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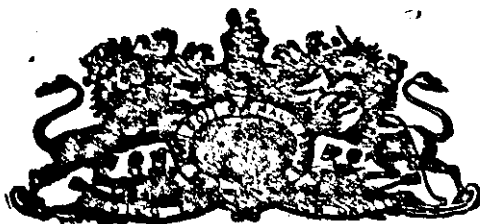
respondance of the
v. Chief of Bihar
'81-1787 .

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SELECTIONS .
FROM THE
CORRESPONDENCE
OF THE
REVENUE CHIEF OF BIHAR
1781—1786

BY

J. F. W. JAMES, M.A., I.C.S.



PATNA.

SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

1919.

**CORRESPONDENCE OF THE REVENUE CHIEF OF
BIHAR, 1781 TO 1787.**

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NOTE.

Whenever reference is made to any of the following works, it is to the edition here specified :—

Serial No.	Name of Publication.	Referred to as—
1	View of Rise, Progress, and Present State of the English Government in Bengal, by Harry Verelst, late Governor of Bengal. (London, 1772.)	"Verelst."
2	Analysis of the Bengal Regulations by J. H. Harington (published by East India Company's Press, Calcutta, 1814-15).	"Harington."
3	History, Antiquities, Topography, and Statistics of Eastern India, by Montgomery Martin (3 Volumes, London, 1838). (This is Montgomery Martin's edition of Dr. Buchanan's report of 1814. All references are to the first volume.) The account of the Mayi family in paragraph 19 of the introduction is taken from the Buchanan MSS in the India Office.	"Eastern India."
4	History of British India, by James Mill and H. H. Wilson (Fifth edition, London, 1858.)	"Mill."
5	Fifth Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of the affairs of the East India Company (1812). I have used the reprint published by Higginbotham at Madras, in 1866.	"Fifth Report."
6	Bengal M. S. Records, by Sir W. W. Hunter. (London, 1874.)	
7	Annals of Rural Bengal, by Sir W. W. Hunter. (London, 1883.)	
8	Early English Administration of Bihar, 1781-85, by J. R. Hand (Calcutta 1894).	"Hand."
9	The Seir Mutaqberin, by Ghulam Husain Khan (1785), translated by M. Raymond (1788). (Reprinted by Cambay and Company, Calcutta, 1902, 4 volumes. All references are to this edition.)	

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**TOMB OF
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BROOKE AT SIKRAUL (BENARES.)**

Photo engraved & printed at the Office of the Survey of India, Calcutta, 1923.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE REVENUE CHIEF OF BIHAR, 1781—1787.

INTRODUCTION.

CHAPTER I.

THIS volume contains most of the fragments which remain in Arrah of the records of the Revenue Chief of Bihar, whose office, created on the abolition of the Patna Council in 1781, existed until 1787, when the country was divided into collectorships in preparation for the Permanent Settlement. The Revenue Chief in 1787 was William Augustus Brooke, who by the new arrangement became the first collector of Shahabad district. Brooke took with him to Arrah the records of the correspondence of the Revenue Chiefs, and they remained there until 1857, when it appears that they were removed for safety with other

The fragmentary records in Arrah.

records to the Fort at Buxar, whereby they escaped the destruction which overtook those Government records which remained in Arrah. In 1886, these records were brought to the notice of Mr. Hand, and he made them the basis of his interesting articles in the *Englishman* newspaper, which he republished in 1894, under the title of *Early English Administration of Bihar*. It is to be feared that some of the records which Mr. Hand examined did not return to the record room, or were mislaid and so perished. Thus there are considerable lacunæ in the records; eighteen pages are missing in the letters issued at the interesting period between July 18th and August 24th 1781: there is a gap between September 21st, 1781 and January of 1782: and there are many other gaps, of which the largest is that in the letters received between September 12th, 1782 and November of 1784. The record room has been searched for these papers without result.

All the records are in very bad condition; they cannot be handled without cracking the paper; and wherever there has been a fold, the paper has split into fragments. Such as they are, they have little interest except to students of local revenue administration. The volume is entitled selections from the records; but practically nothing has been omitted except those formal covering letters of which the substance is missing. In this matter I have accepted the advice given to me by the assistant curator of the Indian Institute at Oxford, that when publishing records, it is best to publish everything, because those records which to one enquirer seem utterly void of interest may afford valuable clues to another.

2. The appointment of the Revenue Chief in 1781

marked the inception of the last experiment in administering the land-revenue of the province by the agency of the Indian Dewan, the lineal successor of the Imperial Diwan of Bihar. These fragments show how the experiment failed, and how its failure led up to the Permanent Settlement. It is significant

Importance of the period under review.

See Lord Cornwallis's letter of November 7, 1789. (In Ross's *Cornwallis Correspondence* the editor's footnote confuses W. A. Brooke with his successor Thos. Brouke.)

that the local officers who from the first were enthusiastic in carrying out the scheme of the Permanent Settlement were, William Augustus Brooke, Thomas Law, and Robert Bathurst. Of these three, Brooke was from 1781 Revenue Chief of Bihar, Law had been Judge of Patna, and afterwards Collector of Rohtas, a district carved out of Brooke's jurisdiction in 1784; while Robert Bathurst had been Superintendent of Khas Mahals, his duty being to take over and administer as best he could the area in which Kallian Singh had defaulted. Thomas Law was actually the author of the scheme which formed the basis of the Regulations for the Decennial Settlement in Bihar, and it was evidently his recent experience in the province which made him condemn all temporary settlements, when he pleaded so earnestly at the beginning of 1788 for a settlement "in perpetuity with village maliks. Anybody who realises what the local revenue officials had endured until the end of 1787 will hesitate to condemn their attitude in favouring so enthusiastically this drastic remedy for the miserable state of affairs which had hitherto prevailed. We see in the correspondence

how embarrassment and imprisonment appears inevitably to await anybody who engages for revenue, whether he is farmer-general, under-renter, or zamindar. The Diwan, Maharaja Kallian Singh, Raja Khiali Ram, Kallab Ali Beg, Ahmad Ali Khan; every one begins to fail at the first unfavourable season, and a renter in arrears never recovers his ground. A characteristic remark may be quoted from the letter from the Board of Revenue of September 8th, 1786, regarding the great renter of Shahabad, Ahmad Ali Khan, that "we directed Mr. Bathurst to apprehend his person, and enforce payment *in the usual mode*." Mir Barkat Ulla, practically the only considerable farmer who contrived to keep his head above water for more than two successive years, owed his success to conduct so oppressive that we are told that he dared not venture in his palanquin in the public street. Taking all things together, the office of Revenue Chief of Bihar must have been one of the most difficult and disagreeable that have ever fallen to the lot of a British Official, in India or anywhere else.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION OF BIHAR FROM THE
ACQUISITION OF THE DIWANI TO THE ABOLI-
TION OF THE PATNA COUNCIL, 1765—1781.

3. It is now probably impossible to say exactly how far Todar Mal established in Bihar his direct system of revenue administration. Under that system, revenue should have been collected by a staff of Government officials, from the mukaddam of the village to the chaudhri of the pargana and the great aumil of the sarkar or district. There is no reason to doubt that this collecting staff was established over a considerable area, as is indicated by the survival to the present day of families of chaudhris and of mukaddami jagirs. This system was not extended to the area held by semi-sovereign rajas in the extreme south of Bihar, most of which is now included in the Chota Nagpur Division, which in this respect corresponds to what is termed the Rajwara in Orissa. But it is uncertain how far, within the *Mughalbandi* area of Bihar, the work of collection, within their respective spheres of influence, was

The Mughal revenue system.

delegated to the great territorial magnates and to the smaller local aristocracy. The work of the revenue-collectors was checked by a completely separate accounting staff, which was established throughout the *Mughalbandi* area. This staff consisted of village patwaris, pargana kanungos, and head (sadr) kanungos; and these officials continued to perform their official functions until the Permanent Settlement. The head of the whole provincial revenue department was the Imperial Diwan, a great officer of state, who accounted directly to the Imperial Treasury.

4. When the East India Company began to take interest in the revenues of Bihar, the practice of collection directly by officers of Government had long been abandoned. The introduction of the farming system is commonly laid to the charge of Farrukhsiyar; that emperor may or may not have instituted the system: but it is certain that from his time the revenues were farmed. Under this system parganas were put up to auction; the accepted bidder, (not necessarily the highest bidder), covenanted to pay a certain amount, by specified instalments, for the farm. Anything which he might realise over this amount would be his own; and naturally it was in the expectation that he would profit in this way that he made his bid. But until he had paid in to the Treasury the covenanted amount, all collections made from the date of the covenant were hypothecated to Government, and if he retained anything for himself while an instalment was not paid in full, he committed an act of embezzlement. It was thus necessary to know how much had been collected; and this probably accounts

for the fact that whereas the hierarchy of collecting officials disappeared, the official accounting staff remained in full vigour.

5. As the authority of the Mughal emperors decayed, the power of the Imperial Diwan dwindled, while the Subadar practically became an independent prince. In 1765 Clive's enemies ridiculed the Diwani as the shadow of a shade; and they had some justification for their attitude, in spite of the fact that the post of Imperial Diwan had for the last few years been held by a man of quite exceptional vigour and capacity. This was Rao Shitab Rai, an able Kayasth adventurer, who from a clerkship in the household of Samsam ud daula had risen to be Governor of the fortress of Rohtas and Diwan of Bihar. He was strongly attached to Clive, and he certainly earned a title to the regard of the English by the manner in which he brought his small contingent to the aid of the gallant Ranfurly Knox at Hajipur, when others preferred to loiter at a safe distance until the issue was decided. It was Shitab Rai whom Knox brought into the Patna Factory after the battle, declaring: "This is a real Nawab; I never saw such a Nawab in my life." Shitab Rai played a great part during the comparatively feeble Governorship of Ram Narain, but he had to stand aside when Mir Kasim came to Patna. The fall of Mir Kasim did not immediately restore Shitab Rai to power; and after the battle of Buxar the Government of Bihar was carried on by Mirza Muhammad Kazim Khan, brother of Mir Jafar, assisted by a Deputy Governor, Dheraj Narain, who was a brother of Ram Narain.

6. In the August of 1765, Clive, who had been joined by Shitab Rai, went to Allahabad, and obtained from the Emperor Shah Alam the farmans which bestowed the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa upon the East India Company. When Clive came to Patna on his return journey, Mirza Muhammad Kazim Khan retired from his post of Governor, to which Dheraj Narain succeeded. It was commonly said that Dheraj Narain's claim to office lay, not in his ability, for he had none, but in the fact that Mir Kasim had murdered his brother. However that may be, Dheraj Narain had a powerful rival in Shitab Rai; and it is possible that, perceiving the insecurity of his position, he took the opportunity to use it while he could for his own benefit. Early in 1766 he was associated in a Council of three with Shitab Rai and Mr. Middleton, the Factory Chief, and in the following September his fall came. Muhammad Reza Khan came to Patna to investigate the revenue administration; he charged Dheraj Narain with malversation, whereupon Shitab Rai became Diwan of Bihar in Dheraj Narain's place, while Thomas Rumbold, who had just returned from England, became Chief of the Patna Factory in place of Mr. Middleton. Rumbold was one of the officers whom Clive had found it necessary to import from Madras for administrative work, because the servants of the Company in Bengal were too essentially men of trade. Originally a writer in Madras, of which Presidency he was in later years to be Governor, he had held a captain's commission under Clive, but was now returning to

Provisional arrange-
ments, 1765-1770.

Seir Mutaqherin, III,
19.

civil service. Shitab Rai at this time was the person who was responsible for the details of revenue administration ; he acted in association with Rumbold ; and the two appear to have worked together harmoniously. Rumbold's rank was that of a Member of Council ; he

See Verelst App., pp. 68, 72. is sometimes called the ' collector ' of Bihar, and he went on tour in the province, supervising revenue collections. In 1769 Rumbold returned to England ; he was succeeded by James Alexander, who was styled Supervisor of Bihar.

