

THE
BARAMAHAL RECORDS.

SECTION III.
INHABITANTS.



MADRAS:
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INTRODUCTION.

A COLLECTOR being vested with absolute power over the persons and property of the people under him subject only to the control of superiors, who in cases of appeal are under the necessity of employing him as the medium of information, a love of justice appears to be his first qualification. But whatever share of that he may possess, if ignorant of the language, manners and concerns of the inhabitants, he may subvert their rights, impede industry and reduce the sources of revenue by measures he may think the best calculated for promoting the general interests.

With these ideas the Superintendent has endeavoured all in his power by personal enquiries and the aid of his mutsaddis to gain information of the number and distinctions, tradition, religion, laws, customs, prejudices, occupations, and condition of the people entrusted to his charge. Every head he has mentioned will appear to be subject sufficient for a section or a volume, and the whole to comprehend more than an individual could hope to acquire in a number of years, and that would be the case in regard to a people whose affairs are become intricate by an extensive commerce; but in a country so greatly under-stocked as this, where there is so little trade or science and society is not much removed from its original state, all things are more simple and a Collector whose jurisdiction is more extensive than that of any magistrate in Europe, can command more information on those matters in a few years than could be procured there in as many ages. But notwithstanding the advantages of his situation, he cannot hope to gain all the information upon them that is necessary and must be satisfied with setting useful enquiries on foot.

Such progress however will be made in it, as will serve in a considerable degree the objects in view and though what has been collected is not yet sufficiently digested, they may be judged of by a short account of the different heads.

NUMBER.

The number of the inhabitants by the village accounts last year (then number) was 546,163, but the Superintendent is well assured they conceal their real numbers where they can from suspicions they have of what may be intended by such an inquiry. As they have experienced no bad consequence from it, there is a probability of their becoming more indifferent about it and of their number being better ascertained this year; he thinks it may be safely estimated at 600,000, and that number being divided among the districts in the proportions given by account produces the following statement of them:—

Divisions.	Districts.	Numbers.			Rates per mile.		
		Hills.	Plains.	Total.	Hills.	Plains.	Total.
Southern.	Salem	1,984	26,121	28,105	16	182	106
	Chennagiri	96	12,788	12,884	3	142	99
	Bellur	397	24,767	25,164	4	96	71
	Attur .. .. .	..	17,343	17,343	..	93	82
	Viraganur	2,281	12,436	14,717	16	67	45
	Shendamangalam	2,995	25,657	28,652	28	104	80
	Raizpur .. .. .	..	19,284	19,282	..	238	220
	Namkal .. .. .	..	22,228	22,228	..	86	82
	Parmuthi .. .. .	..	23,566	23,566	..	171	171
	Totals ..	7,753	184,188	191,941	67	1,179	956

Divisions.	Districts.	Numbers.			Rates per mile.		
		Hills.	Plains.	Total.	Hills.	Plains.	Total.
Centra.	Trichangúd .. .. .	..	21,245	21,245	..	122	122
	Sankaridrug .. .. .	..	32,551	32,551	..	125	123
	Yerrapúdi .. .. .	..	22,884	22,884	..	140	135
	Vómalur .. .. .	..	27,117	27,117	..	127	111
	Nângapalli .. .. .	..	17,920	17,920	..	124	94
	Pennâgra .. .. .	..	15,946	15,946	..	107	100
	Darampuri	112	36,530	36,642	3	135	11
	l'engrikôta	856	37,823	38,679	5	80	52
	Total ..	968	212,016	212,984	8	960	748
Northern.	Virabhadradrug	198	23,079	23,277	4	103	85
	Krishnagiri	44	30,844	30,888	..	119	93
	Kamminellur	14	28,705	28,719	7	114	112
	Kunnattur .. .. .	..	27,794	27,794	..	141	121
	Trippattur	17,635	22,237	39,872	88	240	139
	Vaniyambadi	1,101	23,398	24,499	..	140	126
	Kangundi .. .. .	..	12,907	12,907	..	51	44
	Malpadi .. .. .	..	7,119	7,119	..	112	99
	Total ..	18,992	176,083	195,075	99	1,020	819
	Grand Totals ..	27,713	572,287	600,000	174	3,159	2,523

The average density being 95 per square mile, it appears this country is considerably more populous than Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Prussia or any of the more northern states of Europe but less so than great Britain, its density of population being 105 per square mile.

DISTINCTIONS, ETC.

The Hindus of these districts are generally distinguished as in other parts of India, and Brahma it is said originally classed them into five orders, viz.,—

Brahmins or Priests.	Sûdras—Husbandmen.
Kshatriyas or Soldiers.	Pariahs—outcastes.
Vaisyas or Merchants.	

