, but it is a vast way superior to it, and in general to the statesmen of the day, in the possession of important and accurate information, as will presently appear. On the 23d of June 1842, Sir John Hobhouse stated in the House of Commons, in opposition to the motion of Mr. Bailey for the production of the papers, in an un mutilated form, on which the Afghan war was grounded, that Lord Palmerston and his colleagues considered the explanations of Count Nesselrode in reference to the proceedings of Russia in connexion with the affairs of Herat satisfactory, because they were carried into effect, and Count Simonech and Lieutenant Vicovick were recalled. According to the official despatches, published by Parliament, the satisfaction to the Russian Cabinet here referred to was intimated to Count Nesselrode under date 1st November 1838, the recall having first been made known on the 5th of March 1839; a discrepancy duly exposed at the time by your petitioner. About the same time, Lord Fitzgerald and De Vesci, the President of the Board of Control, affirmed that his predecessors had not unfairly garbled the Blue Book of 1839; the papers of Sir Alexander Burnes, having been published entire by your petitioner, by desire of the relatives of that lamented officer, show, as is now universally admitted, instances of garbling such as find no parallel in history. In June 1841, Lord Palmerston, in addressing the electors at Tiverton, described the whole of Afghanistan as in a state of such unexampled tranquillity, that an unarmed Englishman might ride as safely through the midst of its wilds as he could have ridden from Tiverton to John o'Groat's house, the name of a British officer being a passport everywhere. That at this very time your petitioner had published an enumeration of 33 actions, in 13 of which our troops had been unsuccessful, which had taken place within the preceding twelvemonth: and the Board of Control, of which the Noble Lord was a member, must have had in their hands documents giving accounts of Shelton's operations in the Nagian Valley; the general discontents in Kohistan, the three separate expeditions of Farrington and Woodburn in the Helmund; the preparations for Griffin's expedition; the Nooskey expedition, the unhappy affair of Kojjuch, the general movements of troops on Scinde and Shawl, with the universal marching and counter-marching of detachments throughout the country, occupied as we then were in five simultaneous or immediately consecutive campaigns around Jellalabad, Khelati Ghilzie, Ghirisk, Moorstong, and the Sebee country. In the "Overland Times," for July 1841, estimates of the expenses of the Afghan War up to that date was published by your petitioners, so closely approaching the statements afterwards given from official authority, by Sir Henry Willock and Sir Robert Peel, as to show the close approaches that could be made to truth by those who earnestly sought after it; and, from these and other inquiries, your petitioner came to the conclusion which he published about the period referred to, that to maintain the Dooranee alliance was next to impossible; the attempt to maintain ourselves in Afghanistan a folly, which could not but issue in the most frightful disasters. Had the warnings he then gave been

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been attended to in time, the events of Cabool, which six months afterwards justified the soundness of his views, might have been avoided, and the darkest chapter in our history left unwritten. In 1842 Lord Palmerston taunted Sir Robert Peel with the supposed intentions of the Ministry to abandon the Dooranee alliance, and retire from Affghanistan, in obvious ignorance of the resolution come to by Lord Auckland, on the 3d of December 1841, and then known to the Board of Control, that, in the event of the loss of Cabool, no attempt should be made to renew the occupation of Affghanistan. That in 1843, your petitioner, who had been one of the most ardent admirers of Lord Ellenborough while he professed nothing but peace and improvement, and of Sir Charles Napier before he attacked the Ameers, pointed out the monstrous injustice of our invasion of Scinde. He prepared an estimate, now fully justified by fact, that it could not be maintained with less than an augmentation of 8,000 men; and accordingly, betwixt 1843 and 1841, the Bombay army was increased by 13,605, from 51,694 to 65,299; the latter number not being likely hereafterwards to be diminished; even now Aden is garrisoned by Madras troops. At the same time he estimated the annual expense, it must impose upon us at about half-a-million sterling, thus falling about a third or fourth short of fact. That at both these periods the journals at home, and leading speakers of the time, seemed in extasies with the imagined wisdom that had been displayed, and the rare good fortune that had attended it; when in reality our misconduct was drawing down upon ourselves the heaviest calamities that could have befallen us. All these things are now matter of history, as much beyond the reach of remedy as of dispute. Had the press or the politicians of England examined or believed the statements then set forth by your petitioner, and all since fully verified, the blot which Scinde throws upon our good name might have been obliterated, and the disgrace and mischief it has occasioned us avoided.

That shortly after the liberation of the press, Lord Auckland most wisely expressed his anxiety to encourage the servants of Governments to connect themselves with the newspapers, and that Government should afford journalists all the information that could be given them under the secret system insisted on from home; desiring thereby to increase the predispositions that he knew must exist to speak favourably of Government when present or former Government servants were the speakers, and those still in Government employment the listeners. In March 1842, and August 1843, all this was put an end to by the order of Lord Ellenborough; and the Court of Directors, who were understood to have disapproved of nearly every other measure under his Lordship's administration, have permitted the most objectionable of them all to pass uncensured.

That from the time the measure of Governor Metcalfe deprived Government of the power of deporting editors for reprinting the Reports of Parliament, or articles of intelligence of the home newspapers, and of indulging, as they did most freely, in persecutions of the press, scarcely surpassed by those of France of the present date, there seems to have been a constant disposition to injure, by slander, those who could not be reached by law; Lord Auckland and those around him proving honourable exceptions.

That on the 12th of February 1841, Mr. Hume called the attention of the House of Commons to certain obnoxious statements made by correspondents in the "Agra Akbar and Bombay Times," in reference to the death of a trooper of the 2nd Bengal Cavalry, said to have been shot in a corn-field near Ghuznee in July 1839, while supposed marauding, in reference to which the conduct of Lord Keane was severely blamed. The Chairman of the Board of Control, then bringing forward a motion for a pension of 2,000 l. a year to his Lordship and his descendants, stated that the moment he observed the reports in the newspapers on the subject, he made the most diligent inquiries as to its truth at the India House, the India Board, and at parties who had shared in the Affghan campaign, and found that the statements in the newspapers, which he termed "rascally," were false; that the trooper had been shot at night by the videttes, under the order of the Provost Marshal's strict directions, and that the report had never been heard of till after Lord Keane had quitted India.

That your petitioner, who had just then (May 1820) arrived in India, and could individually have no knowledge of the matter, and no bias in favour or against any one, received his information from a distinguished staff officer of Lord Keane's army, and who is still alive; and your petitioner is in a position to prove that the trooper was shot during the day, not by the videttes at all, as the regimental records will show that he was wounded by small shot never used in the army; and that the piece was fired by Lord Keane's own hand, who naturally, of course, prevented any official report from being furnished to Government, though authentic information must exist regarding it in the hospital returns of the regiment and in the records of the Bengal Medical Board. Instead of never being noticed till after Lord Keane had quitted India, on the 31st of March 1840, it was fully discussed in the "Agra Akbar," and most of the other Indian newspapers in August 1839, and in the "London Spectator" of February 1840; leaving sufficient time for making inquiries at the proper quarter before the pension discussion came on. That Lord Keane was himself not slow in noticing what appeared in the newspapers, may be gathered from the action in which he was cast against the "Bombay Gazette" in July 1836, for having republished from the "Englishman" a letter, accusing him of having caused a trooper, condemned at Deesa, to be hanged without the sanction of the Government, required by the regulations; and the fact of his having passed the present charge, pronounced so grossly libellous in the House of Commons, by unnoticed, indicates that he felt its truth. The names of the newspaper writers,

writers, though, according to custom, withheld from the letters, were perfectly well known; the manuscripts of some of them are still in the hands of your petitioner, and there is no reason to doubt that, if called upon, they would not be unwilling to substantiate their statements, the truth of which no one in India ever doubted.

On the same occasion, and with the view apparently of throwing further discredit on the press, it was stated by Sir John Hobhouse, "That the House was aware that, in the last campaign (that is, the campaign under Lord Keane in 1839, then being considered by the House) a disaster had befallen our troops under command of Major Clibborn, while endeavouring to relieve a fort." The two subjects getting mingled up in the debate, and both forming grounds of obloquy on the press. That a commission had been appointed to inquire into the disaster, the reports of which had been surreptitiously obtained and published by the newspapers just before the departure of the mail of the 1st December.