7. Towards the end of 1769 signs of impending famine began to appear in Bihar.

The famine of 1769-70 Earlier in the year Rumbold had given warning of danger ; but in August he had reported that rain had fallen, and it was hoped that the season would be favourable. This expectation was disappointed ; the premature cessation of the autumnal rains ruined the standing crops ; and in January of 1770 famine had proceeded so far that Shitab Rai reported that fifty persons were dying daily of starvation in Patna. Alexander wrote at the end of January that the immediate distress was extreme, and that each day lost in deliberation added to the calamity. Nevertheless, he stated in the same letter that he had issued orders to take for Government twenty-five seers out of each maund of grain reaped, leaving fifteen for the raiyat. Shitab Rai, taking that just and generous view of the duties of Government which we should expect from his character, boldly proposed to set aside two lakhs of rupees for relief work. But the Government of John Cartier would neither accept responsibility nor delegate it to the local officers ; they agreed that something must be

done; but they would not definitely approve Shitab Rai's proposal. In the following April Alexander reported that 'the depopulation in the interior part of the country is more rapid than will be imagined by any person who has not been witness to it; and such is the disposition of the people that they seem rather inclined to submit to death than extricate themselves from misery and hunger by industry and labour'. We should pronounce this estimate of the people of Patna to be unjust, if we judged its correctness by their character at the present day. In any case, the taking as revenue of five-eighths of a famine crop would be deemed nowadays a somewhat severe mode of inciting cultivators to exhibit industry and self-reliance in distress. 'By this time,' reports Mr. Alexander, 'the miseries of the poor increase in such a manner that no less than 150 have died in a day in Patna. In consequence of this, and of the latitude you have given, I disburse on the Company's account daily 380 sonat rupees, 100 of which is disbursed by the Raja. The officers at Dinapore, by a private subscription, feed a large number; and the French and Dutch give as largely as can be expected from their small factories.'

The famine increased in May; and the supervisor suggested that the troops of Dinapore should be moved up to the frontier, so that the local consumption of food might to a small extent be lessened. Government did not agree to this, lest the transfer should alarm the Nawab-Wazir of Oude, but ultimately the troops were moved to Buxar. The rainy season in time brought relief; but there had been great depopulation before that relief came, from which the country did not recover for many years.

8. In 1770 a change was made in the system of Appointment of the administration, and a Provincial Patna Council, 1770. Council was appointed for Bihar which consisted of James Alexander as President, with Robert Palk and George Vansittart as members with Shitab Rai. The appointment of this council was a blow to the prestige of Shitab Rai; the author of the *Seir Mutaqherin* describes how the Diwan's fall was expected, and how he went out to Fatuha to meet the new members of the council on their arrival, returning with George Vansittart on his elephant, to the confusion of those who wished him ill. The Council at once began to interfere actively in revenue matters.

In November of 1770 they discussed the rates of *malikana* to be allowed to dispossessed proprietors, and the rates of rent to be taken from the cultivators. They attempted to fix the *malikana* at five per cent. but in this they were overruled by the Governor-General and Council, who allowed the customary rate of ten per cent. A large body of raiyats had taken the opportunity of the entry of the new council to complain of the exactions of the renters, whereupon the Council fixed the maximum rent at nine-sixteenths of the produce, compelling the farmers to undertake by their covenants not to collect at a higher rate. It is possible that in this order we may find the origin of the tradition that nine-sixteenths of the produce is the normal rent in South Bihar.*

* It is stated in the Patna Settlement Report that restrictions on collections were omitted in the *Asabiyats* of 1781, as is certainly implied in Sir John Shore's Minute of June 23th, 1789. (Harington's Analysis, Vol III, page 451.) But in his letter of May 6th, 1788 (No. 96 below), W. A. Brooke distinctly asserts that the renters by their current *Asabiyats* had undertaken to leave seven-sixteenths to the raiyats, and that this was the standing rule.

9. Meanwhile the account of the famine was reaching England, with rumours, which in some cases were not without foundation, of miseries enhanced by engrossing and forestalling on the part of the revenue officers. The Directors ordered an enquiry, and Shitab Rai was suspended and sent under arrest to Calcutta. It does not appear that he could reasonably be blamed for his administration during the famine; had Government promptly accepted his proposals, much suffering could have been averted, since at Benares grain had been plentiful and cheap. He had, moreover, spent a large sum of his own money in purchasing grain at Benares, and selling it in Patna at the Benares price. He emerged from the enquiry with honour; as Hunter says, the investigation was a public *amende* for his apprehension rather than a trial.

Annals of Rural Bengal,
p. 39.

He was reinstated in his office, but he died shortly after his return to Patna in 1773. Warren Hastings, when he came to Patna after Shitab Rai's death, appointed his son Kallian Singh as Diwan on an annual salary of fifty thousand rupees, but he did not continue to Kallian Singh the allowance of three lakhs which his father had received for nizamat charges; and the general civil administration remained in charge of the Council. Shortly afterwards Hastings appointed Khiali Ram and Sadu Ram as Naib Diwans under Kallian Singh, whose allowances on this account were increased to five thousand rupees monthly.

See Patna Council consultations, September 1, 1774.

10. In 1771 James Alexander was transferred to Murshidabad, and Richard Farwell succeeded him as

President of the Patna Revenue Council. The revenues of Bihar were leased on a five years' farm during the suspension of Shitab Rai, and the activities of the Committee of Circuit of 1772 did not extend to this province. The Council of Patna was not abolished in 1772, but during the period of the five years' farm the Revenue Council was merged in the Patna Factory Council until it was again separated in 1776.

11. In 1772 George Vansittart succeeded Barwell as President of the Council. In the following year *Thomas Lane* succeeded Vansittart, and he remained at Patna until 1775, when he was relieved by *Philip Milner Dacres*. In 1776, when the five years' farm expired, *Isaac Sage* took over the revenue duties of Dacres.

Ewan Law, who succeeded Sage as President in 1777, was an elder brother of Thomas Law and of the first Lord Ellenborough. He arrived in India in August 1764, and was stationed at Patna from 1768 until he finally left India in 1780. From 1770 he was a member of the Factory Council, and from 1772 he was a member of the single administrative council of Patna. In 1777 he became President of the Council, remaining in that post until 1780, when he returned to England. He is chiefly remembered in India for the fact that he was concerned in 1777 in the famous Patna case, in which the Supreme Court treated with overbearing contempt the judicial procedure of the Patna Council and the rules of inheritance of Muhammadan Law. In 1782 Law definitely retired from the Company's service. Two years later he married a sister

Presidents and Members of the Council, 1772-78.

of Hastings' secretary Markham. He afterwards entered Parliament, where he made a vigorous attack upon the methods of the managers of the impeachment of Hastings, which was greatly resented by the Whigs. It appears that under Law's presidency the Council was not very efficient, either as regards general administration or as regards collection of revenue. Under the annual settlements which were made after the expiry of the five years' farm, the collections of 1777 were 39.65 lakhs; but in the following three years they were very much less satisfactory, varying from 30 to 34.38 lakhs.

William Maxwell, senior member of the Council after Law's departure, had first joined the Patna Council in 1773; and after three years at Murshidabad he had returned to Patna in 1777. In the certificate of birth which was required on his entering the Company's service, one Andrew Moffatt testifies that he was born at Dumfries in 1744 or 1745, but no details of his parentage are given, nor have we any details of his education beyond the fact that before entering the service he had passed through a course of book-keeping under a master named Reeve, at the Bishopsgate Street Academy. After the abolition of the Council it was William Maxwell who became Revenue Chief of Bihar.

Another member of the Council from 1775 until its dissolution was William Young,* who appears in Hand's book as William Young, Henry Revell, Charles Graeme.

* See Hand, pages 54 to 57; *Seir Mutaqherin III*, 169. In the translation, by a mistake in transcription from the Persian, Young appears as Mr. Neca.

a pompous and tactless person, and in the *Seir Mutaqherin* as noted for bad temper and intrigue. Other persons connected with the Council who may be mentioned here were Henry Revell and Charles Graeme. Henry Revell arrived in India in 1766, and in 1771 became an assistant to the Patna Revenue Council. From 1774 to 1788 he was Collector of Customs at Patna. Charles Graeme, who had hitherto been an assistant in the commercial department at Patna, was in 1779 created Collector of Saran district, which was then separated from the rest of Bihar.

12. In 1781 the Patna Council was abolished with the other Provincial Councils, and a central Committee of Revenue was appointed to control from Calcutta revenue affairs in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Charles Graeme left Patna to reside within his district, and the rest of the Bihar Province was placed under William Maxwell, who now bore the title of Revenue Chief. The Governor-General and Council decided to try to use more effectively the services of the Diwan Kallian Singh, whose office had hitherto been a sinecure, reverting to this extent to the system which had been abandoned in 1772. Under the form which the experiment took, Kallian Singh became farmer-general for the area under Maxwell.*

* That is to say, the areas covered by Sarkars Shahabad, Rohtas, Bihar and Tirhut. Parganas west of the Kinal river were in sarkar Bihar, but Bhagalpur was not at this time treated as part of Suba Bihar.

CHAPTER III.

WILLIAM MAXWELL AS REVENUE CHIEF OF BIHAR,
1781.

13. After the abolition of the Council the relation of the Revenue Chief to the Diwan Kallian Singh was at first somewhat uncertain. The Diwan had practically enjoyed a sinecure under the Council, and Maxwell reasonably regarded himself as Kallian Singh's superior officer. On the other hand, Kallian Singh had obtained his farm direct from the Governor-General; it was arranged that he should pay his instalments of revenue, as they fell due, at the headquarters treasury at Calcutta; and he regarded himself as independent of the local officers. The abolition of the Council was part of a larger scheme of revenue administration affecting the three provinces; but in Patna it was believed to have been brought about by the intrigues of Kallian Singh's naib, Khiali Ram. If this was the view of Kallian Singh, it is easy to understand how he came to look upon himself as free of the Revenue Chief's control.

14. The managers' version of the circumstances in which the Patna Council was abolished formed one of the articles of impeachment against Warren Hastings. Mill in his history discusses the question at considerable length: and here as elsewhere, he is manifestly unfair to Hastings. The facts appear to have been as follows:—

The circumstances of the appointment of Kallian Singh.

Raja Khiali Ram, the Naib-Diwan, had recently obtained the farm of a very large area in South Bihar, sparsely cultivated and of comparatively small assessment, including the parganas of Chainpur, Sasaram, Siris Kutumba, and Chirkanwan. At the end of 1780 he had fallen into arrear, and he was in confinement in Patna, when an order came from the Governor-General to send him down to the Presidency. The Patna Council, after some hesitation, permitted him to go. Khiali Ram accordingly went to Calcutta, where it was arranged that Kallian Singh should take in farm the whole of Suba Bihar, paying a *nazarana* of four lakhs of rupees. Local gossip, as it appears in the *Scir Mutaq-*

Op. cit. III, p. 110.

Aerin, represented Khiali Ram as having obtained the farm for himself, and as having generously given a share in it to Kallian Singh. But there is no doubt as to what actually happened. Khiali Ram acted as Kallian Singh's agent, and negotiated the business in that capacity. Subsequently, after Kallian Singh had ratified the transaction, Jonathan Duncan suggested that he should divide the farm with Khiali Ram.

See Kallian Singh's account: Bengal Revenue Cons., February 13th, 1788.

Kallian Singh accepted the suggestion, and allotted to

Khiali Ram the more troublesome and less remunerative portion of his charge.

