

SELECTION OF PAPERS

FROM THE

RECORDS AT THE EAST-INDIA HOUSE,

RELATING TO THE

REVENUE, POLICE,

AND

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,

UNDER THE

COMPANY'S GOVERNMENTS IN INDIA.

IN TWO VOLUMES,

VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE India Records are of such magnitude, and are so miscellaneous in their nature, that documents upon a single subject would, if collected, frequently compose several volumes, whilst they lie dispersed through, perhaps, hundreds of volumes. Much labour and time must consequently be wasted in procuring information and collating opinions upon important questions, unless the most material documents which bear upon each are brought together in a somewhat regular and connected form. Even thus, voluminous manuscripts, besides being tedious in the perusal, can be circulated conveniently only among a very few individuals. This consideration, and the acknowledged utility of the Appendix to the Fifth Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on East India Affairs, printed in 1812, suggested the expediency of printing a selection of Papers from the India Records of late years, relative to the Administration of Revenue, Justice, and Police, for the use of the Board of Commissioners, the Court of Directors, and the Company's Servants in India. The following volumes have accordingly been compiled, with the view of facilitating research and rendering information more accessible to those in whom knowledge is essential to a beneficial exercise of power and an efficient discharge of trust.

A collection of Papers relating to the Police and Civil and Criminal Justice under the several Governments in India, but more particularly in the Bengal territories, was printed last year by order of the House of Commons. The Court of Directors having been supplied with a number of copies of those Papers by order of the Speaker of the House of Commons, they have not been reprinted in this Selection, the second volume of which, it will be observed, is almost wholly composed of documents having reference to the state of Police and Justice within the Madras territories.

CONTENTS.

BENGAL.

	Page
EXTRACT Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 28th October 1808, paragraphs 36 to 43, relative to the Appointment of a Commission (Mr. C. Buller) for superintending the ensuing Settlement of Cuttack - - - - -	1
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 1st February 1811, paragraphs 15 to 40, in reply to the foregoing, and prohibiting the Conclusion of a Permanent Settlement, either in Cuttack or any other unsettled Province, without the Court's previous sanction - - - - -	2
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 27th November 1811, paragraphs 2 to 4, directing the Government to avoid giving any pledge as to the Permanent Settlement of any of the Ceded and Conquered Provinces, and in the mean time to administer the Revenues thereof under a renewed Lease, for a term not exceeding five years - - - - -	5
Report from the Board of Commissioners (Messrs. Cox and Tucker), dated 13th April 1808, detailing the Result of their Labours with reference to the Settlement of the Ceded and Conquered Provinces, under the provisions of Regulation X. of 1807, and offering an opinion as to the expediency or otherwise of introducing into those Provinces the Permanent Settlement -	6
Minute by Mr. Colebrooke (without a date), in which he reviews the foregoing Report, and expresses his conviction of the desirableness of a Permanent Settlement on the principles both of justice and expediency - - - - -	44
Minute by Mr. Lumsden, dated 11th June 1808, in which, after reviewing the Report of the Commissioners and the Minute by Mr. Colebrooke, he concludes that it will be expedient to adhere to the decision announced to the Public by Regulation X. 1807 - - - - -	55
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 30th December 1809, paragraphs 98 to 100, relative to the Settlement of the District of Agra - - - - -	61
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 15th January 1812, paragraphs 59 to 108, postponing a Review of the Settlement of Agra till the final Accounts are transmitted, and urging, in connection with the Court's Dispatch of the 1st February 1811, the Inexpediency of extending the Permanent Settlement to the Upper Provinces - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated the 31st August 1810, paragraphs 15 to 17, relative to the Settlement of Cuttack for Fusilies 1217 to 1219 - - -	67
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated the 9th September 1812, paragraphs 9 to 11, in reply to the foregoing, and urging the objectionableness of the Farming System - - - - -	68
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated the 15th September 1818, paragraphs 40 to 54, stating the Arrangements which have been entrusted to the Second Board of Commissioners in the Upper Provinces (Messrs. Colebrooke and Deane)	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated the 29th January 1813, paragraph 8, in reply to the foregoing, and again prohibiting the extension of the Permanent Settlement without the Court's previous concurrence - - - - -	71
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated the 31st August 1810, paragraphs 28, 29, 61 to 66, expressing a conviction of the Expediency of the Permanent Settlement, and relative to the Settlements of Agra, Allighur, and Etawah - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>