But they cannot agree about these distinctions, many of the pariahs pretending to be Sûdras, the Sûdras to be Vaisyas, the Vaisyas to be Kshatriyas, the Kshatriyas to be Brahmins and the Brahmins affirming that the Kshatriyas are become extinct. These five orders are divided into particular castes according to their respective countries, language or occupations. Owing to one or other of these circumstances there are 10 different castes of Brahmins, but they pretend they are all one and the same, the distinctions among them being immaterial. From the pretensions of all the inferior castes to the rank of the order above them, there can be no certainty as to the number of particular castes in each of the five orders, but according to the superintendent's accounts they are as follows:—

Brahmins	1
Kshatriyas	0
Vaisyas	4
Sûdras	58
Pariah	56
Total	119

The Hindus are likewise generally distinguished into two religious sects; one of them believing Vishnu to be the Supreme being are styled *Vishnubhaktās* and the other believing Siva to be Him are called *Sivabhaktās*. The former is distinguished by perpendicular streaks and the latter by cross streaks of clay upon their foreheads. As they frequently change their opinion in regard to the supremacy of these two deities or turn apostates to him who they think will be the most favourable to their views it is impossible to determine the number of particular castes composing these two sects, and as they never quarrel with one another about the tenets of their respective sectaries it is of no political consequence.

A third general distinction prevails among them which has divided the greater part of them into two factions well known by the terms right and left hand. That is said to have originated in a quarrel that arose among the *vaisyas* or merchants about their rank in which many of the other castes joined; the investigated accounts say it was confined to the Carnatic Payenghat and these districts, but when it happened cannot be learned and that the matter in dispute being referred to a raja who resided at Conjiveram he distinguished them as *Balagai* or right hand and *Yedagai* or left hand, agreeable to the side on which they respectively stood of the deity to whom perhaps some appeal was made on the occasion.

These two parties being more steady in their attachment to the cause they have each espoused than to their religious opinions, they can be distinguished with more certainty, and great disturbances often arising among them on account of their extreme jealousy of one another that are commonly fomented by interested persons about people in power which frequently causes bloodshed, it is considered of importance to ascertain the numbers and situations of both parties, and on that account preferred the classing all the particular castes according to this general division of them.

As another matter of political importance it is thought likewise worth-while to know which castes are cultivators, which follow other occupations, the proportions which those two descriptions bear to one another, and the number of the whole that are independant. These matters have not been ascertained yet in more than three districts, but it may be done this year with tolerable exactness. The following is an estimate of the probable numbers desired, made out according to the proportions found in the accounts of the above three districts, from which may be judged how many of the grand total 600,000 there may be of every class in all the districts :—

	Castes.	Cultivators.	Tradesmen, &c.	Independ- ants.	Total.
Madhyastams or neutrals.	Brahmins	3,485	7,045	4,570	13,940
	Patnulkars	550	2,200	..	2,200
	Arasumakkal	9	4	..	9
	Cungulum	25	81	..	100
	Jangam	318	1,032	..	1,270
	Periyana Mudali	50	160	..	200
	Cunnikar .. .. .	..	135	..	135
	Terret Cunnikar .. .. .	..	10	..	10
	Cundykar	75	225	..	305
	Tondmandal vellalar	4,200	1,220	..	4,100
	Karakava vellalar	10,200	3,050	..	10,200
	Páykar Vellalar	6,100	1,825	..	6,100
	Pála vellalar	6,500	1,935	..	6,500