In point of fact, the trooper of the 2d Cavalry was shot in July 1839, near Ghuznee, in the centre of Afghanistan, 60 days march at least from the pass of Nuffoosk, where Major Clibborn was repulsed on the 31st of August 1840, 13 months afterwards; nine months after Lord Keane had quitted command in Afghanistan, and five months after he had left Bombay for England. The report of the Commission, which bears date 22d of November 1840, obtained publicity through the instrumentality of General Brooks, its chairman, subsequently deprived of his command of the troops in Scinde as a punishment for this. It appeared in the "Bombay Courier" on the 19th of December, that paper being blameless in the matter; not, as stated, immediately before the despatch of the mail, or with any view whatever to the injury of the prospects of Lord Keane, who could in no shape be affected by it, and in reference to whom it was not known that any debate was impending, but 12 days beforehand; leaving abundance of time for the commentaries which were made upon it in the "Bombay Times," and which were sent home along with it by your petitioner, which expressed the very same sentiments, in almost the same words as those expressed by the Bombay Government six months, and by the Court of Directors nearly a twelvemonth afterwards.

On the same occasion, Lord John Russell spoke of Lord Keane's crossing the Indus on his advance, as an event of sufficient importance to be coupled with his march through the Bholan Pass. Lord Keane and the Bombay column in reality marched through Scinde by Larkhana to the mouth of the pass, and never crossed the river at all.

In July 1843, a letter from General Nott appeared in the English newspapers, bearing date Lucknow, 4th of April, and which must have been sent home direct for publication, in reply to one from Sir James Lumley, Adjutant-general of the Bengal army, of 29th of March, calling upon him, by direction of the Governor-general, to report upon certain excesses said to have been committed by the British troops in Afghanistan. The letter of Sir James Lumley has never appeared in print, and its tenor can only be gathered from the terms of the reply, written, as it is, in a wild, declamatory tone, apparently from the first intended for the press, and as unlike as possible the calm and temperate style of official correspondence between an old major-general and the adjutant-general of the army. It would appear that General Lumley, by direction of Lord Ellenborough, had asserted that certain very infamous imputations had been made against the army by the newspapers, and these were pronounced to be "gross and villanous falsehoods;" in reality, they were never made by any one, or heard of in India, until General Nott's letter denouncing them appeared; and the conclusion that the whole affair was got up with the view of giving a blow to the character of the press, is inevitable. General Nott's letter was forwarded to England through the Secret Department, and was not made known to the Court of Directors by the Secret Committee till after its publication, of which no notice seems ever to have been taken by the Government of India, although severely blamed in the official despatch of the Court to the Governor-general, under date 2 August 1843. Yet so averse at this time was the Government of India to all communication of its servants with the press, that Mr. Erskine, of the Bengal Civil Service, had the previous year been punished by loss of employment for sending to the "Friend of India" an extract from a private note, from his kinsman, Sir William Macnaughten; and the publication in the "Bombay Times," of a letter from Colonel Sleeman, Resident at Bundelkund, correcting some misstatements in reference to his proceedings, called forth the most stringent general order against all communications with the press.

The extent to which the newspapers of India are indebted to the servants of Government for support, instead of being prepared for and maintained by those unconnected with the services, as asserted, is easily susceptible of distinct and specific proof from the subscription lists of the newspapers themselves, which will be produced if required, or by the examination of the editors. In 1848 the "Mofussilite" printed a list of all its subscribers, from which it appeared that four-fifths of these were members of the public service; and in a classified list of its subscribers, lately laid before the proprietors of the "Bombay Times," and which is at the service of the Committee, it appears that out of a thousand subscribers, assuming that to be the number on the list (123) one hundred and twenty-three were civil servants of the Government; (179) one hundred and seventy-nine messes of regimental libraries; (317) three hundred and seventeen military men; (52) fifty-two British merchants; (36) thirty-six banks and public corporations; (26) twenty-six were natives; (243) two hundred and forty-three were private individuals, uncovenanted servants, tradesmen, &c.; the rest clergymen, lawyers, native rajahs, and the like; or in all 719, or two-thirds of the whole,

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whole, were officers under the Crown, or covenanted servants of Government. It may safely be assumed that the maxim which holds good all over the world will obtain in India, and that the amount and nature of commodities brought to market will speedily adjust themselves to the demand; that newspaper proprietors will supply, and newspaper editors write, what is deemed most popular and acceptable amongst the newspaper-reading classes, and what they are best disposed to pay for. That the returns on such things are ample, will be seen from a paper published in 1850, when the "Bombay Times" changed its proprietors; by this it was shown that, during the previous 10 years, your petitioner had earned as remuneration for himself, or free profit for his employers, the sum of 33,000 *l.* sterling in cash, besides meeting all the charges of the establishment, and extending its strength and efficiency.

The picture presented to your Committee of the press of India, representing, as it does, journalists lately or still practising at the bar, connected as professors with our colleges, or belonging to the legal or medical or military profession, indulging from pure perversity, in false law, vulgar, profligate, and worthless writing, such as must shock and disgust the readers for whom it is provided, and who form a newspaper constituency unparalleled for selectness, would be, were it faithfully printed, an anomaly unexampled in the world.

On the examination of Mr. Melvill, in the Committee of the House of Lords, their Lordships have most wisely pointed out the great mischiefs occasioned by the apathy of the people of England in reference to Indian affairs, and suggested the importance of endeavouring to confer greater consequence and order on the meetings and debates of the Court of Proprietors, with this object in view; yet a dead set seems to be made from all quarters against the press of India, through the means of which alone the people at home can be enlightened as to the current events of the day, there being no other organs which now exist, or are likely to be brought into existence, for public information; the mistakes of the home journals whenever they venture beyond the information supplied them from the East, forming the most fruitful subjects of ridicule in India, of which the recent alarms in reference to the war in Burmah, the progress of which had been so faithfully traced beforehand by the Indian newspapers, forms an example, and that the errors of public men occurring by accident being enhanced by those which are intentional, as in the case of the papers of Sir Alexander Burnes of 1838, and the despatches from Sale's brigade in 1841, leaving no source of information open for the public to resort to that is unobjectionable, save that the press of India supplies.

That the sources of these aspersions or misapprehensions seem to lie in the misconduct of a small proportion of the journals of India, for the most part conducted by men fresh arrived from newspaper offices at home; journals which do not more fairly represent the press of India in general than do the "Satirists," "Ages," and "Towns" of London represent the newspapers of England; the existence of which at all times, precarious and short-lived, might seem inconceivable were it not from the diversity of tastes amongst us, such as that manifested by the late Commander-in-chief Sir Charles Napier, who mentioned the "Gentleman's Gazette," in his public letters, as the only upright and respectable paper in India, that journal having been pronounced by the unanimous voice of the Indian press a disgrace to it.

That the officers of the Indian army and members of the civil service, who may be supposed to be tolerable judges of such matters, send home by every mail 3,000 or 4,000 copies of Indian newspapers for the uses of their friends, although these cost from two to three times the price of newspapers published in London, professedly devoted to Indian subjects, and which embody, at least, twice the amount of the printed matter Indian newspapers afford; that the character of our newspapers throughout the Continent must be very different from that the witnesses before your Committee confer on it; may be inferred from the fact that your petitioner has long had on his subscription list a considerable proportion of the courts or leading statesmen throughout the east of Europe.

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that your Honourable House will give instructions to your Committee now assembled for the investigation of Indian affairs, that, instead of accepting, as hitherto, evidence on the state of the press, emanating, as in the case of Mr. Mill, either from gentlemen who profess to possess no personal knowledge on the subject, but are made to assent to the most obnoxious and injurious insinuations interwoven in the questions put to them, or who may of themselves become prejudiced against the press from strictures made by it on their own public conduct, or may consider it, as a vast number of public servants still do, the grossest impertinence in newspapers to presume to make any remark whatever on the conduct and condition of the privileged classes; that they will summon before them gentlemen, and cause them to be duly interrogated, from India or at home, now or formerly connected with the press in the East, who alone can speak with authority on this most important subject.