Extract

	Page
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 12th February 1811, paragraphs 20 to 33, relative to the Settlement and Tehsildarry Arrangements in the Districts of Seharunpore, Cawnpore, and Gorruckpore - - - - -	73
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 29th January 1813, paragraphs 14, 21 to 44, 72 to 91, in reply to the two foregoing Communications, reviewing the Settlements concluded—approving the separation of the Judicial and Revenue Departments—dissenting from the Opinion of the Government as to the Expediency of the Permanent Settlement—and referring to the following Papers connected with the principles of Revenue Administration that were acted upon by Colonel Munro in the Madras Territories - - - - -	77
<i>viz.</i>	
Letter from the Principal Collector of the Ceded Districts to his Assistants, dated 25th August 1802, on Remissions - - - - -	84
Do. dated the 30th September 1802, on the Modes of conducting a Ryotwar Settlement - - - - -	87
Do. to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th November 1806 - - - - -	90
Do. to do. dated the 15th August 1807, on the Ryotwar System and its Advantages - - - - -	94
Instructions of the Collector of Southern Arcot to his Sub-Collectors on the Mode of conducting a Ryotwar Settlement - - - - -	112
Letter from the principal Collector of the Ceded Districts to the Board of Revenue on the Survey of that Country, dated the 26th July 1807 - - - - -	115
Instructions to Surveyors, &c. (Nos. 1 to 4) - - - - -	121
Secret Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated the 9th October 1812, stating, with reference to Court's orders of 27th November 1811, that Regulation X. of 1807 has been rescinded, and that two Regulations have been substituted, IX. and X. of 1812, with the view of reconciling, as far as is practicable, the preservation of public faith, as pledged in Regulations XXV. of 1803, and IX. of 1805, with an obedience to the Court's Instructions - - - - -	131
Minute by the Governor General, dated 11th July 1812, transmitted with the foregoing - - - - -	134
Revenue Letter to Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 16th March 1813, in reply to the foregoing Letter - - - - -	136
Regulation XXV. 1803 - - - - -	143
Do. - IX. 1805 - - - - -	153
Do. - X. 1807 - - - - -	162
Do. - IX. 1812 - - - - -	163
Do. - X. 1812 - - - - -	164
All which Regulations are connected with, and referred to in, the foregoing Subject.	
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 14th December 1811, paragraphs 66 to 68, relative to Sales of Land in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa (excepting Cuttack), in 1216 B.S. and F.S., for the Recovery of Arrears of public Assessment - - - - -	165
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated the 28th October 1814, paragraphs 98, 99, 76 to 92, in reply to the foregoing, referring to a Minute recorded by Mr. Dowdeswell previously to his relinquishing the office of Acting President of the Board of Revenue, relative to some of the most important Questions then depending in the Revenue Department, and in which he recommends the revival of the office of Canongoe, and the modification of that of Putwarry,—and desiring Explanations with respect to the heavy Balances which accrued in certain Districts - - - - -	166
Two Minutes by Mr. Dowdeswell, dated the 19th and 16th October 1811, referred to in the foregoing Dispatch, in which he treats of the following subjects:	
Customs.	
Partition of Estates.	
Sales of Lands.	
Distress and Sale on Account of Arrears.	
House Tax.	
Revenue from newly-cultivated Lands.	
Pensions - - - - -	170

CONTENTS.