	Castes.	Cultivators.	Tradesmen &c.	Independ- ants.	Total.
Madhyastams or neutrals—cont.	Nudrupúshé Vellalar.. .. .	6,000	1,800	..	6,000
	Malaiyandi Vellalar	9,900	2,975	..	9,900
	Pachi Vellalar	6,200	1,860	..	6,200
	Congni Vellalar	7,900	2,370	..	7,900
	Morsy Vellalar	4,100	1,225	..	4,100
	Puram Káttada Vellalar	3,120	930	..	3,120
	Reddi	6,947	2,070	..	6,947
	Gaupmat reddi	120	42	..	120
	Kammawar	1,038	300	..	1,030
	Tótiyar	363	82	..	363
	Agmirri	14,665	4,422	..	14,665
	Yerra Golla	230	70	..	230
	Ráchavar	870	155	..	870
	Mahratta	12,106	3,630	..	12,106
	Cominandi	325	100	..	325
	Pákinati	75	22	..	75
	Nati makkal	2,609	790	..	2,609
	Malliamor	1,582	480	..	1,582
	Mallia makkal	115	40	..	115
	Tulavar	1,620	490	..	1,260
	Shabe	2,230	665	..	2,230
	Ienir	41	15	..	41
	Vellam Chetti	460	140	..	460
	Moosa makkal	12	..	..	12
	Sundramam	58	20	..	58
	Coeshwan .. .. .	..	4,005	..	4,005
	Erdivar	200	657	..	800
	Puttri láti	715	2,355	..	2,860
	Dombar .. .. .	..	71	..	71
	Márwadi .. .. .	..	530	..	530
	Guzarati .. .. .	..	15	..	15
	Kajaput	92	119	184	370
	Ermévar	155	195	310	620
	Sátani	460	592	920	1,840
	Dasari	138	175	276	550
	Korchivars	112	274	424	850
	Jalagars	202	264	404	810
	Vettivar	1,232	1,357	2,470	7,400
	Cauvaitkar	22	30	44	90
	Pandaram	237	308	474	590
	Caveri	1,125	1,460	2,250	4,500
	Upulir	200	260	400	800
Jaini	95	223	190	380	
Curovanti	62	81	124	250	
Dasari	208	269	416	833	
Dangrikar	27	36	34	110	
Kurubar	9,224	1,986	..	18,450	
Andi Kurubar	462	601	..	925	
Doddi Golla	8,110	10,540	..	16,250	
Yerriyar	1,655	2,150	..	3,310	
Bandlivar .. .. .	..	185	60	245	
Vupandi .. .. .	..	23	7	30	
Bédar .. .. .	..	976	834	1,810	
		..	31	9	40
	Totals ..	160,115	100,654	17,551	229,642
Balagai or right hand.	Komati	1,125	4,500	..	4,500
	Mutokar .. .. .	..	62	..	62
	Waniar	1,475	5,162	..	5,900
	Wurriairda Waniar	24	71	..	95
	Wallialkar .. .. .	..	150	..	150
	Kannadi Baljivar	543	1,829	..	2,102
	Murchair .. .. .	..	21	..	21
	Iengur .. .. .	..	61	..	61
	Sáyamkárar	717	2,315	..	2,810
	Naudar	167	216	..	335
Yaggetikar	260	1,305	..	1,045	

	Castes.	Cultivators.	Tradesmen &c.	Independ- ants.	Total.
Balagai or right hand—cont.	Telugu Baljivar	22,060	6,570	..	22,061
	Kannadiar	635	190	..	635
	Janapavar	5,976	2,670	..	5,976
	Vannan .. .. .	..	7,160	..	7,160
	Ambtan .. .. .	..	6,905	..	6,905
	Pariah	32,474	36,478	5,423	65,075
	Cūtandi	4	6	..	10
	Vallivar	185	170	..	310
	Buridir .. .. .	..	860	..	860
	Waddevar	2,421	7,983	..	9,644
	Uppu Korchivar	42	140	..	170
	Kunchivar	233	763	..	930
	Pechekotti	10	..	..	10
	Shaniar .. .. .	..	1,475	..	1,475
	Dēwāngam .. .. .	..	2,075	..	2,075
	Saliwar .. .. .	..	7,500	..	7,500
	Jādar .. .. .	..	2,594	..	2,594
	Rungrēz .. .. .	..	3,986	..	3,986
	Marrivar .. .. .	..	1,030	..	1,030
	Bedi Salur .. .. .	..	222	..	222
	Bilcamulair	53	64	106	210
	Tellingar	2,400	3,120	4,800	9,600
	Gandha pudikar	27	110	..	110
	Bestavar .. .. .	..	2,506	834	3,340
	Frigur .. .. .	..	563	187	750
	Chandivar .. .. .	..	226	74	300
Toriwalir .. .. .	..	155	50	205	
Shānar	103	10,042	3,395	13,540	
	Totals ..	70,928	121,255	14,551	183,763
Yedagai or left hand.	Nagarta chetti	1,760	7,050	..	7,050
	Kumar	350	1,410	..	1,410
	Kariman	750	3,020	..	3,020
	Techchan	290	1,150	..	1,150
	Kul Techchan	15	60	..	60
	Tattan	890	3,550	..	3,550
	Palli	154,130	46,000	..	154,130
	Chackli	3,737	4,201	..	7,475
	Aiklewar	35	140	35	140
	Kaikulvar .. .. .	..	8,520	..	8,520
	Viramushti .. .. .	..	90	..	90
	Totals ..	161,957	75,191	35	186,595
	Grand Totals ..	393,000	297,100	32,187	600,000