Of the *nazarana* of four lakhs, the sum of two lakhs was paid at once, but of the balance only 30,000 rupees were realised. So much as was realised was paid into the public treasury, and it does not appear that there was anything secret about the transaction. But at least one member of the disbanded Council was sore at his change of appointment, and we may easily conjecture whence the suggestion came to Edmund Burke that Hastings had accepted a personal bribe for an improper action, and that subsequently, after his crime was complete, he had repented and made the money over to Government. Burke made much of the fact that Khiali Ram, when Hastings sent for him, was 'in gaol.' His argument loses its point if we remember that settlement was actually made, not with the comparatively disreputable Khiali Ram, but with the wealthy Kallian Singh, who as son of Shitab Rai enjoyed a very great personal prestige, and who held the rank of Diwan of Bihar. Burke's language suggests unwarranted analogies, but although the position of a great renter under restraint was very different from that of a debtor in the Fleet or the Marshalsea, it may well appear strange that so prudent a person as Duncan should have advised the giving of a farm of unprecedented size to a renter who was already in difficulties over a comparatively small one. It is possible that Khiali Ram was at the time

Scir Mutaqherin, III, p. 109. able to make out a good case for himself, and Ghulam Husain Khan may be right in attributing his difficulties to the malevolence of William Young's agent Ram Lochan. One

is tempted to accept Ghulam Husain Khan's statement because that would not only explain why Duncan trusted Khiali Ram, but would also go far to account for Young's bitterness over the whole transaction.

15. As a revenue collecting agency the Council had shown itself inefficient in its later years, and its record would appear to have justified an experimental change. According to the *Seir Mutaqherin* it had become very unpopular, a result largely attributed to the overbearing conduct of William Young, and its abolition was generally welcomed. Young himself subsequently stated at the Bar of the House of Commons that the people dreaded the coming of Kallian Singh and Khiali Ram, in place of the Council, more than a Mahratta invasion; a statement which, if it was made in good faith, probably reflected nothing beyond the dismay of the witness's local protegés. Hastings wrote as a reason for its dissolution that 'faction and incapacity were the characteristics of the different members of this Council', which appears to have been true. On another occasion he said that the Council was discarded because it was a bad institution, not for any fault of its members. Fox subsequently made a great deal of the apparent contradiction; but it is obvious enough that on the first occasion the intriguing members, on the second occasion the more capable members, were uppermost in Hastings' mind when he spoke.

So far as the result of the change was to vest Kallian Singh with responsibility for the revenue, the experiment may be regarded as a reasonable one. The

administration of Shitab Rai had in many respects been more successful than that of the Council; and Hastings cannot be fairly criticised for wishing to try the effect of reverting to some extent to the older system. If such an experiment was to be tried, there was only one man to whom the responsibility could be entrusted, and that was the man who was already nominally¹ Diwan, Kallian Singh, the son of Shitab Rai. The failure of the experiment is to be attributed partly to the misfortunes of 1781, partly to the fact that Kallian Singh was, by general consent, a less capable man than his father; but it may be attributed largely to the fact that he had a less free hand than Shitab Rai. When Kallian Singh put undue pressure on the Raja of Tirhut or of Tikari, Government intervened to protect the Zamindar. Shitab Rai had practically *carte blanche*,

Seir Mutaqher in III, and, according to the evidence of p. 65. a warm admirer, he was accustomed to make up deficits by systematically blackmailing holders of revenue-free grants, a resource which was not open to his son.

16. There was no organisation then in existence by which Kallian Singh or Khiali Ram could directly manage so vast an area, and no attempt was made to create one. Accordingly, each of them leased out his parganas to under-renters. Many of the zamindars, having at one time or another within recent years taken the farm of the area contained in their zamindaris, were already in arrears. Raja Madhu Singh of Tirhut had been managing the collections of his estate, but he was almost immediately deprived of it by Kallian Singh.

Kallian Singh and Khiali Ram sub-let their farm.

Raja Mitarjit Singh of Tikari continued to hold the farm of his own zamindari; but Kallian Singh summarily enhanced the revenue from Rs. 2,75,681 to Rs. 3,51,681, and the young zamindar was soon in difficulties. Both Kallian Singh and Khiali Ram started with punctual payment of due instalments of revenue; but this state of affairs did not last long. Early in the rainy season they both began to fall into arrear, and then events at Benares threw the whole of Bihar for a short time into confusion.

17. On August 11th, 1781, Warren Hastings passed through Bankipore on his way to Benares. William Maxwell died on August 20th, before news of the rebellion of Chait Singh had reached Bihar. During the following two months, the senior assistant, James Lindsay Ross, was acting as Revenue Chief.

CHAPTER IV.

THE REBELLION OF AKBAL ALI KHAN AND
NARAIN SINGH.

18. In 1781 there had been peace in Bihar for seven-
State of Bihar in teen years. But in the period
1781. between the death of Aliverdi Khan
and the battle of Buxar the country had been in a dis-
tracted state, with zamindars waging war among them-
selves, declining to recognize the authority of Mir Jafar
after the Battle of Plassey, supporting the Shahzada
Ali Gauhar in his invasion of Bihar, and supporting
Mir Kasim when he was at war with the English.
Ghulam Husain Khan's home was in Japla, in the
south of sarkar Bihar, and he was a young man during
Scir Mutaqherin II, that period of anarchy. The nor-
403. mal condition of a zamindar of
that district is well illustrated by the words which he
puts into his father's mouth in addressing Shah Alam,
when Kamgar Khan, the zamindar of Hasua, tried to
dissuade the Emperor from making terms with Major
Carnac:—"Kamgar Khan is a zamindar, and to be
endlessly fighting, and flying and flying again, is nothing
but the trade he has been bred to; but such a vagrant
life is beneath the dignity of an Emperor."

At last the decisive victory of Munro at Buxar had brought peace to the country, but a strong element of restlessness remained; particularly among the followers of zamindars who had been conspicuously turbulent in the earlier period.

19. Probably the most powerful zamindar of Bihar in 1757 was Kamgar Khan, who lived with his three brothers at Hasua near Nawada. They were commonly known as the Mayi family, because their ancestors, before their conversion to Muhammadanism, were said to have been Mayi Rajputs. The history of the family in Bihar had during the last half century been one of continuous and successful aggression.

At the end of the reign of Aurangzib the Narhat-Samai country formed part of the zamindari of a Raja of an old Babhan family, whose founder had, according to tradition, made an end of the Ahir domination in that region. Azmeri and Diyanath Khan, the sons of one Nuraon Khan who had recently come to Patna from Tilawandi in the Punjab, obtained from this Raja a lease of Malda pargana. Having thus gained a footing in the country, they were able, when the Raja was in difficulties over payment of revenue, to obtain from the subadar the farm of six of his parganas. The brothers now compelled the zamindar to retire to Sheor Muhammadabad; and they afterwards succeeded in obtaining from Farrukhsiyar, when he came to Patna, a formal grant of the zamindari of the parganas which they farmed. Of the two brothers Azmeri died without issue, while Diyanath had five sons, Dalil, Nemdar, Sardar, Kamgar, and Ranamasta. Dalil Khan separated himself from his other four brothers, who lived

jointly at Hasua, and formed the dreaded Mayi family of the later years of Aliverdi Khan's rule. As Buchanan says: 'Nemdar and his son Waris Ali were successively called the head of the family, and everything was done in their names, yet the whole management was vested in Kamgar Khan, a very bold and turbulent man, who waged war upon his neighbours and seized on many other estates, and would infallibly have made himself master of the whole of south Bihar, had he not been opposed by Sundar Singh of Tikari.' Kamgar Khan drove from Kharakdiha the degenerate descendant of the Raja at whose expense his father and uncle had made their first acquisitions, and he occupied in 1764 an area of over four thousand square miles. He bore a leading part in the intrigues and fighting of the period between 1757 and 1764, opposing Ram Narain, supporting Ali Gauhar, and afterwards assisting Mir Kasim, when the Nawab turned against the Company. He was not a successful general, which is of course largely explained by the fact that he was always fighting against the English, with the result that he found himself pitted successively against Clive, Knox, and Carnac. He died in 1764, and when Waris Ali Khan died shortly after him, the Hasua zamindari devolved upon Akbal Ali Khan*, Kamgar Khan's only son, who was then a boy. Akbal Ali Khan remained in possession of his father's acquisitions; but the seizure of Kharakdiha was too recent to be condoned, and his men were expelled from that pargana when Ramgarh was put in order in 1774.

* This is how the name is usually spelt in the correspondence. This man is to be distinguished from Iqbal Ali Khan, of Khargpur in Moughyr.

* 20. While Kamgar Khan was building up the Hasua estate, his neighbour Sundar Singh of Tikari was acquiring for himself a vast zamindari by similar methods, encroaching on the petty zamindaris in the plains, and on the ghatwali tenures in the hilly area on the south. There was strong personal enmity between Sundar Singh and Kamgar Khan, and after Sundar Singh's murder in 1758, the feud was continued with Rajas Fateh Singh and Buniad Singh, both of whom were put to death by Mir Kasim in 1763. Mitarjit Singh, the infant son of Buniad Singh, succeeded to the possession of the zamindari. As Mitarjit Singh grew up, his loyalty and prudence were unimpeachable; but an element of restlessness was supplied in this area by the discontent of Pitambar Singh, ancestor of the Maksudpur branch of the Tikari family, who was making that claim to joint possession of the Tikari estate, which has been from time to time revived by his descendants to the present day.

21. On the south-west of Bihar district lay the zamindaris of the Rajput families of Powai and Deo. Bishun Singh of Powai, and Chhartarpati Singh of Deo. Bishun Singh, zamindar of Siris and Kutumba, had declined to recognize the Government of Mir Jafar after the battle of Plassey. It may well have appeared to a man of spirit that the time was favourable for the assertion of independence, and for the practice of a little aggression on his own account. On the east he had seen the rise of the great zamindaris of Hasua and Tikari. On the west, in Chainpur and Sasaram, a Rajput adventurer, Pahlwan Singh of Nokha, was then at the height of a brief period of power.

Emulous of the methods of his greater neighbours, Bishun Singh disavowed his liability to pay land-revenue, and seized for himself the parganas of Japla and Belaunja. The Governor Ram Narain came down with an army, and obtained fair promises from him; but Bishun Singh did not evacuate the parganas until the Governor obtained the assistance of Sundar Singh of Tikari. Bishun Singh retained his independent attitude, until in 1763, perceiving that he could not safely trifle with Mir Kasim, he fled to Benares. His zamindari was restored to him after the fall of Mir Kasim, and when Bishun Singh died, Narain Singh, his nephew and adopted son, succeeded him. Narain Singh held the management of Siris-Kutumba under the Patna Council, until in 1778 he fell into arrears and was imprisoned. The Council then for a time directly administered the parganas with great difficulty, which was attributed to the obstructive tactics of the zamindar, until in 1779 the zamindari was leased in farm to Khiali Ram. In 1780 Narain Singh was suspected of assisting the rebellious zamindars of Palamau, Lagaud Rai and Gujraj Rai. He had been bred in a turbulent school, and the treatment which he had recently received from Government must have been irritating to him. It appears from the account of May 20th, 1781, that the whole of his malikana for the last two years had been

See letter No. 9, page 71
infra. confiscated, but he was still in debt to Government to the amount of ten thousand rupees.

22. This was the state of south Bihar in August 1781. On the 11th, the Governor-General, Chait Singh's rebellion. Warren Hastings, passed through

Patna and Dinapore on his way to Benares, accompanied by Ali Ibrahim Khan and a large retinue. Ten days later, Mrs. Hastings arrived from Monghyr and stayed in the house which had been built by Ewan Law at Bankipore. On the 22nd, two days after Maxwell's death, news came that the Raja of Benares was in revolt, and this was shortly followed by the report of the disaster to Captain Mayaffre's detachment.

23. The news of the rebellion produced something like a panic among the Europeans of Patna, and some were even for abandoning the station, a proposal which Mrs. Hastings strongly opposed. She appears to have set an excellent example of fortitude; but there were real grounds for uneasiness, because Chait Singh's emissaries were inciting Bihar to revolt, and it was unlikely that all these appeals would be barren of result. Hasan Ali Khan, the renter of Arwal and Masaurha, who was discovered to be acting as an agent for Chait Singh in Patna City, was promptly arrested by Ross. Charles Graeme of Saran, who had serious trouble in the great Babhan zamindari of his own district, wrote to Ross, as he was bound to do, acquainting him with the rumours that had come to his ears, suggesting obvious grounds for doubt regarding Pitambar Singh of Maksudpur, who was regarded by many as the head of the Tikari family, and was of Chait Singh's caste. Graeme had also been told that Reza Kuli Khan, the renter of Sasaram, had joined Chait Singh, and that considerable levies were going up to him from Chainpore, which was probably true. There actually was disaffection in south Bihar, but it did not show itself until the rebellion at Benares

was practically at an end, and then it appeared in other quarters than those indicated by Graeme.