	ix Page
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 7th October 1815, paragraphs 13 to 15, 24 and 30, in reply to Court's Orders of 28th October 1814	173
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 14th December 1811, paragraphs 9 to 16, relative to the Settlement of Cuttack (with reference to Court's Dispatch of 1st February 1811, paragraphs 15 to 39) and offering an opinion unfavourable to actual Surveys	174
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 19th June 1813, paragraphs 6 to 18, in reply to Court's Orders of 9th September 1812, paragraphs 9 to 11, expressing a decided opinion against Khass Management, and an intention of shortly resuming the subject of the Permanent Settlement	176
Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 17th July 1813, containing a detailed reply to the Court's Orders of 27th November 1811, and 15th January 1812, relative to the Permanent Settlement	179
Minute by Mr. Colebrooke, transmitted with the foregoing	194
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces) dated 2d October 1813, paragraphs 13 to 19 (in reply to Court's Orders of 29th January 1813, paragraphs 21 to 37) relative to the Settlement of Etawah and Allighur, to Khass Management, and to the Permanent Settlement	204
Letter from Mr. Secretary Dowdeswell to Mr. Secretary Ramsay, dated 22d June 1813	204
Transmitting (with reference to the Letter from Bengal of the 19th June, paragraphs 6 to 16)	
Letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1813, on the subject of Farm and Khass Management	205
Letter from Mr. Secretary Dowdeswell to Mr. Secretary Ramsay, dated 11th September 1813	207
Transmitting, in continuation of the foregoing subject, a	
Letter from the Board of Commissioners, dated 23d August 1813	ib.
Extracts from the Civil Judicial Consultations of 1809, 1810, and 1811, relative to the Oppressions and Exactions practised on the Ryots, with reference to the existing rules for the Distress and Sale of Property on account of Arrears of Rent	209
Minute by Mr. Dowdeswell on the subject	218
Circular Letter to the Collectors of the Lower Provinces, requiring their sentiments on the subject	220
Collector of Bhaugulpore replies to that Circular, under date 9th September 1811	222
Collector of Burdwan - 10th September 1811	223
Do. - Chittagong - 15th August	225
Do. - Dacca - 20th November	228
Do. - Dinagepore - 10th July	229
Do. - Jessore - 31st do.	231
Do. - Moorshedabad - 7th September	232
Do. - Mymensing - 20th do.	233
Do. - Nuddea - 29th June	235
Do. - Sylket - 20th November	238
Do. - Rajshaeye - 16th August	239
Do. - Rungpore (Acting) 5th July	243
Do. - Ditto - 1st August	244
Do. - Tipperah (Acting) 9th September	245
Do. - 24 Pergunnahs - 9th July	246
Do. - Behar (Acting) 5th December	247
Do. - Purneah - 29th November	249
Do. - Sarun (Acting) 22d October	ib.
Do. - Sarun - 5th December	250
Do. - Shahabad - 11th do.	251

	Page
Collector of Midnapore - 29th November	25
Do. - Hidgellee - 21st September	25
Do. - Cuttack - 29th July	26
Letter from the Board of Commissioners, dated 6th August 1811	25
Letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 31st December 1811	25
Letter from Government to the Board of Revenue, stating that the Collectors will shortly be furnished with amended Rules for the Distress and Sale of Property on account of Arrears of Rent	27
Minute by Mr. Colebrooke	25
Regulation XXIX of 1803, for defining the Duties of the Putwarries	26
Regulation IX of 1811, facilitating the Division of Landed Property, and securing the Rights of Joint Sharers in Joint Undivided Estates	26
Regulation V of 1812, for amending the existing Rules for collecting the Land Revenue	27
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces) dated 6th January 1815, paragraphs 21 to 54, relative to the Permanent Settlement, in connection with paragraphs 9 to 16 of the Revenue Letter from Bengal of 14th December 1811; paragraphs 6 to 18 of Letter of 19th June 1813; Letter of 17th July (Ceded and Conquered Provinces); and paragraphs 13 to 18 of Letter of 2d October	27
Do. paragraphs 89 to 108, relative to Sales of Land on Account of Arrears of Revenue, and to the importance of restoring the Office of Putwarry to its ancient footing	28
Do. paragraph 138, directing that Native Terms be avoided as much as possible in the Revenue Records, and that when it is necessary to employ them, an Explanation be furnished	28
Revenue Letter to Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 17th March 1815, relative to the Permanent Settlement, in reply to the Letter from, of 2d October 1813 (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces)	28
Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 19th August 1815, acknowledging the Receipt of Court Orders of 28th October 1814, 6th January and 17th March 1815, which will be replied to hereafter, concurring in the Court's Opinion as to the desirableness of reviving the Office of Canongoe, and reforming that of Putwarry, and suggesting the expediency of reviving the Maul Adawluts	29
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 7th October 1815, paragraphs 2 to 16, on the subject of the Permanent Settlement, in connexion with Court's Orders of 6th January and 17th March 1815.	29
Do. paragraphs 23 to 25, respecting the Triennial Settlement of Bundelcund for 1217 to 1219, in reply to Court's Orders of 6th January 1815, paragraphs 13 to 54	29
Do. paragraphs 41 to 43, in reply to paragraphs 89 to 108 of the same Orders	29
Do. paragraph 63, in reply to paragraph 138 of the same Orders	29
Do. paragraph 65 to 70, relative to the objectionableness of Khass Management and the impracticability of introducing the Ryotwarry System, with reference to the Court's Dispatch of 29th January 1813, paragraphs 21 to 37	26
Extract Regulation XLIV, 1793	26
Do. Regulation XLVII, 1803	29
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces) dated 9th June 1815, paragraphs 28 to 34, relative to the Result of the Quartennial Settlement of the Ceded Provinces, which expired with Fustyly 1219 or 20th September 1812, in connexion with the Revenue Letter from Bengal of 19th June 1813, paragraphs 30 to 34	30
Do. paragraphs 80 to 91, relative to arrangements in the District of Bareilly, where a Settlement for Five Years (1220 to 1224) had been concluded by Mr. Deane, in connexion with the Letter from, of 10th January 1814, paragraphs 19 to 32	30
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 4th July 1817, paragraphs 23 to 25, and 50 to 58, in reply to the two foregoing Extracts	30
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 16th June 1815, paragraphs 6 to 27, relative to the Revenue Affairs of Cuttack, including the Arrangements adopted for the Settlement of the District under the Provisions of Regulation I, 1813, in connexion with paragraphs 6 to 18 of the Letter from, of 19th June 1813	30