The Indian newspaper press is now on its trial; the great measure of Lord Metcalfe has come into operation. Since last Charter Act was passed, the fears expressed by Serjeant Spankie and other distinguished men 25 years ago, of the frightful consequences of unlicensed journalism in India, have proved as visionary as the alarm of Mr. Melvill and others at the consequences of free trade; the ignorance prevalent regarding it, even amongst men of the highest talent connected with India, will be seen from the grievous misstatements in Horton's History, in the articles written by a distinguished Bengal civilian in the "North British Review,"

Review," 1845, in Mr. Campbell's book, and Mr. Mill's evidence; which has not only been shown to be untrue and without foundation, but to involve the absurdity of upwards of 100,000 *l.* a year being spent by the servants of the Company, or officers of the Queen's army, on what he described as the most contemptible literary rubbish that can be produced, when the very best might have been, on the same terms, procured by them; and for many a day to come the newspaper press of India must furnish the sole means by which the community at home can become enlightened as to what is passing in the East, in reference to which the published despatches and Ministers of the Crown so often mislead them so fearfully. The extent to which English education is now spreading amongst the native community is rapidly introducing habits of reading, not before in existence, and which will, of course, seek gratification from the English newspapers, as being most readily attainable and at hand; and it is therefore of the utmost importance, both to England and India, that no misapprehension shall exist as to the position the newspaper press actually occupies. If it should prove to be the mean, vile, and contemptible thing it is described, some means should be taken to qualify it for the all-important tasks it ought to perform, and the lofty destinies that seem to await English journalism in every part of the world; if, as your petitioner maintains, it be otherwise, the delusion, apparently at present so general, ought not to obtain additional weight or countenance from the results of the investigations before the Committee of your Honourable House.

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That your petitioner is unwilling to intrude any personal or private considerations in a subject possessed of sufficient public importance to claim the attention of Parliament; but your Honourable House will admit that few things can be found more unjust, cruel, or intolerable, than for the only body of professionally literary men existing in the East, labouring with the utmost earnestness and singleness of purpose as public instructors, and for the public good, often individually devoting an amount of time, labour, and thought to benevolent enterprises, such as might put highly-paid public servants to shame, and whose great ambition themselves is to deserve and secure the approbation of their countrymen, stigmatised without a shadow of excuse or foundation as coarse, untrustworthy, vulgar, slanderous writers, worthy of no respect or estimation whatever, and whose statements are entitled to no weight or consideration.

That your petitioner, in seeking redress for himself, has restricted his complaints and assertions to the "Bombay Times," simply because he had no authority to include the grievances of his contemporaries amongst his own, although the grounds of his complaints are general. He claims no peculiar excellencies for the paper he conducts over those of his brethren, from the columns of which many of the most important facts he has had to deal with have been drawn; and he has no doubt that they will claim, as they justly may, for themselves and their journals, as great an amount of consideration at the hands of your Honourable House as your petitioner claims for himself and for his.

That your Honourable House will take these things into your early consideration, and adopt such measures for procuring the redress that is desired as may in your wisdom seem meet, is the prayer of your petitioner.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

Bombay, 17 November 1852.

Geo. Buist,
Editor "Bombay Times."

The PETITION of the undersigned Ministers and Missionaries in *Madras*, composing the *Madras Missionary Conference*,

Humbly sheweth,

1. THAT your petitioners, anxious that your Honourable House should possess at this important juncture the fullest information concerning all matters that affect the integrity and welfare of the East India Government, beg to submit a statement of certain circumstances which operate with injurious effect upon the moral progress of the inhabitants of this great Continent, and which appear to them virtually to involve the administration of this country in the maintenance of idolatry.
2. That your petitioners collect their facts from this presidency alone; it would be easy to multiply them by a more extensive and minute research than they have been able to make.
3. That your petitioners are encouraged to memorialise your Honourable House by the attention that former representations similar to that which they would now submit have received from your Honourable House, as also by the superior knowledge and experience which recent publications on India, and especially the elaborate correspondence embodied in certain late Parliamentary returns, have contributed to all questions touching the moral and social condition of its varied population.
4. That your petitioners, believing that the greater prosperity of the East India Government, as compared with former dynasties, is owing to the moral authority as much as to the military prestige of Britain, are anxious to see that authority preserved and vindicated in all the official acts of the Honourable Company.
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5. That your petitioners would, in the first place, call the attention of your Honourable House to the fact that, notwithstanding the unequivocal instructions of the Honourable Court of Directors to the servants of the Company, enjoining a complete divorce of the Government from all interests vested in the native religions, it is still believed by Hindus and Mahomedans, in many of the provinces of this presidency, and not without some ground, as your petitioners will presently show, that the superstitions of the country are supported from the Exchequer, and protected by the authority of the local Government.

6. That your petitioners acknowledge that the highest praise is due to the Honourable Court for the enlightened views set forth in their despatches on the expediency and duty of withdrawing that countenance and supervision which the native religious institutions of this country were wont to receive from the Government, and for their explicit and earnest instructions to the officers of the Company to effect such a withdrawal; but your petitioners deeply regret that the separation enjoined by the Honourable Court has not been completed; that, to the present time the revenues of pagodas and temples are, to a large extent, under the control and protection of the Government of India; that endowments and pensions for the support of idolatry are guaranteed; and that in some districts the name and influence of the Government are, contrary to its express orders, employed to aid the celebration of religious festivals.

7. That your petitioners thankfully acknowledge that much has been done by the Government to extinguish these evils, by transferring to native trustees the charge of temples, &c., which had been previously under the management of the Government servants; but they submit that this transference has been in many cases left in so unsettled a state as to retain and even perpetuate the abuses it was intended to remove.

8. That your petitioners believe that the reason why the above transference, which was ordered by the Honourable Court to be made in the year 1841, was not then fully carried out, was the existence of certain clauses of a prior law of the Government of India, namely, Regulation VII. of 1817, which vested in the Board of Revenue the superintendence of the affairs and funds of native temples.

9. That these clauses, having never been rescinded or modified, leave the responsibility of temple trustees unsettled, for while Regulation VII. of 1817 remains unrepealed, it is still incumbent on the Board of Revenue to superintend the affairs, and guard the revenues and trusts of the temples.

10. That, as the case now stands, the heathen population are dissatisfied with the irresponsible state of temple trusteeships, which leaves their pagoda property without protection, while Christians are scandalised at the fact that the Government is still, to a certain extent, connected with idolatry by virtue of the said Regulation VII. of 1817.

11. That as far back as the year 1843 the Madras Government, for the purpose of repealing the objectionable clauses of the above law, and of completing the separation between itself and the native religious institutions (thus executing fully the orders of the Honourable Court), drafted an Act which was submitted for the sanction of the Supreme Government.

12. That, in the provisions of this Act, your petitioners mainly concur, for,—

1st. It rescinds the objectionable clauses of Regulation VII. of 1817.

2d. It transfers the superintendence, &c., previously exercised by the revenue authorities over Hindoo and Mahomedan religious institutions, to Hindus and Mahomedans themselves.

3d. It enacts that the succession to the trusts of these institutions shall be appointed or determined by laws, regulations, and usages formerly in force; and

4th. It settles the responsibility of those to whom the management of the institutions may be assigned, by making them amenable to the constituted civil or criminal courts.

13. That, in conformity with these views, your petitioners earnestly pray that a law be passed, which, while it resigns the superintendence of temple revenues and trusts into the hands of duly qualified native trustees, shall at the same time afford them all necessary legal protection.

14. That your petitioners would bring to the notice of your Honourable House the connexion of the Government of India with pagoda revenues, endowments, pensions, &c. Your petitioners believe that the charges incurred by the Government under the head of "pagoda and mosque allowances," sometimes in lieu, and sometimes not in lieu, of resumed lands and privileges, amount to upwards of nine lacs of rupees or 90,000*l.* sterling annually. Your petitioners are not ignorant of the difficulties which beset an equitable disposal of some of these monies. In the case of pagoda lands, resumed by the East India, or some former Government, your petitioners acknowledge that the sums annually paid in lieu of them are justly due; but since these estates were commuted for some reason affecting the Government revenue, and not with the view of affording protection to pagoda interests, your petitioners respectfully submit whether they might not either be restored to the institutions to which they originally belonged, or be placed in the same position as those lands over which the servants of Government have not been accustomed to exercise control.

15. That, with regard to those temple lands which cannot be defined, or whose boundaries

aries are unknown, your memorialists pray that instead of the annual monies now paid in lieu of them by the Government, some other equivalent be rendered which shall not involve an annual claim on Government funds. Appendix, 1

16. That your petitioners earnestly call the attention of your Honourable House to other monies allowed to the native religious institutions, not paid in lieu of property, but granted in the shape of endowments, donations, and pensions; most of which originated with former Governments. Your petitioners submit whether it is obligatory on a Christian Government to continue, and thus make permanent, the voluntary gifts and stipends of an idolatrous charity.