Meanwhile, troops hurried to the assistance of Hastings from all sides, and the rebellion in Benares Province was crushed by the storming of Pateeta on September 20th. The last stand was made at Bijigarh, and it was to this place that Major James Crawford, marching from Chatra, proceeded direct through Sherghati and Aurangabad. The troops from Buxar and Dinapore naturally arrived at an earlier stage; and they were assisted on their march by the great Rajput zamindars of Dumraon and Jagdishpur in northern Shahabad.

Bikramajit Singh of Dumraon sent one of his brothers, with five hundred matchlockmen to Major Moses Crawford, and another brother, with one hundred men to Major Eaton at Buxar. There were at first unpleasant rumours regarding Bhupnarain Singh of Jagdishpur, but Major Eaton wrote of him on September 15th:—

In consequence of the information I had from Hanuman Singh, Naib or Fouzdar of Arrah, that Babu Bhupnarain Singh had raised 1,600 men at Jagdishpur in order to obstruct the collections, I addressed you yesterday by the hands of Bowan Singh, Naib to Bikramajit Singh; but Babu Bhupnarain Singh having come to me yesterday evening with the few men he had collected, I recollected that he had some time ago written me, expressing his desire to raise men for the assistance of Government, and he was very desirous to join the Governor at Benares. He is now so far on his way. I have this morning made the strictest enquiry respecting his having interfered with the

Company's peons, and find it entirely without foundation ; on the contrary, he seems more attached to our cause than any other person in the district.

24. At the end of August Major James Crawford, who was in command of the cantonment at Chatra, came down through Sherghati on his march to Chait Singh's country. His first experience of the zamindars of South Bihar was all that could be desired. Raja Chatarpati Singh of Chirkanwan, the ancestor of the Deo family, came to him with six hundred men, and proposed to accompany him on the expedition. The Raja was corpulent and advanced in years, so Major Crawford preferred to take his son Fateh Narain, who came with three hundred of the best of his matchlockmen, and remained throughout the operations against Chait Singh. There is something in the climate of the Kaimur Hills which is particularly trying to natives of the country at their base ; and while Crawford's men suffered severely from sickness, these men from Chirkanwan suffered more. Scarcely one of them escaped the fever, and twenty-seven died. Fateh Narain himself was seriously ill for some days ; but in spite of the Major's suggestion that he should move to a more salubrious climate, he remained till the end. As Major Crawford wrote :—

This behaviour was the more meritorious, as all the neighbouring rajas manifested their disaffection at time ; and Narain Singh, whose country adjoins to Chirkanwan, actually assembled a considerable force to resist me. I therefore think it may be of public utility to confer some reward on this family for their conspicuous attachment to Government.

Their *nankar* land, which had been taken from them by Khiali Ram, was restored to them, while Fateh Narain was rewarded with a *khillat*, to which the Revenue Chief added, on his own responsibility, an elephant which had lately been received from the Raja of Nepal.

25. When Major Crawford reached Aurangabad, the zamindar Narain Singh was ordered to provide boats for crossing the Sone. Instead of doing this, he fled to Powai with his followers, and after threatening at one place and another to oppose the Major's march, he ultimately joined Chait Singh's general, Bechu Singh. Crawford dragged up his guns at Akbarpur, and marched across the hills to Bijigarh, leaving Narain Singh behind him. In the following March, Crawford set out to subdue Narain Singh, who finding himself hard pressed went to Patna, where he surrendered to the Revenue Chief.

26. During September 1781 there were serious disturbances in the neighbourhood of Hasua. Two zamindari servants named Razali and Saheb-dad, whom Buchanan describes as men of the old school, impatient of the peace which had for some years lain on the country, and instigated by a letter from Chait Singh, began to assemble a body of Akbal Ali Khan's raiyats. Mr. Hotchkiss, a servant of the Company travelling from Giriak, fell in with this rabble, and was murdered by them, whereupon Razali lost heart and absconded. Meanwhile Akbal Ali Khan, who had been in confinement at Patna for arrears of revenue, escaped and placed himself at the head of his men, and with five thousand followers began

to plunder the country. Ensign Downes was sent against them with one company, but on October 12th he found the rebels in such strength that he had to apply for reinforcements. Captain Powell then came with two more companies from Dinapore. He found Akbal Ali Khan strongly posted in the Gumia pass, but he turned his flank by a night march and drove him out with heavy losses. Akbal Ali Khan fled into Kharakdiha, where he endeavoured to raise the Ghatwals against the British. Here he laid waste the *gadis* of Satganwan and Doranda; and when resistance was no longer possible, he succeeded in escaping to Delhi.

27. The estates of the rebels were confiscated.

The Siris Kutumba
zamindari.

Narain Singh was kept in confinement, and in 1786 he was sent as a state prisoner to Dacca. He was allowed to return to his zamindari in 1792, when it was permanently settled with him under the Decennial Settlement Regulations; but it was sold for arrears of revenue at the end of the eighteenth century. The Siris-Kutumba zamindari was thus finally lost to Narain Singh's family, which still survives in comparative obscurity at Mali near Auran-gabad.

28. Akbal Ali Khan at the end of 1784 met

The Haron zamindari
confiscated.

Warren Hastings at Benares, when he was permitted to return to Bihar. He then petitioned for restoration of his zamindari; but it is obvious that the local officers were reasonably disinclined to re-establish his influence. A considerable portion of the estate had in 1782 been alienated beyond immediate recall by grants to distinguished persons for life. One of these grants was to Manir-ud-daula, ancestor

of the Bhiknapahari family of Patna. Another was made to Ali Ibrahim Khan, who took the grant in his brother's name. This property, in Amarthu and Rajgir, has ever since remained in his family, now commonly known as that of the Nawabs of Husseinabad. In 1785 the rest of the Hasua zamindari was held in farm under John Shore's unexpired settlement. From 1786 that farm was continued by annual settlements, until in 1788 the farmers defaulted. Thomas Law then completely broke up the estate, making a permanent settlement, village by village, with petty maliks and small farmers. Law urged, as one of the principal reasons in justification of such a settlement, that the dangerous influence of feudal rajas would be dispersed. This was in fact the effect of the settlements of 1788 and 1789 in this zamindari, because it made it to the interest of so many persons that Akbal Ali Khan should not return to power. Akbal Ali Khan died in 1800, leaving no legitimate descendants.

See Law's *mukarrari plan* of January 17th, 1738. Law's scheme was to settle with village maliks, as actual proprietors of the soil. It affected the wording of the Decennial Settlement Regulations; but except in the Hasua estate, it was not carried into effect in parganas for which anybody held a zamindari sanad.

CHAPTER V.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BROOKE AS REVENUE
CHIEF.

29. On October 18th, 1781, William Augustus Brooke took over the office of Revenue Chief from Ross. Brooke was born in 1753; he arrived in India on May 31st, 1769, and from his arrival until in 1781 he came to Patna with the rank of Senior Merchant, he had been employed as a military paymaster. In later years in Arrah he was succeeded by Thomas Brooke, father of Raja Brooke of Sarawak, and subsequently the two Brookes were stationed together as Judges in Benares, so that William Augustus is sometimes confused with his successor.

30. When Brooke took over charge, both Kalliam Singh and Khiali Ram were seriously in arrears of revenue, as would naturally be expected in the circumstances. On November 21st an attempt was made to coerce Khiali Ram into payment by placing him under arrest in his own house. As this proved ineffectual, he was removed into the Patna Fort, and subsequently, on January 20th, to the Haveli Begam. Samuel Charters of the Committee of Revenue, who had come to Patna, now made his confinement more rigorous; he was refused a hookah or betel or similar indulgences, while his house was put up for sale. In September his jagirs were attached, and his sons were placed under arrest, on the principle that all the members of a

Difficulties of Khiali
Ram and Kalliam Singh.

Hindu family were jointly responsible for the debts of its head. The jagirs remained under attachment for four years.

The parganas which had been farmed by Khiali Ram were taken under direct management by the Revenue Chief at the end of 1781, and much of the correspondence of the next two years is concerned with the difficulties which he experienced in managing them. Kallian Singh was now relieved of the farm of the revenues of Tirhut, which was made a separate district under Mr. Grand, of whose adventures in Calcutta and elsewhere so much has been written. The division of the revenue of Tirhut and South Bihar stood thus in March 1782 :—

	Rs.
Farm of Kallian Singh	11,20,166
Parganas under the Revenue Chief ...	15,67,643
Parganas under Mr. Grand (Tirhut) ...	<u>6,49,281</u>
Total	<u>33,37,095</u>

Kallian Singh's arrears continued to increase ; and in January 1783 Robert Bathurst, the Superintendent of Khas Mahals, found him making arrangements with under-renters for sums which were less than the revenue which he had engaged to pay. It was suspected that his object in doing this was to raise money at any cost, which he could take with him to Oude, deserting Bihar altogether, and settling on his jagirs in the north-west. Kallian Singh was now deprived of the various articles of miscellaneous revenue which were included with the farm of the head-quarters pargana of Azimabad, consisting of the cattle tax, and

Bengal Revenue Consultations, July 3 and September 15, 1783.

monopolies of excise, red lead, and gold and silver thread manufacture. He protested that the *sairat* formed the most profitable portion of his whole farm ; if he lost this he did not wish to remain responsible for the rest. By the end of August Kallian Singh was seven lakhs in arrear ; and Mr. Brooke wrote that for the last two years he had been struggling against the consequences of his want of care and attention in 1781, and his private fortune had suffered as much as the Company.

31. The *Hathiya* rain had failed in the autumn of 1782, but Brooke reported that the shortage of crop would not affect the revenue, as the high price of rice made the grain rents so much the more valuable. In 1783 the rains ceased before the last week of August ; by the end of September the price of rice had risen to twenty seers for the rupee, and it was evident that serious scarcity was impending. It was also extremely probable that there would be difficulty in realizing revenue in the following year, because candidates for settlement were withdrawing their tenders. In the parganas under direct management there was trouble with the temporary *aumils*. The system of 1781 had broken down, and the Revenue Chief had since the end of that year been occupied (to use Mill's words of the revenue administration as a whole), in putting off the evil day, and applying temporary expedients to temporary difficulties. Brooke pressed for a general resettlement ; and John Shore, President of the committee of Revenue, was sent to Bihar to enquire into the existing scarcity, to frame a new revenue scheme for the province, and to make a

general settlement. He came to Bihar early in October 1783, and completed his work in three months.

32. It was thought in Patna in 1783 that the scarcity was largely due to the fact that merchants were hoarding grain in order to profit by the rise in prices. This idea always prevails in times of scarcity; it was common in 1770; and though experience has shown to it to be practically always ill-founded, it invariably reappears whenever high prices rule. We find Brooke reporting in his letter of September 27th that he is certain that the existing stocks of grain are more than sufficient for one year's needs; but the owners are taking advantage of the necessities of the poor. Shore had plenary powers, and his first step was to issue a proclamation, by which he required merchants and zamindars to bring to sale all stored grain on pain of confiscation. The proclamation was not, so far as I am aware, carried into effect in a single instance. Shore took the sensible step of removing the transit duties on grain; and he cancelled the orders of the Collectors of Saran and Tirhut who, seeing the scarcity in Patna, had endeavoured to protect their own districts by forbidding exportation. One result of Shore's recommendations was the building of the great granary which still stands at Bankipore. Its erection was sanctioned in January 1784, and it was promptly built; but it has never been filled in anticipation of scarcity.

33. Shore made an end* of the diwani of Kallian Singh and finally wound up his accounts. The Diwan had an outstanding claim of Rs. 1,63,000

Kallian Singh's claims
in Tikari.