CONTENTS.

	xi Page
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 4th July 1817, paragraphs 4 to 12, in reply to the foregoing - - - - -	311
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 7th October 1815, paragraph 24, relative to the Offices of Canongoe and Putwarry, with reference to paragraphs 76 to 91 of Letter from, dated 28th October 1814 - - - - -	312
Do. paragraphs 65 to 67, relative to the Assessment of certain Lands recently brought into Cultivation in Chittagong - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 29th October 1817, paragraphs 21 to 26, in reply to the foregoing - - - - -	313
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 7th October 1815, paragraph 68, referring to an able Report by Mr. Richardson, on the conclusion of his Mission to Cuttack - - - - -	314
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 29th October 1817, paragraphs 27 to 38, in reply to the foregoing - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 2d April 1817, paragraphs 16 to 18, relative to Sales of Land, in reply to paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Letter from, of 29th November 1814 - - - - -	316
Do. paragraphs 55 to 64, relative to the Settlement of Bareilly and Shahjehanpore for five years (1220 to 1224), in reply to paragraphs 5 to 8 of the Letter from, of 31st January 1815 - - - - -	317
Do. paragraphs 67 to 73, respecting the Appointment of a Surveyor to the Board of Commissioners, in reply to paragraphs 15 and 16 of the same Letter - - - - -	319
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 29th October 1817, paragraphs 9 and 10, 28 to 45, 47 to 50, in reply to the three foregoing Extracts - - - - -	320
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 8th April 1817, paragraphs 74, 75, 78 to 80 relative to the objectionableness of the Native Officers and Servants becoming Purchasers of zemindarry Property sold by public Auction, and to the Abuses represented to prevail in Killah Khoordah - - - - -	323
Do. paragraphs 95 to 98, relative to Lands sold in the Lower Provinces in Fusilies 1218 and 1219, and in Cuttack in 1221 Umlee, in reply to paragraphs 35 to 37 of Letter from, dated 29 November 1814 - - - - -	335
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated the 29th October 1817, Paragraphs 11 to 16, adverting to an Insurrection in Cuttack and to the Appointment of a special Commission for inquiring into the Causes, &c. thereof, some of which, it is believed, will be found in the Revenue Department - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Do. paragraph 27, respecting a Disproportion between the Lands advertised and actually sold, in reply to paragraphs 95 to 98 of Court's Dispatch, dated 8 April 1817 - - - - -	336
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 1st November 1816, paragraphs 1 to 31, relative to the Revival of the Office of Canongoe and the Reformation of that of Putwarry - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Do. paragraphs 32 to 35, respecting the Re-establishment of Maul Adawluts - - - - -	339
Do. paragraphs 36 to 38, relative to Surveys - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Do. paragraphs 39 to 49, respecting the Affairs of Cuttack - - - - -	340
Do. paragraphs 50 to 58 relative to the Assessment of the Sunderbunds - - - - -	341
Do. paragraphs 59 to 66, relative to the extensive Wastes in Bhaugulpore, and the practicability of deriving a Revenue therefrom - - - - -	342
Regulation V. 1816, for establishing the Office of Canongoe in Cuttack - - - - -	343
Regulation VI. 1816, for extending, for a further period of three years, the existing Settlement of Cuttack - - - - -	345
Regulation IX. 1816, for appointing a Commissioner to the Sunderbunds - - - - -	346
Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 28th November 1817, adverting to the lamented Decease of Mr. John Deane, late Commissioner in Behar and Benares, and reporting the Arrangements adopted for the purpose of forming a Distinct Board, consisting of two Members, in those Provinces - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Revenue Letter to Bengal, dated 22d April 1818, relative to the Insurrection in Cuttack - - - - -	348
Extract Revenue Letter to Bengal (Department of Ceded and Conquered Provinces), dated 15th January 1819, paragraphs 1 to 83, respecting the Permanent Settlement. (Page 351). Surveys (351). Rights of the Peasantry (351) Canongoes, Putwarries, and Maul Adawluts (363) - - - - -	351
Do. Paragraph 86, relative to the Ryotwar System and the Multiplication of European Agency in the Upper Provinces - - - - -	366