17. That your petitioners would refer especially to allowances granted for the support of small pagodas and shrines, which, from the nature of the terms on which they were granted, are liable to be resumed when such pagodas and shrines fall into decay, or ceremonial observances are discontinued in them; and to the fact that collectors are expected to inquire from time to time whether these buildings are kept in repair, and whether the ceremonies are regularly performed, thus perpetuating an interference of the Government which involves both supervision and maintenance.

18. That your petitioners earnestly pray that the endowments and allowances which originated with former Governments may, with all practicable expedition, cease, and that all other money-payments which directly or indirectly support idolatry, may be disposed of with the view of separating practically and universally this Christian Government from the interests of heathenism.

19. That your petitioners feel the more confidence and satisfaction in making their present representation to your Honourable House from the fact, that they in reality solicit nothing more than what has already been enjoined and ordered by the Honourable Court of Directors, and that all they desire is, that the wise and judicious instructions of that honourable body be thoroughly and completely carried into effect.

And your petitioners shall ever pray.

John Anderson,
Senior Missionary of the Free Church of Scotland.
Frederick Baylis,
London Missionary Society.
Arminius Burgess,
Wesleyan Missionary Society, Madras.
&c. &c. &c.

Madras, 21 May 1853.

The humble PETITION of the Member of the *Bombay Association*, and other Native Inhabitants of the Presidency of *Bombay*,

Showeth,

THAT your petitioners have watched with much anxiety and interest the proceedings of your Honourable House and its Committee on the subject of Indian affairs, as bearing on the legislation about to be proposed for the future government of India.

2. The Report of your Committee, which sat during the Session 1852, having reached India, has been examined and analysed by your petitioners with much care; and they observe that the members of that Committee have been so far satisfied by the evidence up to that time laid before them that they direct the attention of your Honourable House to the favourable tenor of the evidence with respect to the operation of Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 85, so far as regards the administration of the government of India by the East India Company, as trustees under the control of the Crown.

3. The witnesses examined before the Committees of both Houses of Parliament amounted in all to 25 persons, five of these having been examined before both Committees. They consisted of Lords Ellenborough, Elphinstone, Hardinge; Sir T. H. Maddock, Sir G. R. Clerk, and Sir George Pollock; Messrs. Bird, Willoughby, Reid, Millett, Melvill, Cameron, Robertson, Mill, McLeod, Pringle, Hill, Sheppard, and Prinsep; also, General McLeod, Colonels Sykes, Taylor, and Alexander, and Captain McGregor.

4. The whole of these gentlemen, excepting the three noblemen above-named and Captain McGregor, have been more than 30, some of them 40, years in the service of the East India Company, and, without desiring to cast the slightest disparagement on their testimony, still it must be borne in mind that they are all to a great degree in the position of interested witnesses, speaking indirectly to the favourable results of their own services, or, at least, of a system in which they have all borne a part. The majority of these gentlemen having spent the greater portion of their lives under the existing Government, and having freely participated in the advantages enjoyed by the covenanted service of the East India Company, have naturally become prepossessed in favour of things as they are; and although, upon a general view of the subject, the administration of the Indian Government may present to your Honourable House results very favourable to the honourable intentions of those to whom it has been confided by the Crown of England, still this conclusion leaves wholly untouched

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untouched the important question whether the main provisions of an enactment passed in the year 1834, investing the rulers of India with powers almost irresponsible and despotic, and intitled, as it truly was, "An Act for effecting an Arrangement with the East India Company," constitutes the best scheme or all that is needed for the good government of these vast territories—all that the governed can justly demand or should be reasonably satisfied with in 1854.

5. Your petitioners may well leave in the hands of your Honourable House, without observation from them, the construction of the home portion of the Indian Government, only asking that it may be so framed as naturally and easily at all times to secure within it the services of the ablest and most experienced persons in Indian affairs, that it may be so simplified that the people of India may know who really are their rulers, and who are responsible for measures of great importance emanating from England; but with respect to the constitution of the local governments, your petitioners earnestly pray your Honourable House not to continue them as they exist without a further and more searching investigation into the actual and daily operation of the existing system than your Honourable House now has or is likely to have before you, if the inquiries are to be so very general in their nature as they seem hitherto to have been, and are to be confined to the evidence of retired Indian official personages.

6. Your petitioners rejoice to learn that an interest and a spirit of inquiry respecting Indian affairs have lately arisen in England, which have led to a mass of valuable information being placed before the public of a nature that would never have reached your Honourable House from official lips, but which, nevertheless, your petitioners would respectfully remark, deserves the utmost attention of your Honourable House, though it may form no part of the evidence collected by the Committee of your Honourable House, and may not be adverted to in their Reports. Your petitioners may refer to many valuable papers published by highly competent persons now in England, very antagonistic to the interests of the East India Company, whose names therefore your petitioners do not find amongst the persons summoned before the Committee to give evidence on Indian affairs; and they beg also to attract the attention of your Honourable House to a very valuable and instructive work recently published at Madras, on the administration of justice in that presidency, by George Bruce Norton, Esq., barrister-at-law. As this gentleman is now at Madras, and cannot be examined in England, your petitioners have taken the liberty of annexing a copy of this work to their petition, in the hope that your Honourable House will allow them, in this form, the benefit of that gentleman's testimony to the character of the administration of justice in southern India—testimony which, however startling, is nevertheless unimpeachable, being based on the decisions of the courts themselves; and your petitioners regret to add that the courts of the East India Company in this presidency are on no better footing as regards judicial fitness and capacity than those of Madras.

7. Your petitioners are sensible that many of the evils which have hitherto retarded progress in India can only be remedied through the medium of efficient and properly constituted local governments, and they look with confidence to your Honourable House giving this head of inquiry the fullest consideration.

8. Your petitioners, speaking of the government of their own presidency, though they believe the remark to be equally true of the other Indian Governments, are of opinion that it is quite unequal to the efficient discharge of its duties, and that nothing but the impenetrable veil of secrecy with which even its most trivial acts are covered protects it from universal condemnation.

9. It consists of a Governor, a Commander-in-Chief, and two civil servants as members of council. The business is conducted primarily by four secretaries and two deputy-secretaries; each secretary having a separate department of his own, and being in that the adviser of the Governor; the latter, who, generally speaking, is without local knowledge or experience, is obviously in the hands of the secretaries, and, for the most part, from the mass of business to be despatched, compelled to adopt the minutes they place before him.

10. The Commander-in-Chief, having the affairs of the army to attend to, and not caring to trouble himself with the civil affairs of the presidency, with which he cannot be expected to be in the least degree acquainted, spends more than half his time away from the seat of government, and enters the council apparently merely to record his assent to the minutes of the Governor. It has been stated in evidence before the Committee of your Honourable House, that it often happens that eight or ten boxes full of papers on revenue and judicial matters are sent to the Commander-in-Chief at one time, and that they have been returned from his house to the other members of the Government perhaps within one hour, allowing merely time for him to put his initials; and your petitioners believe that it ever has been the case that the Commanders-in-Chief, though knowing nothing of the subjects in hand, have felt it their duty invariably to vote with the Governors.