*An end of the duties of the office, but not of the Emoluments. See page 132.

against Mitarjit Singh of Tikari, whose revenue he had arbitrarily increased in 1781. There had been a dispute over this claim a year earlier between Kallian Singh and the Revenue Chief. Mr. Brooke had been ordered to investigate it, and if he found it well founded, to bring to sale a part of the Tikari zamindari. Kallian Singh thought it beneath his dignity to submit his dispute to the judgment of the Revenue Chief, and he had refused to set Mitarjit Singh free from confinement to come to Patna. The matter had remained pending until the arrival of Shore, who settled it by ordering that Mitarjit Singh's *nankar* land should be attached and let in farm for five years.

34. When the accounts of Kallian Singh were adjusted Shore found that his arrears amounted to about 6½ lakhs, which cannot be regarded as excessive, if all the circumstances are taken into consideration.

Adjustment of Kallian Singh's accounts.

The account stood as follows:—

Year.	Demand.	Payments.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1781	15,96,666	14,93,469	1,03,197
1782	11,20,165	10,84,711	35,454
1783	9,09,562	5,20,074	3,89,488
1782	Collected in Tirbut after separation	...	27,168
1783	Collected from Azimabad after separation of that Mahal	... ..	69,401
	Total arrears	...	6,24,708

Kallian Singh's great jagirs were attached for five years from January 8th, 1784, in settlement of the claim.

35. Shore's revenue scheme for the province was merely a rearrangement of leases under the farming system, on a three years' settlement. His settlement report of December 18th, 1783, is a very interesting document, showing the farming system as applied by an officer of unquestioned ability and experience. The only alternatives which at that time presented themselves were direct management, or more or less permanent settlement with zamindars. Direct management was always found difficult and unprofitable, because the superior supervising staff was too small for the work. In the light of later experience it does not appear that it would have been unreasonable to have suggested a raiyatwari settlement with a proper administrative staff. Shore perhaps had an opportunity; and Government was more likely to listen to such a proposal from him than from anybody else, but it is highly improbable that such a proposal, if he had made it, would have been accepted. Moreover, Shore was not the man to propose far-reaching administrative reforms. Direct management, as he understood it, meant management by temporary renters or thikadars; it was the farming system with smaller farms, held by small men, on an extremely precarious tenure. As for settlement with zamindars, Shore would have pointed out that most of the great zamindars had at some time or another in recent years become responsible for the revenue of the area contained within their zamindaris,

but every one of them had failed to keep his engagements. It was commonly said that zamindars were incompetent; and Hastings had described the greater part of them, seven years before, as incapable of acting or judging for themselves, being either minors or men of weak understanding or absolute idiots. We know from their later history that Mitarjit Singh and Jaswant Singh, to quote two examples, were exceptionally prudent and capable men, but it will be found that Shore did not consider either of them fit to be entrusted with the revenues of his zamindari.

In the case of Mitarjit Singh, Kallian Singh in 1761 had summarily increased his assessment by 27 per cent.; and naturally the zamindar had found it difficult to pay the increased revenue. Shore made a slight reduction of three per cent. in the assessment, and settled the estate with Kallab Ali Beg. In these cases of inflated assessments, the gain made by accepting a farmer's bid was only a gain on paper. Kallab Ali Beg was only able to hold out for a year, and in the beginning of 1785 he was in confinement for arrears. Jaswant Singh's zamindari was settled with a farmer, of whom Shore naively remarked that he would be bound to suffer loss, as the produce of the country was unequal to the *jama*.

Of *Azimabad* mahal, with its *sairat*, Shore reported that Mir Barkatulla, a renter from Hajipur, who had been hitherto punctual in his payments, had made the highest tender, which was accepted, though it was probable that he would be a loser during the first year of his lease. Mir Barkatulla was one of the few farmers of this settlement who survived to the

end of his term. Of him the Revenue Chief reported a year later, that he had made himself so obnoxious to the inhabitants of Patna by his oppression and tyranny, that he was obliged to come to Bankipore by boat, not daring to go in his palanquin, for fear lest the populace should tear him to pieces. He appears, throughout his term, to have used his monopolies as a means of oppression in the whole of South Bihar.

Shahabad was settled with Ahmad Ali Khan, a great renter of a family whose tradition it was to be particularly punctilious in fulfilling engagements. The correspondence of the next two years is largely taken up with his difficulties. The terms of his engagements hardly allowed of any concessions to the raiyats, and reading his petitions we find unmistakeable indications of power oppressively exercised : but it is impossible not to feel sympathy with him in his struggle to pay his stipulated revenue. It will be seen that by the end of 1785 he was obliged to resign his farm, and in the following year he was imprisoned on account of his arrears.

36. It has often been remarked as a defect of the Permanent Settlement that it was not based upon any accurate knowledge of mufassal assets, and that consequently the assessment was very unequal, being often oppressively high, and often so inadequate as to be merely nominal. This same defect is naturally to be noted, to a still greater extent, in Shore's settlement. The nominal basis of assessment was still the demand of Todar Mal, as enhanced in 1685, and slightly revised by Muhammad Reza Khan in 1766. The competitive bids of farmers did tend to some extent to

The settlement not based on accurate knowledge of assets.

adjust the demand to the assets ; otherwise Shore had nothing by which to check it, except the register of the Kanungos ; and it was probably unsafe to place very much reliance upon them.

But we find Shore continually applying a remedy for over-assessment, which was not generally applicable to the separately settled mahals of the Decennial Settlement. Thus Bissarah was known to be over assessed, so that nobody could take it at the nominal revenue. Kasmar, on the other hand, was lightly assessed. Instead of adjusting the revenue demand to the assets, Shore joined the two parganas together, so that the loss on one should be balanced by the profit on the other, a rough and ready method which was also used to cover inequalities in assessment of the mahals of Azimabad, and of Sarkar Shahabad.

37. In 1784 a new district was carved out of the Revenue-Chief's jurisdiction. It was named Zila Rohtas, and included Chainpur and Sasaram, with the adjoining portion of Sarkar Bihar, up to and including the Tikari zamindari and Sherghati. Thomas Law * who had been

* Thomas Law was a son of the Bishop of Carlisle. The Dictionary of National Biography gives the date of his birth as 1759, but this is a mistake for 1756. He became in 1787 the first Collector of Bihar district, and by his experimental Mukarrari settlement in 1788, in connection with which he urged with great enthusiasm and pertinacity the advantages of a Permanent Settlement, he probably did more than any other man to persuade Lord Cornwallis to adopt the scheme of such a settlement. In 1790 he became a member of the Board of Revenue, and he retired in the following year. In 1794 he published, in defence of the Permanent Settlement, his Answers to Mr. Prinsep's observations on the Mukarrari system. He afterwards settled in America, where he became a great friend of George Washington and married Anne Custis, Mrs. Washington's grand-daughter. He then speculated unsuccessfully in building sites in Washington City, and died comparatively poor in 1834. We have seen his brother Ewan Law as President of the Patna Council in 1777. Another brother Edward Law, the future Lord Ellenborough, was leading Counsel for Warren Hastings in his impeachment.

Superintendent of the Civil and Criminal Court at Patna, was appointed Magistrate and Collector of this district. The headquarters of the District were at Gaya, where Law began at once to plan out the European and official quarter to which he gave the name of Lawabad. The name survives in Gaya as Ilahabad, but the quarter has always been more commonly known as Sahebganj.

39. Shore's settlement expired in 1785. Govern-
 Annual Settlements, ment ordered that it should be
 1785-87. extended by annual settlements, in spite of Brooke's argument in favour of a settlement for at least five years. If farmers had failed in their engagements, preference in making resettlement was to be given to zamindars. Throughout this period Brooke was continually in difficulties with defaulting renters. From the first the correspondence is full of the troubles of Ahmad Ali Khan, the great renter of Shahabad, which by the end of 1785 had reached such a pitch that Brooke was summoned to Calcutta, to confer with Government on the subject. Ahmad Ali Khan now resigned his farm ; but difficulties soon arose again in realising revenue from the new *aumils*. Brooke was, on the other hand, being perpetually censured on account of unrealized balances. In 1786, the Committee went so far as to attempt to hold him personally liable for these balances as if he had himself engaged for them. He had been warned on March 13th, 1786, that if he did not take security from the farmers of Narhat-Samai, he would be held responsible. In some of the temporary settlements of Shahabad, no security had been taken.

On October 3rd, the Committee wrote :—

We observe that from three of the mahals in arrear, owing more than thirty thousand rupees, no security has

been taken. Should these therefore ultimately prove deficits, we shall look to you for liquidation of the balance, and we are sorry to remark that if we leave the settlement of Shahabad to you for the year 1194, it is from necessity not choice that we do so.

Brooke replied protesting strongly that such a course would be unfair, because it would place him in a worse situation than the *aumils*, who did at least hope to make a profit by their farms. Government had recently admitted that his salary of Rs. 1,200 per mensem was inadequate, and this strengthened his argument. The threat was apparently not carried into effect*.

39. The old lawless spirit had by no means died out. In the rainy season of 1785, The case of Dhawal Singh. Chaudhri Dhawal Singh, zamindar of Dinara, attacked Ahmad Ali Khan's office in the day-time; and after killing four men and wounding thirteen others, he looted the treasury, and released the *malguzars* who were in confinement there. A year later, when Brooke was making a settlement in Shahabad he sent for Dhawal Singh, who refused to attend. Thereupon Brooke sent six sepoy to bring him; but Dhawal Singh assembled six hundred men, and successfully resisted arrest. He withdrew to Chausa, where he

* Brooke's salary was as follows :—

	Rs.	s.	p.
Salary as Senior Merchant ... ..	...	80	14 11
Diet money as being employed outside Calcutta ...	...	20	6 0
Allowance as Revenue Chief :—(Sa. Rupees 1,200) ...	1,393	0	0
Allowance for house rent :—(Sa. Rupees 120) ...	139	3	2
Total ...	1,533	8	1

Thomas Law at Gaya received the same allowances, with an additional allowance as Judge at Gaya of 500 sicca rupees, giving total allowances of Rs. 2,163-8-1.

avoided arrest until the following winter, when he was captured by troops stationed in the Benares jurisdiction.

40. When we read Ahmad Ali Khan's petition of July 13th, 1785, we can understand that Dhawal Singh may have been exasperated almost to the limit of human endurance; and he may well have preferred a roving life in the jungles to the life of a zamindar under the farming system. The renter complains that if he presses the Shahabad raiyats particularly hard for their rents, they have a habit of stabbing themselves. It may be imagined that the pressure was severe which provoked this desperate form of retaliation. There are many indications that the farming system, as applied during these years, was very hard on the raiyats; and I think that except as regards those provisions which discouraged complaints to the Courts, there is ground for modification of the view that the notorious Haftam Regulation of 1799 imposed novel hardships upon raiyats in Bihar. We find that they were not permitted to reap their crops without the formal permission of the *dumil*; and before that permission was accorded, they had ordinarily to provide security for payment of their rent, a custom which, as Brooke states, prevailed throughout Bihar. Moreover, under the principle of self-help which then ruled, the farmer confined defaulting raiyats at his own pleasure. We continually find that farmers are provided on request with detachments of troops, not to guard the revenue after realisation, but to assist in compelling payment. Sometimes the oppression of renters was such that raiyats completely abandoned their fields and their

The condition of the raiyats under the farming system.

homes. When Brooke visited Arrah in June of 1782 he found many villages deserted, owing to the oppressions of Raja Bikramajit Singh of Dumraon and his cousin Bhup Narain of Jagdispur. In 1786, the renter Santokh Rai and his sons Sital Ram and Ram Partab caused the desertion of nearly one thousand raiyats by their oppression in Danwar Pargans. Some of the raiyats had absconded into Sasaram Pargana, and Brooke asked Thomas Law to hand them over to the aggrieved renters. Law appears to have had more humane ideas of administration, and he declined to send them back indiscriminately in a body, proposing that the renters' claims against them should be properly examined. 'I appeal to your own judgment', he says in justification of his obstructive conduct, 'whether mankind are easily induced to quit their birth-places'.