The following Papers are referred to in the foregoing Dispatch.

Extract

	Page
Extract Report of Mr. Cornish, Fourth Judge of the Patna Court of Circuit, dated 26th July 1814, relative to the Rights of the Ryots remaining undefined	366
Letter to the Boards of Revenue and Commissioners, dated 21 October 1814, transmitting a Copy of the foregoing, upon which their sentiments are desired	367
Letter to the Board of Commissioners, dated 12 August 1815, transmitting to them a Copy of paragraphs 100 to 108 of the Court's Dispatch, dated 6th January 1815, and requiring from them the Draft of a Regulation for amending the Office of Putwarry on the principle suggested by the Court	368
Letter from the Board of Commissioners, dated 30th May 1815, in Reply to the Orders of Government of 21st October 1814, and suggesting that the Re-establishment of the Maul Adawluts and of the Office of Canongoe, but more particularly the Reform of the Office of Putwarry, by making him a Servant of Government, would go far to rectify existing Abuses	370
Letter to the Board of Commissioners, dated 12th August 1815, in reply to the foregoing, and directing them to submit a Draft Regulation for the Re-establishment of Maul Adawluts	372
Letter from Government to Colonel Mackenzie, Surveyor General of India, dated 12th August 1815, directing him to submit a Plan for the Organization of a Surveying Establishment	373
Letter from the Board of Revenue to Government, dated 13th June 1815, transmitting the two following Minutes on the Subject of the Office of Canongoe, as called for by Government, under date 21st October 1814 <i>viz.</i>	374
Minute by Mr. Roche	ib.
Do. by Mr. Colebrooke	378
Report from Mr. Sisson, late Joint-Magistrate of Runpore, dated 2d April 1815, on the relative state of Landlord and Tenant	381
Appendix to the Report	395
Resolution of Government on the foregoing	402
Extract Letter from Lord Moira to the Secret Committee, dated 13th January 1816, paragraphs 1 to 3 Transmitting a	
Minute by his Lordship on the Revenue Administration of Bengal, dated 21st September 1815	403
Minute by the Governor General (Mr. Hastings), dated 1st November 1776, in which he states the necessity of procuring adequate Information as to the real Value of Lands previously to the formation of the new Settlement, and proposes the constitution of an Office for that purpose	420
Minute by Mr. Francis, dated 5th November 1776, in reply to the foregoing and objecting to the Governor General's Proposal	437
The Governor General recommends a fixed Establishment for the Office proposed in his Minute of 1st November Which is	441
Approved by Mr. Barwell, objected to by Mr. Francis, but carried in the Affirmative and Messrs. Anderson and Bogle appointed	442
Minute by Mr. Barwell on the Subject	ib.
Minute by General Clavering on the same Subject, strongly protesting against the Governor General's Proceedings	444
Minute by the Governor General in reply to Mr. Francis's Minute of 5th November	447
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 21st August 1786, paragraph 3, referring to Mr. Grant's Analysis of the Finances of Bengal, and to his Appointment to the Office of Sheristadar	452
Extract Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 11th September 1786, paragraph 7, referring to an Address from Mr. Grant to Government in connexion with his Appointment to the foregoing Office	453