11. The civil members of council are not selected from the most able and distinguished of the servants of Government, though there have been some remarkable exceptions. The appointment is in the gift of the Court of Directors, and is always bestowed on some one of the senior members of the service about to close their Indian career. It is consequently canvassed for in Leadenhall-street, and falls to the lot of him who can command the greatest amount of personal interest with the members of the court individually. A
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vacancy occurring but rarely, few members of the civil service can fill the appointment, and its gift is thus a matter of favour. They have no specific duties to discharge, and little or no responsibility, and, as they may always be outvoted by the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief, they can scarcely be expected to take any prominent part in the current affairs of Government; indeed, to give any very effective assistance, unless something out of the usual routine, or within the line of their past experience, should arise to excite their interest. The evil tendency of their position is, that, having no defined duty as a part of the Government, their own brief minutes, or their signatures, often put for the sake of conformity to those of others, carry with them a weight to higher authority which should only attach to opinions deliberately formed, and the result of careful inquiry, made under official responsibility. The practical effect of a Government so constituted is, that, for the most part, each secretary in his own department is the Governor in Council. The secretaries, with one exception, selected from the civil service, and generally, though not invariably, from its most able members, having passed their lives from boyhood on some one or more of the subordinate agencies of Government, are suddenly called upon to discharge the most onerous and important duties, for many of which their previous training does not at all qualify them. Questions requiring for their solution correct knowledge of the principles of finance, of political economy, of the systems of the country and of other countries, involving the rights and just expectations of classes of persons, and the cases and privileges of individuals with lighter matters, crowded in rapid succession on them, and must be disposed of; and, however able and conscientious they may be, they have not the time to go through, with due care and attention, nor very frequently with the knowledge of the subject requisite to enable them properly to despatch the multifarious matters with which they are loaded. Government being thus undermanned is necessarily compelled to throw off as much of its own duties as possible on the local officers, to act on their report as unimpeachable, and to shroud them in secrecy. The European local officers, on the other hand, scattered over the country at great distances from one another, and having large districts to attend to far beyond their powers of supervision, and dependent to a very great degree on their subordinates, are compelled to dispose of the greater part of their business in a very imperfect manner; and their statements to Government, whether emanating from persons who it is known may be trusted, or from those in whose accuracy Government are aware no confidence can be placed, are on system accepted as equally trustworthy, and the official vindication of the acts of Government founded thereon. The necessary result of this system is, that the Government is one of first impressions; that, short-handed as it is under the present system, its chief difficulty and its main object is to keep down and despatch business; to despatch it well if possible, but at all events to prevent accumulating; that hasty superficial reports of local officers are in regulating the conduct of Government, except on questions of money, of equal weight with those the result of care and reflection. It is obviously necessary, therefore, to protect the acts of such a Government from public scrutiny and supervision, in order to preserve for it public respect; and the most rigid secrecy is consequently preserved in every department. So strictly is this enforced, that the members of the civil service are all under solemn oaths not to reveal anything connected with the business before them; and the Court of Directors have, even in modern days, noticed with severe disapprobation the publication of a very small portion of one of their despatches by, as it was supposed, a member of the civil service, relating to a suit at law with which he had been connected judicially. The same amount of secrecy is preserved in everything that comes before Government, whether it relate to a purely municipal matter, the establishment of a sailors' home, a principality, a jaghere, the conduct of a public officer, or hardship practised towards an individual; and even where wrong or injury are complained of by a large class of persons, or where merely private property is at stake, or the character and prospects of an individual are involved, still the same system prevails. If the parties against whom unfavourable reports have been transmitted by the local officers apply for copies, they are always refused. Not the slightest opportunity is afforded them of correcting any mis-statements that may have been made in these reports, and there consequently is, naturally ever must be, a great inducement to resort to unfair means to procure that information from the records of Government which cannot be fairly obtained, but to which all the parties concerned are justly entitled; and which, on system merely, is withheld from them. The inevitable effect of this system is, that, individual cases occupying a large portion of the time of Government, the most cruel injustice, even with the best intention, is done. The individual concerned may have had a volume written against him behind his back, written with all the easy confidence of those who know that their statements will not be handed over to the party interested to reply to; and when the presidency authorities consider matters sufficiently ripe, a few paragraphs disclosing a small fragment of the case recorded against him—a tithe only of what he ought to be allowed to answer and explain—is sent to him for such observations as he may desire to offer, and on his reply to these he is adjudged. It is difficult to exaggerate, or on any more general view fully to display the vicious operation of this system of Government. But it will be obvious to your Honourable House that, as a system, it is the very worst that could be devised, and the very last which good sense would indicate as adapted to strengthen British rule in India, by giving it a hold on the affections of the people; on the contrary, its obvious tendency is to engender and perpetuate amongst the young servants of Government an illiberal and despotic tone, to give full scope to the prejudices, the ignorance, and the self-sufficiency of all; to discourage progress, to discountenance all schemes of improvement emanating from independent and disinterested sources, and not within the views of the officer to whose department

Appendix, No. 3. department they are referred; and to cramp all agricultural and commercial energy, all individual enterprise.

12. Your petitioners therefore humbly entreat your Honourable House, in any new legislation which may be framed for India, to abolish councils as at present constituted, and in their place to create an useful and efficient council, of which the judges of the Supreme Court, in judicial and legislative matters, and some of the European and native citizens, should form a part. Also to put an end to that injurious system of secrecy which at present is the ruling principle of vice in the Indian administration, and to allow the council to call for the proceedings of Government and its local officers, except in cases in which the executive shall declare that state policy requires secrecy should be preserved. Your petitioners further ask, that on questions of great importance to individuals and classes of persons coming up for the decision of Government, the valuable privilege of being heard by counsel be conceded to those who may be desirous of availing themselves of it in support of their interest. With these measures your petitioners believe that it would be absolutely necessary to strengthen the hands of the executive Government; and that it would be highly desirable that there should always be among the more prominent members some persons trained and experienced in the public offices of England, who can bring to the consideration of public affairs a more extended knowledge and wider views than are to be expected from those European gentlemen who have passed all their days from boyhood in the bad systems of this country, and know no other by which to compare and improve them.

13. Your petitioners forbear to trouble your Honourable House with the details of such a change, which are of easy construction if its propriety be once acknowledged; and they equally wish to avoid repeating what they have put forth in their former memorial, already, as they believe, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs; but they are anxious to recall the attention of your Honourable House to that narrow and injurious system which gives to those educated at Haileybury College a Parliamentary right to supply the vacancies in the civil establishments of India. Your petitioners believe that the existence of this exclusive service, bound together like the members of one family, is incompatible with a more open council and an efficient and responsible discharge of public duties. At present the natives of this country, however respectable, trustworthy, and qualified they may be, are excluded from the higher grade of judicial and revenue situations and from the regular medical service, to which covenanted European servants sent out from England are alone appointed; such exclusion being impolitic, unjust, and contrary to the letter and spirit of the 87th section of the Charter Act of 1834. Your petitioners respectfully reiterate their prayer that the invidious and unjustifiable distinction between the covenanted and uncovenanted services, which excludes the natives from the higher offices, be abolished, and that natives of India may be allowed to fill all situations for which they may be qualified. By the adoption and practical operation of such a measure, a great stimulus will, your petitioners feel convinced, be given to the cause of education and improvement in this country; a great deal of discontent will be removed, and inefficiency will be obviated. It is placed beyond controversy by the testimony of official reports published by the local Governments, that the Grant Medical College at Bombay and the Medical College at Calcutta are admitted to have recently produced as proficient and competent native surgeons and physicians as those sent out from England under covenants.* Instead of admitting any of the successful candidates into the regular medical service of Government, a new and distinct service has been created for them by the Indian Governments, the rank and emoluments of which are considerably inferior; a course which is calculated to lower this new medical service in the estimation of the public, and to perpetuate the distinction that has hitherto been preserved between native and European agency, or uncovenanted and covenanted servants of Government. So rigidly is the line of separation preserved, that a native of India, named Dr. Chukerbutty, who recently left Calcutta to finish his medical education in England, where he greatly distinguished himself and obtained the highest testimonials of proficiency, although recommended for an appointment as an assistant-surgeon in the East India Company's medical service by the Right Honourable Sir Edward Ryan and Mr. Cameron, gentlemen of eminent consideration for their past services, was, your petitioners are informed, refused admission into the covenanted medical service by the Court of Directors collectively and individually.

14. Your petitioners cannot take leave of this important subject without the favourable attention of Parliament to the suggestion made in their former petition with regard to the advisability of establishing a university or college, as proposed by that able and experienced servant of Government, Mr. Cameron, for the purpose of qualifying the natives for government employ, of imparting profound and thorough judicial knowledge to native candidates for the bench, and of training up a superior and independent class of vakeels or pleaders, who would elevate the character of the native bar, and be of great service in the efficient administration of justice in this country.

15. Your

* *Vide* Appendix (O) to the Report of the Grant Medical College for 1850-51. Dr. McLennan, Government Examiner and Physician-General, has publicly certified, that, "as far as examinations can test fitness for engagement in medical and surgical practice, graduates of the Grant Medical College have proved their fitness to as great a degree as I believe is ever done in Europe."

15. Your petitioners would further ask that, as regards the European servants of Government, a distinction, commencing in England and preserved throughout, may be made between those who are destined to fill judicial offices in India and the executive officers of the Government, and that the former may be withdrawn from the operation of personal favour and individual patronage, and be selected, like the judges in England, for their own merits and acquirements.