As regards the share of produce taken as revenue, the rule established in 1772, which limited the exactions of the renters to nine-sixteenths of the crop, was regarded as a standing regulation, but there was no machinery for enforcing it. Early in 1787, Babu Dostdawan Singh, brother of the Dumraon Raja, proposed to collect over thirty seers in the maund, though Brooke refused to give his sanction to these exactions. I give the account of the *abwabs* as Brooke gives it, though the method of calculation of the third item appears somewhat obscure.

Brooke assumes that the produce of a bigha is ten maunds.

	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.
Aumil's share (20 seers.) ...	5		
5 seers abwāb on each maund ...	...	25	
2 annas per rupee at $4\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per rupee ...	...	28	
One anna on each bigha ...	...	11	$\frac{1}{2}$
10 seer difference of bazar price per rupee in favour of aumil ...	...	12	$\frac{1}{2}$
Village expenses, 2 annas per bigha ...	...	22	$\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/>			
Remains to the raiyat ...	2	20	$\frac{1}{2}$

41. Lord Cornwallis came to India in 1786; and in the following February it was ordered that the country should be divided into collectorships, in preparation for the new settlement. Each district was to have a revenue not exceeding five lakhs of rupees, but this rule was unfortunately neglected, and the districts created in Bihar were of unwieldy size. The new scheme was prepared in March of 1787; and one of the first steps towards carrying it out was the abolition of the office of Revenue Chief. Accordingly in April Brooke became Collector of Patna, with the same jurisdiction as before. In July the new scheme took effect. The area west of the Sone became Shahabad district, with headquarters at Arrah. The area east of the Sone constituted Zila Bihar, covering the present districts of Patna and Gaya, with Japla and Belaunja, and the parganas west of the Kiul which are now part of

Monghyr. The headquarters were at Gaya, where the new Collector, Thomas Law, had been established since the separation of Rohtas district. Brooke became Collector of Shahabad, while Robert Bathurst went to Tirhut. In August the Collectors received preliminary instructions for the Decennial Settlement, which was ultimately to be made permanent. Law was preparing his plan of a permanent settlement, which he despatched to Government in the following January, with such important results. There is small cause for wonder that Lord Cornwallis found Law, Brooke, and Bathurst enthusiastic in carrying out the new scheme. Indeed, as we look back upon the miserable years of the Revenue Chief's administration, and forward to the reforms of the nineteenth century, we seem in 1788 to stand on the threshold of a new world. The Permanent Settlement did not bring the golden age which Law portrayed, but it did contain in itself the promise of better things, and it did abolish, immediately and for ever, the worst evils of the wretched system which it had hitherto been Law's duty to administer.

42. Brooke remained at Arrah until 1792, subsequently becoming Judge at Benares and Agent to the Governor-General in that station. He remained at Benares, where he lived in the suburb of Sikraul, respected by all classes until his death in 1833. It was at Sikraul that he entertained Bishop Heber in 1824. His monument

at Benares bears the following inscription, with which this introduction may fittingly close :—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
 WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BROOKE,
 SENIOR JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEAL AND AGENT
 TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AT BENAR²⁸
 WHO DIED ON THE 10TH OF JULY 18
 IN THE EIGHTY-FIRST YEAR OF HIS
 HIS AMIABLE CHARACTER ENDEARED HIM
 HINDOO, THE MUSULMAN, AND THE C
 INHABITANTS OF THIS CITY.

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LETTERS.

No. 1.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, Revenue Chief, to ISAAC BAUGH, Secretary to the
Governor-General and Council.

APRIL 6, 1781.

I have received your letter transmitting me by order of the Hon'ble Governor-General and Council the form of oath to be administered by me to Mr. Thomas Law, the Superintendent of the Dewani Adalat at this station.

In compliance with the above I have administered the oath to Mr. Law, and now return it to you, signed by that gentleman and attested by me.

No. 2.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to Committee of Revenue.

APRIL 11, 1781.

Not being able to procure good and secure Bills through the Shroffs in Patna for so large a sum, I am under the necessity of remitting the balance of my treasury in specie. I have therefore to advise you that agreeable to your direction I have this day despatched by water on 18 boats with 3 pulwars under charge of Ensign William Downes with a company of sepoys the sum of sicca rupees 3,07,759, being the balance of the Patna Treasury on the 31st of last month. The delay in this despatch has been occasioned by the difficulty in getting good and sufficient boats, which at this season of the year are not readily procured.

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No. 8.

To the Hon'ble WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General
and Council of Revenue, Fort William.

APRIL 12, 1781.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 30th instant transmitting me enclosed an amilnamah in favour of Maharajah Kallyan Singh for the settlement of the Subah Behar which I have accordingly delivered to him. I have received from the Rajah a kabuliat to the same effect as the Amilnamah.

I have the honour to be,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM MAXWELL.

No. 4.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to the Committee of Revenue.

APRIL 19, 1781.

I have received two letters from you under date the 4th instant. I shall, agreeable to your directions, acknowledge Rajah Kyaliram as Naib to Maharajah Kallyan Singh. In regard to the petition presented to you on the part of Rajah Kallyan Singh, I am making every enquiry in my power into the claims of Narain Singh, zemindar of Siris Cotumba, for Malikannah, and into the representation of Shah Faiz Ali respecting the seizure of his ultumgah, and when completed shall forward you my report on the subject.

No. 5.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to the Committee of Revenue.

MAY 2, 1781.

A dispute having for some time subsisted between the zemindar of Rampore in pergunnah Shahpur Munneer, and the zemindar of Hurjee Chuprah in pergunnah Charaau Sircar Saran about their

right to some land on the banks of the river Sone which has been attended with some embarrassment to the collections and as I see no prospect of adjusting it in an amicable manner with the Collector of Sircar Saran, I request that you will authorize your Ameen, after having adjusted the dispute between the zemindars of Gyas-pore and Selimabad in the Bogelpore district, to proceed to Munneer; where he may in like manner investigate and adjust the right to the land now claimed by the different zemindars.

I beg leave to represent to you that in consequence of a former dispute between those zemindars respecting the grounds, an Ameen was deputed by the Patna Council to enquire into and report upon it, a copy of which report, together with the decision passed in consequence I have the pleasure to transmit for your information. The Collector of Saran however not thinking the above decision satisfactory and deeming it a partial adjustment in favour of the zemindar of Munneer, absolutely refuses to acquiesce in it. The only mode therefore which remains is, either to confirm the Decree of the late Council, or to order your Ameen Nandoo Lal to proceed to the spot and make a new enquiry.

No. 6.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to the Committee of Revenue.

MAY 3, 1781.

I beg leave to transmit to you enclosed, a petition and account presented to me by Boopnarain son of Lall Sao, zemindar of Peroo and Nunnore, Sircar Shahabad, claiming the malikana due to him from the year 1185 to 1187, and requesting that from the commencement of the present year 1188, a certain portion of land may be allotted him for that purpose in like manner as is allowed to other zemindars in this province.

In consequence of a former application from Baboos Lall Sao and Omraw Sing, the Hon'ble Governor-General and Council were pleased to direct in their letter of the 7th July, 1780, that the sum of rupees 39,037-3-9, being the balance due to them on account of their malikannah from the year 1179 to 1184 inclusive, should be

paid to them. This sum was accordingly paid to Boopnarain, his father being dead, as the elder branch, on account of the family. The claim he now prefers from the beginning of 1185 to the present period is equally due to the family. I therefore take the liberty of recommending the prayer of his petition to your consideration.

No. 7.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to MR. WILLIAM WALKER and MR. BOYD
ALEXANDER, Inspectors of opium.

MAY 10, 1781.

I have received a letter from Mr. Walker representing that the crude opium which has been sent into the Company's godown is in general thinner and of an inferior quality to any he has ever seen and some of it so bad that he has been under the necessity of rejecting it as unfit to be used in the manufacture.

I have also received a representation from the contractors' agent, setting forth the groundless objections which Mr. Walker has stated to the quality of the opium now in the godown, and the unnecessary delays which he has caused in the business since the commencement of the present year's manufacture.

I am well aware of the bad consequences which must result to so valuable a branch of the Company's investment by a continuance of these disputes between the contractors' agent, and the Inspectors, which can only tend to involve the business in difficulties, and endanger the total loss of the investment. I am also fully sensible of the effect which this uncommonly unfavourable season must have on the quality of the opium, which from the humidity of the air occasioned by the constant easterly wind prevailing throughout the whole season, cannot be expected to have that degree of consistency and thickness equal to former years.

In order, therefore, to guard against any future bad consequences which may attend a further delay in the business, and as the rainy season is fast advancing towards us no time is to be lost; I must direct that you do forthwith proceed on the manufacture of the opium now in the Company's godown, without distinction;

and continue progressively to manufacture such quantities as the contractors may from time to time deliver in. Such opium thus manufactured as may be deemed of too thin a substance, you will please to set apart in some convenient place, that it may be distinguished from the rest, until I am favoured with the Hon'ble Board's orders, to whom this matter in dispute is referred.

No. 8.

WILLIAM MAXWELL to THOMAS LAW, Esq., Superintendent of the Diwani Adalat.

MAY 16, 1781.

The Vakeel of the Nawab Muneer-ud-Daula having represented to me that there is a cause instituted in your court against his master by Abbas Cooly Khan at the instigation of Cojah Afzoon, for the share of said Muneer-ud-Dowla's Jagir, and that you are proceeding on the trial of it in the usual form.

I beg leave to inform you that this case has already been tried, and a final decision passed upon it by the provincial Council of Patna in presence of whom reciprocal engagements were exchanged by the parties, I therefore do not conceive that the Court of Adalat is competent to rehear a matter which has once been determined by the Council. However, as your opinion may not coincide with mine on this occasion, I have to request that you will allow the cause to stand suspended until a reference is made to the Hon'ble Governor-General and Council, and their opinion obtained.

No. 9.

WILLIAM MAXWELL to Committee of Revenue.

MAY 20, 1781.

In the month of Jeyt 1165 Raja Narrain Singh, Zemindar of Seris Cootumbah, falling greatly in arrears in the payment of

his revenue, was sent for to Patna by the Council and confined, and a sezawal appointed to take charge of the pergunnahs, and collect the remaining kists; but on account of the Raja's confinement, many of the ryots and petty malguzars from whom balances were due to him absconded; and the sezawal was able only to collect a very inconsiderable part, so that at the close of the year there remained a balance due to Government of Rs. 37,650-1-9. From that period the Raja has had no charge in the pergunnah. The Malikhanah therefore which is due to him for the two last years amounts, as by the enclosed account which I have the pleasure to transmit you, to Rs. 27,700-6-0, which being deducted from the sum due by him gives a balance in favour of Government of Rs. 9,949-11-9.

Enclosed are the Canongoe's accounts of the collections for the year 1185, as also a petition from Raja Narain Singh, praying for a remission of the above balance which must rest with your gentlemen, to grant or reject.

No. 10.

WILLIAM MAXWELL to CHARLES GRAEME, Esq., Collector of Sircar Sarun.

MAY 20, 1781.

I have received a letter from the Committee of Revenue, dated 11th instant, on the subject of the dispute subsisting between the zemindars of Cheraan and Muncer about the land on the bank of the river Sone, wherein they direct that the decision formerly passed by the Provincial Council of Patna in this matter shall stand confirmed, and that they have written to you to assist in enforcing that decree until, on an appeal from it being preferred by one of the parties, it shall be reversed by a superior authority.

As the whole of the rubby crop on the disputed land has been cut down and carried off by the people of Hurdy Chuprah, I request you will cause it to be restored to the rayats of Rampore whose property it is.

No. 11.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to Committee of Revenue.

MAY 20, 1781.