CONTENTS.

xiii
Page.

Minute by the Governor General (Sir J. Macpherson) with reference to the Prosecution of Mr. Grant's Researches - - - - -	453
Letter from Government to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1786, referring to Mr. Grant's Appointment and claiming for him the support and assistance of the Board - - - - -	458
Letter from Mr. Grant to Government, dated 30th July 1786, stating his anxiety to adopt the most eligible means for carrying into effect the objects contemplated in his Appointment - - - - -	459
Resolution of Government upon the foregoing, and Letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 5th August 1786, directing them to concert with Mr. Grant in carrying into effect the purposes of his appointment - - - - -	462
Resolutions of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1786, in connexion with the foregoing - - - - -	463
Letter from Mr. Grant to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th August 1786, and Resolutions of the Board thereon - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Regulation VIII, 1793, Sections 54 to 61, prohibiting the imposition of any new Abwabs, and relative to Pottahs, &c. - - - - -	465
Regulation III, 1796, for excluding from the Jurisdiction of the Court of Wards certain landed Estates belonging to disqualified Landholders, and for declaring the Rules in Section 5, Regulation XLIV, 1793, to extend to the cancelling wholly the Leases of those Under-Farmers, a part only of the land included in whose leases may be sold for arrears of Revenue - - - - -	466
Letter from the Board of Commissioners to Government dated 30th May 1815, in which, with reference to paragraphs 27 to 32 of the Court's Dispatch of 29th January 1813, the Board admit the comparative advantages of the Ryotwar over other Settlements, but shew that it cannot be introduced <i>generally</i> without violating the public faith; and that, besides, our present European Establishments are inadequate to its effective introduction - - - - -	467
Explanatory Statement by the Board of Commissioners, dated 30th May 1815, connected with the foregoing - - - - -	470
A further explanatory Statement, shewing the present Establishment of the Collectorships, the amount of Tehsildarry Charges that might be retrenched on the Appointment of Assistant Collectors, and the Expense of carrying the latter measure into effect - - - - -	472

MADRAS.

Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 24th October 1808, paragraphs 4 to 40, relative to the failure of the Permanent Settlement in Dindigul, and the introduction into that District of a Triennial Village Settlement - - - - -	475
Extract Do., paragraphs 58 to 76, relative to the Introduction of Triennial Settlements into the Ceded and other Districts in lieu of the Ryotwar System - - - - -	481
Report from the Board of Revenue to Government, dated 25th April 1808, referred to in paragraph 59 of the foregoing Letter - - - - -	483
Extract Revenue Letter to Fort St. George, dated 18th December 1811, paragraphs 169 to 185, 216 to 220, in reply to the foregoing - - - - -	489
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 6th February 1810, paragraphs 7 to 14, relative to the Introduction of a Triennial Village Settlement into the Ceded Districts - - - - -	493
Do. paragraphs 26 to 29, Southern Arcot - - - - -	494
Do. Do. 30 to 33, Northern Arcot - - - - -	496
Do. Do. 35, Nellore - - - - -	498
Do. Do. 40 to 43, Dindigul - - - - -	500
Do. Do. 44 to 47, Tanjore - - - - -	502
Do. Do. 60 to 65, Tinnevelly - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Do. Do. 66, Reports from other Districts not yet received - - - - -	504
Extract Revenue Letter to Fort St. George, dated 17th December 1813, paragraphs 70 to 77, 82, 87 to 101, 104 to 108, 109 to 113, 123 to 126 and 127, in reply to the foregoing - - - - -	504
Do. paragraphs 164 to 167, relative to Mr. Thackeray's Report on Malabar, Canara, and the Ceded Districts - - - - -	511