16. Your petitioners believe that if, whilst opening the highest judicial offices to the natives of this country, and fairly apportioning them between qualified natives and their European fellow subjects, the office of zillah judge were thrown open to gentlemen of legal education; if no one were permitted to leave England for this purpose until 26 years of age; if a public committee, composed of four members named by the four inns of the Court and two members by the Home Government, were appointed half-yearly to examine the candidates, selecting from them so many only as, according to the computed vacancies, were then required; if the course of examination, besides comprehending a knowledge of selected portions of the English substantive law, embraced the general principles of jurisprudence procedure, the law and constitution of India, and its modern history, a class of most able public servants to fill the office of zillah judge, and the higher grade, would be selected; and that a certain probation in India, ending with an examination of the candidates in native languages, in the Hindoo and Mahomedan code, the local regulations, the tenures and customs of the country, would complete an education, and produce an efficiency, which would render the court of justice a blessing to the country that would be heartily and gratefully acknowledged throughout the length and breadth of the land; and appellate courts so constituted would ensure to the English Government the firmest hold on the affections and interest of the people.

17. Your petitioners in their former memorial drew the attention of your Honourable House to the correspondence between the Board of Control and the Directors of the East India Company, contained in the 17th volume of the "Papers (printed in 1833, by order of the Court of Directors) respecting the negotiation with Her Majesty's Ministers on the subject of the East India Company's Charter;" and, although well aware from that correspondence that they might justly have asked your Honourable House to discontinue the practice of periodically legislating for India, a practice exclusively connected with the rights and privileges of the East India Company put an end to by the arrangements made with them in 1833, still your petitioners, not foreseeing the chance of arousing the interest and attention now bestowed on Indian affairs, petitioned your Honourable House to limit the period of existence of any future government of India to 10 years; but your petitioners are now emboldened to ask your Honourable House as recently recommended * * * by the Right Honourable Lord Broughton, not to debar them for any period of years from requesting a revision of what may be injurious in the coming Indian legislation,—not to make them an exception to all British subjects in the distant colonies of the British Empire, who have all along been in the enjoyment of the privilege of approaching Parliament whenever the affairs of the colony have required imperial interference. It is simply necessary, Lord Broughton declared, * * * * * to pass an Act providing for the best form of Government both in England and in India, without limiting its duration to any number of years, an Act which, like any other statute, might, if deemed requisite, be modified, altered, or repealed as occasion might require; and, carrying out the same principles still further, your petitioners would respectfully observe that it cannot be necessary to embrace all the subjects involved in the discussion of India in one Act, and that the constitution of the Home Government, the constitution and powers of the several local Governments, the construction of a new judicial service, and each independent branch of inquiry, if made the subject of separate legislation, would in all probability receive more careful attention, and be more satisfactorily disposed of, than if the entire mass of Indian information be gathered together in one, and thrown into a single enactment.

18. Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House, that this petition, like their former memorial, may be referred to the Committee now sitting on Indian Affairs, with a direction to them to have regard to its contents on any measures of legislation which the Committee may propose to Parliament; and that your Honourable House will be pleased, if necessary, to cause Commissions to issue to disinterested and independent persons at the three presidencies, to collect evidence in India as to the practical working of the systems of Government in operation, and that such Committees may be authorised to examine all Government servants, of whatever rank, and to require the production of any of the records of Government, not connected with state policy, calculated to throw light on the subject of inquiry.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*Bomauja Aonnasjee.
Manackjee Nesserwaujee.
Dhunjeelhey Cursetjee.
&c. &c. &c.*

Appendix, No. 3. The humble PETITION of *Mean Oomaid Singh*, Cousin and Heir of *Beejai Singh*, late Rana of *Beeghaut*, in the Agency of *Simla*, in *India*,

Sheweth,

THAT petitioner's ancestor, Rana Roganauth Paul, as independent Rajah of Beeghaut, was possessed of nine villages at Beeghaut, paying an annual rent of 14,000 rupees, and that the same villages were taken possession of by the government of the Honourable East India Company during the Ghoorka war.

That, at the close of the Ghoorka war, four of the before-mentioned nine villages were restored by the Government to Rana Mohender Singh, the lineal descendant and representative of the said Rana Roganauth, and the remaining five villages were granted to the Rajah of Putteealah.

That Rana Mohender Singh continued in undisturbed possession of the said four villages, and received the rents and profits thereof until his death, which took place in the month of June 1839.

That, upon restoration of the said four villages to the said Rana Mohender Singh, a sunnud or grant by the government of the Honourable East India Company, under the hand and seal of General Sir David Ochterlony, was made to the said Rana Mohender Singh, securing to him and his posterity the possession of said four villages, of which the following is a translation :

"As the expulsion of the Gorkhas from this mountainous country, Kohiston, has been completely effected, and all the castles appertaining thereto have come to the possession of the seat of bounty, the English Company Bahadoor; and the territories of Thuhrye have been likewise subdued in consequence of Mehunder Singh having neglected to join and aid the English force during the insurrection of the Gorkhas; and as the English nation, the most distinguished of all other nations with regard to excellence and generosity, has, from motives of kindness, and by way of courtesy only, bestowed on Mehunder Singh the pergunnahs Cussoley, and Bhóji, and Bussaul, and Cotee Bassil, four pergunnahs in all, which, together with the rest of the pergunnahs, appertaining to Beeghat, have been captured; therefore, according to the orders of the bestower of favours, his excellency the most noble Governor-General Moira Bahadoor, may whose prosperity continue for ever, a sunnud for the said four pergunnahs is granted to Mehunder Singh under my seal and signature, to perpetuate the possession thereof to him and his posterity. It behoveth him therefore to continue in the custody and possession of all the four pergunnahs, administering in the meantime justice and comfort to all his subjects; that he should never outstep the ancient boundaries of these four pergunnahs, and go over the lands appertaining to the rest of the pergunnahs belonging to Beeghat; that, besides these four pergunnahs, he should never claim any other pergunnah, nor should he demand the taxes and tolls arising out of Beeghat, amounting to 1,300 rupees, which are assigned over to Maha Rajgawn Singh Mahunder Bahadoor, that he should consider it his interest to be always in attendance on the English people, and to render them his personal services; and that whenever there should happen to be any rebellious commotion, he should join the British army with his own force, and assist them to the extent of his power; and that he should always retain 20 labourers, who should be in constant attendance on the gentleman at Supatoo throughout the year.

"Should he deviate from or act contrary to these stipulations, he should certainly be held in the utmost contempt, and be removed from his possessions.

"The subjects and inhabitants of that place are exhorted to regard Mehander Singh, and after him his descendants, as their absolute master, to whom they should never resist to pay the Government revenues, but should always be submissive to him in everything that is proper, just, and expedient."

That upon the death of the said Mohender Singh, Colonel Horatio Tapp, the resident at Simlah, acting on behalf of the Government of the Honourable East India Company, took possession of the said villages, whereupon your petitioner's cousin, the late Rana Mohender, being the brother and heir of the Rana Mohender Singh, presented a memorial to the government of the Honourable East India Company, that the possession of the said villages might be granted to him as the representative of the said Rana Mohender Singh; and that in the year 1843, after a delay of three years, possession of the said four villages was conferred on the said Rana Beejai Singh, by a sunnud or grant of the Honourable J. C. Erskine, late sub-commissioner of the Hill States, and the arrears of the income of the estate for the three years from the time of Rana Mohender Singh's death, was paid to the said Rana Beejai Singh, who continued in possession of the estate to the time of his death, and of which sunnud or grant the following is a translation :—

"Agreeably to the letter of the Secretary to the Government of India, No. 2,167, dated 18th November 1842, the four above-mentioned pergunnahs or districts, together with all their rights, have been made a free grant to the before-mentioned Rana, from generation to generation. It is incumbent on the Rana to consider the sunnud correct and legal, and to take possession of the pergunnahs; and he is not to encroach on the boundary of another person, and he is to do his best to settle the ryots and to give redress to their complaints,

and.

and obey the authorities of the Honourable Company with sincerity and devotedness, and to feel very grateful for this grant. In case of the services of his men being required, he is to be present with them and come in person to discharge the duty. He is to obey the orders of the authorities in procuring the bagarees, and to keep the roads in his district in readiness. The ryots of the before-mentioned pergunnahs are to consider Rana Bijai Singh independent and sole master of the before-mentioned pergunnahs from generation to generation, and his orders are to be obeyed.