I have the pleasure to forward you a statement serving to show the amount paid separately by Rajah Kullian Singh and Rajah Kyaliram to the present time, agreeable to the moffussil Kistbundy formed by themselves, by which you will observe that Rajah Kullian Singh has advanced considerably more than his proportion of the precedent kists; for the balance due to Government upon the settlement at the end of Bysak-tis, as by the toujee account, only Rs. 27,816-12-3, including the Dutch peishoush, which does not become due till the end of the present English year.

 No. 12.

WILLIAM MAXWELL to Committee of Revenue.

MAY 20, 1781.

Enclosed I have the pleasure to forward to you a petition from Callab Ally Caun, an old man who, from a state of affluence, is now reduced to the greatest distress. He formerly possessed a very beneficial jaghire in this province, which was seized by Cossim Ally Caun, and which was never restored. He was afterwards in consideration of his family appointed Daroga to the Dewanny Adalat, which office he held with credit for several years; but growing old and infirm, and being no longer capable of discharging the duties of it, a pension of Rs. 70 a month was settled on him by Government, which he continued to receive regularly to the end of Cheyt last when by your Regulations he was deprived of this last resource. I beg leave therefore to recommend him as an object deserving your compassion, and hope that you will take the prayers of his petition into consideration, and restore to him that monthly allowance which has been for a long time the only means of his support.

No. 13.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to Committee of Revenue.

JULY 6, 1781.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 18th June observing that in auditing the monthly Treasury Accounts of this division for Pooos, Maugh, Phagun and Cheyt there is a charge of 20 rupees for lamp oil for the treasury godown and directing the sum of 80 rupees for these four months to be refunded.

I beg leave to assure you gentlemen in answer that, if the Hon'ble Board on any former report of the Auditor of accounts did disapprove of and forbid this charge, such report and prohibition never was transmitted to Patna. This charge has always been regularly inserted in the monthly treasury accounts since the first establishment of the provincial council and never till now prohibited. I must also observe to you that this charge was indispensably necessary as the officers of the treasury were always obliged to give their attendance at the godown till very late at night.

 No. 14.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to CHARLES GRANME, Esq., Collector of Sircar Sarun.

JULY 9, 1781.

Notwithstanding the orders which you gave to the zemindars of Cheran to give up the land which they had possessed themselves of on the banks of the Sone belonging to pergunnah Munneer and to restore the grain which they had cut down and carried away; I am sorry to inform you that these orders have not been obeyed, the Cheran people still keeping possession of the Dearah and will neither give it up to the Annul of Munneer, or restore the grain which they forcibly carried off.

I beg leave therefore to transmit you enclosed an account of the grain as taken by the Canoongoes of Pergunnah Munneer, and request you will cause the amount to be paid and that you will strictly forbid the zemindars of Cheran interfering in future with the land in question.

No. 15.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to the Governor-General and Council.

JULY 13, 1781.

I have been honoured by the receipt of your commands of the 3rd instant amending your former orders of the 5th June, and directing that Mr. Sullivan's contract for the provision of Opium be immediately promulgated throughout this division inserting on the publication the name of the contractor and from whom the Ryots must receive their advances.

I have accordingly in consequence of the above orders caused the necessary publication to be made in the several districts under my jurisdiction.

No. 16.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to Committee of Revenue.

JULY 16, 1781.

In reply to your letter of the 9th May enclosing petitions from Munneer Singh, Rajah Kullian Singh and the Vakeel of Rajah Bowanny Singh together with a report of Mr. Duncan's on the subject of Madoo Singh's claims of Dustoorat, I have the honour to transmit the following accounts for your information.

No. 1 Account of Rajah Madoo Singh's dustoorat and Malikannah from the year 1179 when it was resumed by Government to 1184 when it was restored, agreeable to the account of Canoongoes and amany Dufter.

No. 2 Account of ditto for 1186 and 1187. During this period Raja Madoo Singh was the farmer and consequently collected the Dustoorat, etc., himself on the actual jamah as per order of the Governor-General and Council dated 15th January 1779 It is to be observed that the Dustoorat on the Nunkar villages is included in this amount which was not admitted by the Council of Patna in the general adjustment of the Dustoorat from 1179 to 1185, though the Kanoongoes do, as it always formed a part of the semindar's Dastoor previous to that period.

No. 3. Account of the Dustoorat, etc., for the present year 1188. This account is also formed on the actual jamah of the present year and corresponds exactly with the account delivered in by the Kanoongoe's No. 3 which accompanies it.

No. 4. Account of Madoo Singh's Dustoorat and Malikana given in by Rajah Kallian Singh. The Rajah in his petition to the Committee says "that the Rajah of Sircar Tirhut from the time of Mohabut Singh had been accustomed to receive about 22,000 rupees Account Dastoors, Malikana, etc., from the office of Tahood and in the year 1186 the sum of 22,000 rupees was deducted from his jamah on account of the said dastoors, viz., Account Nizamut about 15,000 rupees and account Jagirs about 7,000 rupees". This account is erroneous, for the sum of 7,000 rupees there alluded to was not on account of the Jagirs, but of the resumed lands as specified in the account No. 1 and likewise in the statement delivered in by Rajah Kullian Singh himself.

No. 5. Account of Madoo Singh's Dustoorat on the Jagir lands. When the Dustoorat was resumed on account of Pertab Singh's balances in 1179 Fusly the sum of 12,324-7-5 rupees was annually collected from the Jagiree lands to the year 1185. But upon a representation being made to the Governor-General and Council, they were pleased in their letter of the 15th January 1779 to direct that an account be taken of the actual value of every Jagir held in the province of Behar, and the Dustoorat on each be fixed in the proportion of such valuation, and continue so during the term of each Jagir, respectively. In consequence of this a valuation was made and the proportional Dustoorat was fixed by the Patna Council at Rs. 22,361-12-9 agreeable to the accompanying statement. This adjustment meeting with great opposition from the Jagirdars, an application was made by the Nawab Mohammad Reza Khan and Rajah Kallian Singh to the Hon'ble Board, who in consequence sent up orders not to suffer any innovation to be made in their respective Jagirs on account of the Dustoorat claimed by the zemindars of Tirhut. These orders were immediately enforced and the two above mentioned persons now only pay agreeable to former custom. Bijenant Sao, Mohammad Nitch Khan

Khadim Hussan Khan, Idabut Hussan Khan and Ahmad Ali Khan represent that they never paid more than what is mentioned for the enclosed statement to be received from 1179 to 1184, which they are willing to pay, but hope that you will not oblige them to abide by the late adjustment of the Patna Council.

In consequence of Rajah Kullian Singh's representation to you, I deemed it necessary to furnish him with copies of all the enclosed accounts and to require his answer. The only reply he has thought proper to make is the account No. 4 which I have the honour to enclose.

No. 17.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to Committee of Revenue.

JULY 18, 1781.

I have received your letter of the 29th June enclosing a memorial which has been presented to the Governor-General by Da anaut Upadhea Vakeel of the Rajah of Nepal and requiring me to give you every information in my power on the subject.

Upon receipt of your letter I sent for Abdullah Beg, who lives in Patna, and examined him respecting the Jagirs in question. He tells me that he and his family have held possession of the pergana Routhutt as Jagir for these thirty years; in confirmation of his right he introduces a Sanad upon copper from Keam Kurrum Singh the late Rajah of Muchwanpore, also several Sanads from the Nizams of Soobah to the same effect, copies of which are enclosed.

On further enquiry I understand that the Nepal Rajah on a former occasion attempted to dispossess the Jagirdar, and actually sent a force into that district to seize upon the Jagir; but on a representation being made to Mr. Rumbold the then Chief of Patna that gentleman offered him every support and prevented the Rajah of Nepal from unjustly dispossessing the incumbent; since that time, he has never interfered, nor given any trouble or molestation to Abdullah Beg.

No. 18.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to JONATHAN DUNCAN, Esq., Preparer of Reports for
the Revenue Department,

Fort William.

JULY 18, 1781.

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant acquainting me that Rai Mohan Lall denies having ever given in proposals for renting the Sircar of Tirhut as specified in the proceedings of the Patna Council of the 23rd June 1774 and requiring the original Darkhast to be transmitted to you.

I have now the pleasure to transmit you the original Darkhast together with four years Kistbundy as per enclosed list. The Darkhast is under the seal of Harnarain, nephew to Roy Mohan Lal; it being very common at that time for farmers to use the names of their sons or other near relations when they entered into any engagements with Government instead of their own; and Harnarain was not only the nephew but had been bred up, and always considered as the son of Mohan Lall. However the enclosed original Kistbundys under the seal of Roy Mohan Lall himself sufficiently prove him to be the farmer; and it could only have been on a presumption that these vouchers were lost or not forthcoming that he denied it.

I called upon the principal Muttasady who had at that time the charge of the records and examined him upon oath. He declares that the Darkhast which I have now the honour to transmit you was given to the Council in the name and on account of Roy Mohan Lall. That he was always considered the farmer, and that his vakeel was the person who transacted the business with the Council during the absence of the Roy in the pergunnah.

 No. 19.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, to the Hon'ble WARREN HASTINGS, Esq.,
Governor-General and Council.

JULY 18, 1781.

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 4th instant on the 10th at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, enclosing an order to the

Commanding officer of the Patna Militia Sepoys at this station to dispatch a military force to the Dutch Factory at Patna, and to demand the immediate surrender thereof, with all stores and other effects, both public and private, belonging to the Dutch, and to deliver the same to me.

I have the honor to inform you that on the same evening, about seven o'clock, Major Hardy, with a detachment of his Regiment entered and took possession of the above Factory, with all its dependencies, and on the 11th in the evening delivered over the charge thereof to me.

No. 20.

JAMES LINDSAY ROSE, to the Committee of Revenue.

AUGUST 21, 1781.

I had the honor to address you on the 20th instant, in an official manner, just apprizing you of the death of the late Revenue Chief and of my having taken charge of the treasury books, papers, etc., belonging to the Revenue Department, and the functions of Chief until the pleasure of the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council should be known in respect to the nomination of a successor.

Upon examining the late Chief's records, I find, owing to his latter illness, there remain your letters of the 30th July and Circular of the same date, also of the 8th instant unreplied to.

Your rule of guidance in the case of Madoo Sing respecting his claims of dastoorats and malikhanna shall be adhered to, agreeable to the adjustment formed by the Patna Council, and those exceptions in favor of Nabob Mahomed Reza Cawn and Rajah Kullian Sing shall be observed.

No. 21.

J. L. ROSS, to Committee of Revenue.

AUGUST 25, 1781.

I had the pleasure to address you yesterday in reply to some of your letters unanswered, and now enclose you an accurate statement of sums credited in the Wasool Bancee for Sawan 1188, but which are in fact unrecieved.

This requires the most serious attention of the Committee, to whom I now hold myself in duty bound to communicate every circumstance relating to the collections of these provinces, whilst I have any authority or charge of the Chiefship.

The balance of the Wasool Baulkee for Sawan 1188, transmitted to you on the 17th instant was Rs. 3,85,962-0-3, besides which I beg leave to remark to you that of Rs. 35,22,522-12-9 credited in that account to the end of Sawan, only Rs. 26,53,442-4-6 has been received into the Treasury. The remaining sum of Rs. 3,69,080-8-3, with Russoom of Rs. 3,418-1-9, making Rs. 3,72,498-10 is still outstanding, which with the above balance Rs. 3,85,962-0-3, is in all Rs. 7,58,460-10-3 wanting to complete the settlement of the sums outstanding; and which, unless rigorous measures were used, (which might endanger the cultivation of the ensuing year) I apprehend will not be collected in less than three months.

No. 22.

J. L. Ross, to the Hon'ble WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., Governor-General and Council, Fort William.

AUGUST 28, 1781.

The apparent aspect of things in these provinces has induced me to communicate to the Hon'ble Board a chain of events which requires their most serious attention.

Since the revolt of the Rajah Chyde Singh the 16th instant every communication by Dak has been cut off, from hence to Benares, and so well has he concerted measures that we can obtain no intelligence whatever from that quarter.