	Page
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 29th February 1812, paragraphs 65 to 80, relative to the Settlement of Tanjore and Trichinopoly	513
Do. paragraphs 176, 177, Settlement of Tinnevely	514
Do. Do. 195 to 258, relative to the result of the Triennial Village Settlements and the formation of Decennial Village Settlements	515
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, paragraphs 259 to 269, relative to the Triennial Settlement introduced into Bellary, Coimbatore, Nellore, Trichinopoly, and Palnaud	523
Do. paragraphs 283 and 284, respecting the Affairs of the Zemindar of Vizianagram	524
Do. paragraphs 328 to 332, relative to a Scarcity of Grain and Epidemic Fever	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Revenue Letter to Fort St. George, dated 16th December 1812, paragraphs 1 to 39, and 40 to 47, in reply to a part of the foregoing, and enjoining the Introduction of the Ryotwar System	525
Extract Revenue Letter to Fort St. George, dated 6th June 1814, paragraphs 52 to 48, 78 to 93, 109, 138 to 149, in reply to the remaining part of the foregoing Letter from Fort St. George of 29th February 1812	536
Extract Letter from Mr. Secretary Thackeray to Mr. Secretary Ramsay, dated 28th March 1812	518
Transmitting the following Papers on the Subject of the Permanent Settlement, viz.	
Letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3d March 1812	<i>ib.</i>
Extract from the Board's Proceedings, under date 2d March 1812	<i>ib.</i>
Reply of the Government, dated 24th March 1812	554
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 17th October 1812, paragraph 1, intimating an intention of replying, at an early Period, to the Court's Dispatch of 18th December 1811	555
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 5th March 1813, paragraph 53, relative to the Permanent Settlement of Dindigul	<i>ib.</i>
Do. paragraphs 60, 123 to 136, relative to the Permanent Settlement	<i>ib.</i>
And referring to a	
Report of the Board of Revenue on that Subject, dated 28th January 1813	558
Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 25th August 1813, in reply to the Court's Orders of 16th December 1812, and detailing the measures pursued with reference to the Court's Instructions	572
The following Papers are referred to in this Letter, viz.	
Letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 16th August 1813	576
Minute by the Board, dated 5th August 1813	577
Appendix referred to in the Minute	597
Proceedings of the Sudder Adawlut, dated 20th August 1813	604
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 4th February 1814, paragraphs 1 and 2	607
Transmitting a	
Letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 30th August 1813, stating the Progress which had been made in the Decennial Village Lease Settlement, previously to the arrival of Court's Orders of 16th December 1812	607
The Reply of Government to the same, dated 16th December 1813	608
Letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1813, recommending that the Decennial Village Lease should be prosecuted to a conclusion in Coimbatore, on the ground that the faith of Government was pledged to the Measure	612
Extract Revenue Letter from Madras, 4th February 1814, paragraphs 3 to 6, respecting the Village-Lease Settlement concluded in the Southern Division of Arcot	613
Together with the following Documents relating to that subject:	
Letter from the Board of Revenue, 29th April 1813	<i>ib.</i>
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, 29th March 1813	614
Extract from Minutes of Consultation, 4th February 1814, reviewing those Proceedings	628

CONTENTS.