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"In accordance with the letter of Mr. Hamilton, the secretary, No. 26, and dated 8th August 1843, one pergunnah of Kussolee, from the four pergunnahs, together with its villages, will remain in the possession of the Honourable Company, and the sum of 507 rupees, 3 annas, and 11 pice, the produce of the pergunnah, will continue to be paid to the Rana from the Government treasury yearly, by two instalments.

Signed and sealed by the Honourable *John C. Erskine*,
"Sub-Commissioner, North-western Frontier."

That the said Rana Beejai Singh died without issue on the 3d of January 1849, leaving your petitioner his cousin and heir, petitioner being the son of Dhery Singh, who was the paternal uncle of the said Beejai Singh.

That the said Rana Beejai Singh left a will in the Hindoo language, dated 17th November 1843, and thereby declared that your petitioner was to succeed him in the estate of Beeghaut, if he, Beejai Singh, should die without issue, and which will is signed by the said Rana Beejai Singh, and duly witnessed, and of which will the following is a translation:—

"Sree Maha Sree Mean Bijai Singh has given this in writing to Mean Oomaid Singh, that I am the master of Raj as long as I am in existence, and my issue is to succeed me, and in case I have no issue, then Bhaie Oomaid Singh is to succeed me. I give this in writing. If, during my lifetime, or in the presence of my issue, Oomaid Singh were to make any claim to the Raj, he is to be considered a liar; and in case I deviate from this, I am to be disgraced in the eyes of my ryots and be punished by gods and goddesses."

That on the death of Rana Beejai Singh your petitioner wrote to Mr. Edwards, the superintendent of the Hill Estates, informing him of the death of the Rana, and that your petitioner was the successor to the estate; and petitioner received in reply directions from Mr. Edwards to superintend and manage the affairs of the country, as they had been theretofore conducted.

That your petitioner accordingly executed all orders of government, and superintended the affairs of the estate with zeal and obedience, and without any complaint having been made against your petitioner; but after a lapse of about three months Bishen Doss, the Naheb Tehsuldar of Joobbul, was sent to Beeghaut, and took possession of the estate on behalf of the British Government, and your petitioner was deprived of the estate.

That your petitioner received a letter from Mr. Edwards, the Superintendent of the Hill States, dated the 10th July 1850, stating that he had been directed by the Board of Administration for the affairs of the Punjab, to inform your petitioner that his claim to the estate of Beeghaut had been submitted to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and that, in their opinion, the claim of your petitioner was not proved, and therefore a suitable pension would be granted to your petitioner for his maintenance.

That your petitioner is utterly unable to comprehend the grounds on which the opinion of the Court of Directors was formed; your petitioner having undoubted proofs of his pedigree and relationship to the late Rana Beejai Singh, and which proofs he is desirous to submit for examination; and also the said Rana Beejai Singh having made his will directing that petitioner should succeed him in the estate, as before set forth.

That, on the 25th October 1850, petitioner presented a petition to the Governor-General of India, stating the death of the late Rana Beejai Singh, and showing your petitioner's claim as his legal heir to the estate at Beeghaut of which he died possessed, and praying that your petitioner's case might be inquired into; and that as the rightful heir and successor of Rana Beejai Singh he might be put in possession of the villages or estate of which the said Rana died possessed. That the only reply your petitioner received to this petition was a memorandum, of which the following is a copy:—

"No. 2416. Office Memorandum, Foreign Department, Camp Gurshunker, the 16 November 1850. Read, a petition from Mean Oomaid Singh, dated 25 October 1850, complaining of having been dispossessed of the Beeghaut estate. Ordered, that the petitioner be informed that the decision in his case is final. (Signed) *E. C. Bayley*, Undersecretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General."

That, in cases similar to that of your petitioner, when there has been no direct descendant, the British Government have been pleased to confer the estate on the nearest relative of the deceased owner, such as in the cases of Billashore, Hoomarsom, and many others, and in the case of the estate in question, on the death of Rana Mohender Singh the estate was granted to his brother, the late Rana Beejai Singh.

That your petitioner's conduct has been always approved of by the British authorities, and in the recent wars with the Seikhs your petitioner, with his sowars or cavalry, rendered great

ppendix, No. 3. great assistance to the British forces, and gained the highest approbation of the British authorities.

That the late Rana Beejai Singh, being desirous of appointing your petitioner as his mooktear or prime minister in the year 1844, addressed a letter to the Honourable J. C. Erskine, sub-commissioner of Kohiston, for his approbation of such appointment; who addressed a letter in reply to Rana Beejai Singh on the 10th January 1844, and stated that, having seen the intelligence, activity, and capability of your petitioner, he reposed every confidence in him, and highly approved of your petitioner being selected for the office.

That on the 28th February 1846, the Honourable J. C. Erskine addressed a letter to the late Rana Beejai Singh, stating that petitioner had remained with him, together with the troops of Rana Beejai Singh, during the Sutlej campaign against the Seikhs in 1845 and 1846, and had performed duties to his entire satisfaction.

That on the death of Rana Beejai Singh, all reassals of the Beeghaut estate presented a petition to Mr. Edwards, praying that your petitioner might succeed Rana Beejai Singh, thereby testifying the popularity of your petitioner with the subjects or reassals of the estate.

That your petitioner has made frequent applications, by respectful memorials, both to the Governal-General of India and to the Directors of the Honourable the East India Company for redress; that he has failed in obtaining any; that there is no court of law or tribunal to which he can appeal to determine his rights and put him in possession of property which is thus unjustly withheld from him; and that he therefore appeals to the justice and honour of the British Parliament to interfere for his protection, and to secure to him the enjoyment of his rights and property, his title to which he is ready to prove, if your Honourable House shall direct an inquiry into his claim.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that your petitioner's case may be taken into consideration, and direct such inquiry to be made, with reference to petitioner's claims, as may be deemed necessary; and that the four villages or estate of Beeghaut, of which the late Rana Beejai Singh died possessed, may be granted to petitioner, and that he may be put in possession of the same as the lawful heir and successor of the late Rana Beejai Singh; and that your Honourable House may adopt all measures that may be necessary to secure to your petitioner full and complete justice.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

Mean Oomaid Singh.

The humble PETITION of the Merchants, Shipowners, and Tradesmen of the Town of
Liverpool.

Sheweth,

THAT the period has now arrived when you will have to consider the propriety of continuing the present or adopting fresh and more liberal measures for the future government of Her Majesty's East India possessions.

That the enlightened policy which has of late years distinguished the Government of this country has greatly promoted the prosperity of the mercantile interest, and ameliorated the condition of the working population of Great Britain.

That the primary duty of any Government is to see to the temporal welfare of the population under its rule; and, since it has pleased an all-wise Providence to place under the protection of the Government of this country many millions of human beings in East India, your petitioners believe it to be the sacred and solemn duty of this Government to afford to the people of that country the same fostering care as is and ought to be afforded to the people of this country.

That a constant and plentiful supply of salt of good quality, and at as low a price as possible, is of the utmost importance to the well-being of the people of East India; but your petitioners regret that that article can only be obtained by the great mass of the people of that country with great difficulty, of very inferior quality, and at an enormous cost.

That if the salt manufactured in England could be imported into India free of duty, or upon the same terms as other commodities, at an *ad valorem* duty, and free from all excise imposts when imported, a sufficient supply to meet the wants of that country could be easily sent pure in quality and low in price.

That your petitioners believe it to be oppressive and unjust towards the people of British India to impose so heavy a tax on so important an article as salt (amounting to about 7*l.* per ton), a sum more than twenty times the value of the article in this country.

That the abolition of the duty on salt in British India would be not only a great boon to the people of that country to which justice and humanity entitle them, but would also

also tend greatly to improve and strengthen the mercantile interests of this country generally, by increasing particularly the demand for cotton and other goods of English manufacture. Appendix, No. 3.

Your petitioners therefore earnestly pray that, in any measure which your Honourable House may adopt for the future government of Her Majesty's East India possessions, you will take care that provision shall be made for the importation of salt into that country free from any duty, and free from any excise impost when imported; or, at the least, that it shall be admitted on the payment of the same *ad valorem* duty as other goods and manufactures.

Thos. J. M. Brocklebank.
William Rathbone.
Brown, Shipley, & Co.
&c. &c. &c.

TO the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Merchants, Manufacturers and Tradesmen of the Town of *St. Helen's,*

Sheweth,

That the period has now arrived when you will have to consider the propriety of continuing the present, or adopting fresh and more liberal measures for the future government of Her Majesty's East Indian possessions.