	xv Page
Extract Revenue Letter to Madras, 12th April 1815, paragraphs 57 to 80, 109 to 170, 172 to 175, relative to the Settlement of the Land Revenue as connected with Court's Orders of 16th December 1812 - - - - -	634
Revenue Letter from Madras, 12th August 1814, with reference to Court's Orders of 16th December 1812 on the same subject - - - - -	655
And transmitting	
Letter from the Board of Revenue to Government, dated 20th September 1813, together with an Extract from the Board's Proceedings of 9th September 1813, relative to the Decennial Lease Settlement of Cuddapah	664
Report from the Collector of Cuddapah, dated 22d December 1812 -	672
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 21st June 1814, reviewing the foregoing Proceedings - - - - -	694
Letter from Government to the Board of Revenue, dated 2d August 1814, directing certain Queries (which are stated) to be circulated among the Collectors for their Replies, the first seventeen of which relate to Meerassy Right - -	701
Extract Revenue Letter from Madras, 2d September 1814, paragraphs 8 to 10, 17 to 19, 21, 22, 33, 34, 54 to 57, in reply to certain parts of Court's Dispatch of 17th December 1813, relative to Settlements - - - - -	703
Do. to Madras, 3d September 1817, paragraphs 3, 79, 147 to 157, in reply to the foregoing - - - - -	706
Do. from Madras, 5th January 1816, paragraphs 14 and 15, 22, 32, 33, 34, 62, 64, in reply to certain parts of the Revenue Letters from Madras of 6th June 1814 and 12th April 1815 - - - - -	708
Extract Revenue Letter from Madras, 5th January 1816, paragraph 98, relative to the Resumption of the late Major Evan's Farm - - - - -	710
Do. paragraph 130, relative to vesting in Collectors a Discretion to suspend the rigid Exaction of Rents when Grain may be unusually cheap - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Do. paragraphs 144 to 149, relative to Abuses in the Revenue Administration of Coimbatore during the Collectorship of the late Mr. W. Garrow - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Revenue Letter from Madras, dated 26th September 1816, relative to the Coimbatore Abuses - - - - -	711
Transmitting	
Report of the Commissioners, dated 26th February 1816 - - - -	712
Minute by Governor Elliot, dated 12th September 1816 - - - -	754
Letter from Government to the Board of Revenue, 13th September, 1816, requiring a Report from the Board, with reference to the Commissioners' Report, and particularly to the Conduct of Mr. William Garrow	754
Revenue Letter to Madras, dated 22d May 1818, paragraphs 85 to 104, relative to the Coimbatore Abuses - - - - -	755
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th December 1817, with reference to the Commissioners' Report on the Coimbatore Abuses - - - - -	760
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 2d October 1819, paragraphs 136 to 138, - - - - -	790
Transmitting	
Letter and Remarks by Mr. Sullivan, dated 2d March 1819, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of 29th December 1817	791
Extract Revenue Letter from Madras, dated 31st January 1818, paragraph 164 -	810
Transmitting	
Mr. Ellis's Paper on Meerassy Right, together with two Appendices -	<i>ib.</i>
Extract Revenue Letter from Madras, 31st January 1818, paragraph 168, - -	837
Referring to	
Colonel Munro's Report on Malabar, 4th July 1817 - - - - -	838
Mr. Thackeray's Report on Coimbatore, dated 4th October 1817 - - - -	858
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 31st January 1818, paragraphs 58 to 77, noticing the Defectiveness of the Information before Government on the subject of the general Introduction of the Ryotwar System, and stating that a Report had been called for from the Board of Revenue as to the Mode of Settlement subsisting in each District, the Date at which the existing temporary Settlements will terminate, and the Degree in which each District may be prepared for a Ryotwar Settlement - - - - -	868

	Page
Report of the Board of Revenue alluded to in the foregoing, dated 29th May 1817	870
Draft Regulation for the General Introduction of the Ryotwar System	872
Letter to Colonel Munro, dated 24th June 1817, requesting his Sentiments on the foregoing	879
Letter from Colonel Munro, dated 22d August 1817, in reply to the above And transmitting	ib.
Remarks on the Ryotwar Regulation	881
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 2d October 1819, Para- graphs 192 to 200 Referring to a	883
Minute by the Board of Revenue, dated 5th January 1818, relative to the proper course of Proceeding under the Court's Orders for introducing the Ryotwar System	885
Mr. Græme's Report on Northern Arcot for Fusilies 1225 and 1226 (or 1815-16 and 1816-17) dated 31st March 1818, in which he also discusses the Merit of the Ryotwar System	951
Extract Revenue Letter from Fort St. George, dated 2d October 1819, paragraphs 241 to 255 Referring to a	972
Report from Mr. Thackeray on the State of the Moherry Zemindarry, dated 8th February 1819	974
Do. do. on Ganjam, dated 15th February	980
Do. do. on Goomsur, dated 8th March	999