That the enlightened policy which has of late years distinguished the Government of this country has greatly promoted the prosperity of the mercantile interest, and ameliorated the condition of the working population of Great Britain.

That the primary duty of any Government is to see to the temporal welfare of the population under its rule; and since it has pleased an all-wise Providence to place under the protection of the Government of this country many millions of human beings in East India, your petitioners believe it to be the sacred and solemn duty of this Government to afford to the people of that country the same fostering care as is and ought to be afforded to the people of this country.

That a constant and plentiful supply of salt, of good quality, and at as low a price as possible, is of the utmost importance to the well-being of the people of East India; but your petitioners regret that that article can only be obtained by the great mass of the people of that country with great difficulty, of a very inferior quality, and at an enormous cost.

That if the salt manufactured in England could be imported into India free of duty, or upon the same terms as other commodities, at an *ad valorem* duty, and free from all excise imposts when imported, a sufficient supply to meet the wants of that country would be easily sent, pure in quality and low in price.

That your petitioners believe it to be oppressive and unjust towards the population of British India to impose so heavy a tax on so important an article as salt (amounting to about 7 *l.* per ton), a sum equal to more than twenty times the value of the article in this country.

That the abolition of the duty on salt in British India would be not only a great boon to the people of that country, to which justice and humanity entitle them, but would also tend greatly to improve and strengthen the mercantile interests of this country generally, by increasing particularly the demand for cotton and other goods of English manufacture.

Your petitioners therefore earnestly pray, that in any measure which your Honourable House may adopt for the future Government of British India, you will make provision for the importation of salt into that country free of duty, or at the least on payment of the same *ad valorem* duty as other goods and manufactures.

TO the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, in Parliament assembled.

The humble PETITION of the Undersigned of the Town and Neighbourhood of *Winsford*, in the County of *Chester*,

Sheweth,

THAT on an average of several years past, not less than 600,000 tons of salt have been annually made from brine and rock salt, in the salt districts of Cheshire, giving employment by land and water to at least 5,000 able-bodied men.

That a constant supply of salt of good quality, and at reasonable prices, is of the utmost importance to the extensive population of British India, particularly the lower classes, but at present they are almost dependent upon the article manufactured in that country, which is impure in quality, uncertain and insufficient in supply, and costly in price.

That if the salt manufactured in England could be imported into India upon the same terms

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terms as other goods, a sufficient quantity could be sent from the salt districts of Cheshire to meet the wants of that country, pure in quality, certain and sufficient in supply, and low in price.

That under no circumstances should any tax or duty be imposed on salt, but in proportion to its value, compared with other articles of commerce taxed by the East India Company.

That the East India Company have imposed an import duty upon salt equal to 7 *l.* a ton, which of itself is not less than 20 times the value of the article, whereby the supply has become a monopoly in the hands of that Company.

That the imposition of such duty is contrary to the commercial policy of this country, and unjust and oppressive towards the native population of India, and thereby the manufacturers of salt in Cheshire and elsewhere, are shut out from the markets of that extensive country, or nearly so.

That the opening of the trade would materially benefit such manufacturers and others within such districts; and your Petitioners believe that the great saving in cost of salt, would lead to a much greater demand by the native population of India for the cotton and other goods of English manufacture, and thereby greatly benefit the whole commercial and trading interests of this country.

Your Petitioners therefore pray, that in any charter to be now granted to the East India Company, provision may be made that English salt may be imported into all parts of British India, upon the same terms and conditions as other goods and manufactures.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

THE humble Petition of the President, Vice-President, and Directors of the *Worcester* Chamber of Commerce,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners are the executive of an association constituted for the purpose of protecting and promoting the commercial prosperity of this city and locality, and therefore feel a deep interest in the legitimate increase of the salt manufacture, carried on to a great extent in the adjoining ancient borough of Droitwich; inasmuch as the transit of salt for shipment at Gloucester and other ports for export forms the largest individual source of revenue to the Commissioners of the Severn Navigation, by whom a large sum has been already expended in the improvement of that river, and additional powers have been granted, during the present Session of Parliament, for a further expenditure, by which increased facilities for direct export will be obtained, whereby the traffic of the district will be largely developed.

That the manufacture of salt, admitting as it does of large extension from the inexhaustible springs of Worcestershire, is materially circumscribed from markets being virtually closed against British salt, to which, in the judgment of your petitioners, the manufacturers possess an indubitable claim for easy access; they would particularise the ports of British India, into which it appears to your petitioners that an enlightened and humane policy would provide for and encourage unfettered importation, on payment of a reasonable duty for revenue only, whereas the restrictions imposed by the Indian Government are made to protect a monopoly of its own of inferior salt, carried on, as your petitioners are advised, in direct violation of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 85.

And in proof of the manifest injustice inflicted on the natives of India by the regulations, rigorously enforced by their rulers, relating to the article of salt, your petitioners adduce the enormous duty of nearly 300 per cent., calculated at the price for which a pure article could be delivered by the British maker into the store of the factor, now levied on all salt imported, by the operation of which oppressive imposts the many millions of unrepresented British subjects are taxed to the extent of at least one-tenth of the wages now paid for labour, and that large portion of the poor man's earnings the natives are compelled to pay for the purchase of a necessary condiment in the humble fare of that immense population.

That the obvious advantages to the shipping interest, in increased tonnage, by allowing the unrestricted import of salt into India, and the augmented demand created there for the manufactured goods of the United Kingdom in return, form elements in the consideration of the question deserving the serious attention of the Legislature.

For the foregoing, and other reasons which may be adduced, your petitioners humbly pray your Honourable House that, in the measure now before Parliament for the future government of India, provision may be made against the continuance of the unjust system which has heretofore prevailed in those dependencies of the British Crown in reference to the importation of salt and taxing regulations, by which so much physical suffering has been inflicted on our fellow-subjects there.

(signed) *Edward Evans*, Vice-President.

The humble PETITION of the *Bristol* Chamber of Commerce,

Appendix, No. 3.

Sheweth,

THAT, in the opinion of your petitioners, the salt tax imposed by the East India Company is cruel and oppressive towards the people under their rule, impolitic in a financial point of view, unjust and injurious to the manufacturing, commercial and shipping interests of this country, and inconsistent with the present policy of the Legislature.

That it appears, from information which has been made public, that the cost of salt to the East India Company is at the rate of one farthing per pound; that the Company add to that a profit at the rate of three-farthings per pound, and that the Company suffer the dealers to traffic in the article, so that eventually the cost to the consumer is about two-pence farthing per pound, or 21 pounds per ton. That the tax imposed by the Company on salt imported into India is equivalent to the profit of three-farthings per pound, which they add to the contract price of the salt manufactured for them in India, and the operations of the dealers enhance the price of the imported article to the consumer to the amount already stated, or thereabouts, and a monopoly is thus established, by means of which an extortionate price is obtained from the poor ryot of India for this prime necessary of life.

That the first cost of salt in this country does not exceed one-sixth that manufactured in India; that the price to the consumer here is but about 30s. per ton, instead of 21 l. per ton, as in India, and if it were necessary to abolish the salt tax at home some years since, it appears to your petitioners that the millions of Her Majesty's subjects of India have a much stronger claim for its remission in their case, wretchedly poor as they are, and essentially necessary as salt is to their daily sustenance, and to the prevention of disease in such a climate.

That it appears, from statistical accounts which have been published, that the quantity of salt consumed in India is less than one-half that consumed in this country, relatively to the populations, it being about 12 l. per head per annum in the former, and 25 l. per head per annum in the latter.

That, but for the before-mentioned tax and monopoly, salt manufactured in England could be exported and sold in Calcutta at from 40 s. to 44 s. per ton, and the price would be reduced, by the breaking up of the monopoly, to about one-tenth the present rate to the consumer in India.

That the abrogation of the monopoly would tend greatly to benefit and give employment to the home manufacturers of the article, who are capable of producing an unlimited quantity, and also to the commercial, the shipping and the manufacturing interests generally.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to take such measures as will ensure the abolition of this monopoly in the Bill now before your Honourable House relative to the East India Company's Charter, or if your Honourable House should deem it expedient to continue some tax on the article, that you will be pleased to place such restrictions on the Company and the dealers as will ensure the poor ryot of India having the full benefit of any reduction in the amount of the tax which you may be pleased to require.

Signed on behalf of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce,

James Bush, Chairman of the Committee.