It was the 20th before Major Eaton commanding at Buxar had the least intimation of the insurrection, with orders to detain the Daks, which was accordingly done, and Major Crawford ordered immediately to march with his Regiment from Dinapore and proceeded accordingly the 22nd and would reach Buxar the 25th where he was to carry on the Dak which had been detained.

Six or eight days have now elapsed without any accurate intelligence having been received from the Governor-General, but that of his being safe at Mulwanty, a garden house in the

neighbourhood of Benares, and some dubious intelligence of his having retired to the garrison of Chunar Ghur.

I have hit upon every expedient for acquiring the most authentic intelligence in those parts, and learn daily from the boatmen and other natives in passing this place, that the whole banks of the river through the Rajah's country are lined with armed men, who board and fire upon all boats indiscriminately, that several Europeans have had very narrow escapes, some have got to Buxar; and Mr. Huggins a merchant of this place on his way up the country had some difficulty in escaping hither.

I have dispatched private Harcarahs by different routes to the following gentlemen at their respective stations Mr. Middleton at Lucknow, Colonel Hanney in the Gorakhpore country, Colonel James Morgan commanding the brigade at Cawnpore, and Captain Williams bordering upon the Bagaha and sircar Sarun districts to apprise them of those events. In short I have taken every precaution that human wisdom can devise to get the best intelligence.

I have issued necessary orders to Major Alexander Hardy, commanding the Militia Sepoys, to collect his people as many as can be spared from the collections, wherever dispersed in order to protect the city, secure the treasure, the investment of piece goods, opium, etc., manufacturing at present in the Dutch Factory, and to suppress all tumults or any apparent disturbance that may happen by the disaffected in the city. These measures being taken as absolutely necessary have been put into execution with the greatest secrecy and seeming indifference to prevent any alarms or distrusts from the natives of Patna. I shall from time to time communicate to the Hon'ble Board the intelligence I may hereafter obtain.

POSTSCRIPT TO ABOVE LETTER.

Since writing the above I have received the following intelligence.

Extract of a letter from Captain Nokes commanding a Battalion in Major Moses Crawford's Regiment at Bazar on its March to Benares dated the 25th August 1781 to Captain Hawkesly Hall at Dinapore.

"It is from fellows disguised in strange habits that arrived to-day from Chunar. They came in here to Major Eaton with intelligence and gave us to understand that the country all the way from the Karmnasa to Benares was lined with troops, and it was not possible for a detachment of less than 4 battalions and as many guns to think of moving that way, much more to attempt it. They say also, that a few of the remaining 4 companies of Popham's Regiment, that was left at Mirzapur, had attempted to join the six that had returned to Chunar with Mr. Hastings, and had suffered an astonishing loss; they were unhappily intercepted in a narrow passage in some of the streets of that town and were butchered in a most inhuman manner. Poor Captain Mayaffre of Artillery, who had six field pieces and two Howitzers, had his head cut off which was carried about the town as a trophy. This unfortunate gentleman had also the company of Frenchmen that Sir Eyre Coote brought from Madras, consisting of 100 strong, who were also miserably hacked to pieces and only one of them escaped to Chunar. About 50 or 60 men of Popham's four companies are also escaped to that place. Poor Jonathan Scott I find is of the slain at the rescue of the Rajah, and five poor fellows of the artillery, officers I mean, killed and wounded with Captain Mayaffre. To complete our misfortunes our intelligence says that Captain Maxwell and his Battalion are in great danger as parties of men are laying in wait to intercept his passage at the Ghats of the Gogra. In short I very much fear there can no assistance arrive at Chunar Garh from any place but Futchghur and Cawnpore. Major Eaton has recommended to Crawford not to stir from hence till more favourable accounts arrive. Lieutenant Adams and Mr. Perreaux fortunately made their escape from Ghazipore in the night and arrived here without molestation.

A number of Dandies of the Governor's fleet arrived here to-day, who give an account of several of their brethren being tied together in a bundle of five or six together and chucked into the river and drowned and others cut to pieces."

No. 23.

J. L. Ross, to Mr. MIDDLETON, at Lucknow.

August 28, 1781.

The zeal I have for the public service lays me under the necessity of communicating to you a chain of events which requires your most serious attention.

Since the revolt of the Raja Cheyt Singh the 16th instant every communication by Dak has been cut off from hence to Benares, and so well has he concerted measures, that we can obtain no intelligence whatever from that quarter.

It was the 20th before Major Eaton commanding at Buxar had the least intimation of the insurrection, with orders to detain the up country Dak which was accordingly done, and Major Crawford ordered by the Governor-General to march immediately from Dinapore, and proceeded accordingly the 22nd and would reach Buxar the 25th, when he was to carry on the Daks which had been detained.

Six or eight days have now elapsed without any accurate intelligence having been received from the Governor-General; or any of the party, but that of his being safe at Mulwanty, a garden house in the neighbourhood of Benares, and some dubious intelligence of his having retired to the garrison of Chrunarghur.

Thus circumstanced I deem it necessary to give you the earliest intelligence of the situation of affairs at this place, if in case any of the Governor-General's orders to you for Military aid may have been cut off or intercepted; or if this address can be any way preparatory for your future operations, I shall be exceedingly glad in having communicated to you this intelligence.

No. 24.

J. L. Ross, to Major ALEXANDRE HARDY, Commanding the Militia Sepoys at Patna.

August 29, 1781.

Being informed that a fleet of stores are arrived at the Kelah on their way up the country under charge of a Lieutenant Pennington.

From the apparent troubles in Chyte Singh's country it would be the height of impropriety to suffer those boats to proceed any further for the present until the country is entirely settled, as they would infallibly fall into the hands of the Rajah's people, who are in possession of all the banks of the river, so much that no boats in passing or repassing can possibly escape their vigilance.

As I understand that the Magazine at Patna is in want of all kinds of Military stores, and from the aspect of things to the westward, you will immediately supply yourself with every article of stores necessary for any immediate service for the protection of the City, and for which receipts shall be granted to the Commissary General.

No. 25.

J. L. Ross, to The Hon'ble WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., at Chunar Ghur.

AUGUST 30, 1781.

It is to get rid of the importunities of the Rajah Kyalliram that I have undertaken to forward the accompanying proposition from him to you respecting the defence and safety of this province to the westward should it be entered and plundered by Chyte Singh's Rabble.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you there is not at present the least apparent danger from that quarter, everything remaining in the greatest tranquillity in those parts.

I have entertained some suspicion as well as the impropriety there would be in alarming the people of Chirkanwan and Sirris Kotumbah. The Rajah owes considerable balances to Government which I am under great apprehension he never will be able to fulfil, and am thoroughly convinced from his over officiousness that he means to avail himself of this opportunity of getting rid of his obligations to Government by raising a rabble and plundering the country, and then bring those supposed losses against the Company, or charge them to the disaffected belonging to Chyte Singh.

I hope you will pardon my suggestion which arises entirely from my zeal for the public service and from the general character of the man.

I am sorry that I should be under the necessity of apprizing you of the heavy balance I found upon taking charge of the Chiefship, which now wants to complete this year's settlement Rs. 7,58,460-10-3 of the sums outstanding, and which (unless rigorous measures were used which might endanger the cultivation of the ensuing year) I apprehend will not be collected in less than three months; and therefore wait with due submission to your judgment for further orders in what manner I shall act in this important matter, having communicated the same to the President and Members of the Committee of Revenue at the Presidency.

No. 26.

J. L. Ross, to CHARLES GRAHME, Esq., Collector of Sircar Saran.

AUGUST 31, 1781.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 29th instant and entirely coincide with you of the great advantages there will be derived from a mutual and communicative correspondence carried on betwixt your district and this province.

I have given the necessary orders to Major Hardy to seize and take up every person whom we can obtain the least suspicion of being disaffected to the Company's interest; and I have this day taken into custody Hussun Ally Khan, the renter of Arwal and Mussowrab, who from certain intelligence has been employed as an emissary by Chyte Singh in the City, and making himself busy in propagating our late misfortune. The other necessary measures have been taken respecting those persons whom you suspect. I have this day requested Rajah Cullian Singh to issue his orders to all his zemindars and dependants to assemble and join a body of sepoy which I am collecting from Chainpore and the other districts. Their being dispersed in small bodies over the country will only be the means of their destruction by the superior bodies of Chyte Singh's people, by which means no effectual service can be expected from them; but when collected, and under the command of Ensign

Downes, an experienced officer, and with the assistance of the Rajah's rabble, we shall be able to keep up a good appearance upon the frontiers.

I am sorry I have nothing of moment to communicate to you. The intelligence I obtain here is so contradictory and dubious that there is no dependence to be put upon it. This morning it was reported that Major Moses Crawford had engaged a party of Chyte Singh's people and defeated them; but as your letters and intelligence must be received much earlier than ours, I look upon it as a mere rumour.

No. 27.

J. L. ROSS, to MAJOR ISAAC EATON, Commanding at Buxar.

AUGUST 31, 1781.

I have been favoured with yours of the 28th instant, and am sorry to learn the unhappy situation to which you are likely to be reduced.

Inclosed you will receive my perwanah and one from the Maha Rajah Kullian Singh, the Principal Renter of Suba Bihar with positive orders to grant you immediate supplies of all kind of provision, for which credit shall be given him in his collections, and which you will forward to the Fouzdar of Budgepore Bikramajeet Singh with all speed.

No. 28.

J. L. ROSS, to Major ALEXANDER HARDY, Commanding the Militia Sepoys at Patna.

AUGUST 31, 1781.

Having certain intelligence that Husun Ally Khan, the renter of Arwal and Mussowrah, at this time holds a treacherous correspondence with the Rajah Chyte Singh, and having further reason to suppose that he is employed as an emissary in the city of Patna, in order to stir up and inveigh the disaffected from the interest of the Company, I therefore request upon receipt of this that you will direct a Military Force to seize his person and confine him in such a place or guard as you may deem necessary for the good of the service.

No. 29.

J. L. Ross, to Governor-General and Council, Fort William.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1781.

Nothing material has occurred since my last address to you of the 20th ultimo, but the march of Major Baillie's Troop the 30th from Dinapore in order to proceed with Major Crawford from Buxar to Benares; and by the late advice from Major Crawford, he expected to be joined the 29th by Captain Maxwell's 2nd Battalion from Bangha.

Some flattering accounts have been received by Mr. Graeme the Collector of Sirear Sarun from a bearer, who declared he left the Brigade in motion with four regiments of Sepoys from Caunpore on their march to Chunar, that Lieutenant-Colonel Hannay's Corps was moving towards Chyte Singh's country, and that Captain David Williams was also on his way from the Goruckpore district. I have likewise advice of the garrison of Chunar Gurh being plentifully supplied with all kind of provision. Major James Crawford, who is commanding at Ramgur has taken Rajah Narrain Singh,* the renter of Serris Cotumbah making his escape to join Chyte Singh. The City of Patna and all the neighbouring districts continue in the greatest tranquillity.

I have from the necessity of the times been obliged to confine Hussan Ally Khan, the renter of Arwal and Mossowrah, from his being closely connected to Chyte Singh, and being guilty of some disaffected practices in the city. We expect every instant to hear of the arrival of our forces at Chunargurh, when the whole country will be immediately reduced to its former obedience.

 No. 30.

Mr. Ross, to the Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1781.

It is to get rid of the importunities of Kyalleram and Kullian Singh that I enclose you these urzies. They have for the past month been daily soliciting me for permission to raise a rabble of

* Ross's information was not accurate. See page 7.

their own, and proceed to the frontier as they say, to quell the disturbances in their respective districts, of which I can assure you at present there is not the least appearance, everything being very quiet to the westward, except in Sircar Sarun, where Futteh Sow has been induced, from the present aspect of things, to enter Husseypfir; but Mr. Graeme, the Collector of that district, has taken the most effectual measures to prevent him from penetrating any great length in that district. You will observe from the date of one of the accompanying urzies that I had for political reasons thought proper to suppress for some time transmitting these proposals of Kyalliram; that, however plausible and loyal they may appear to the Company's interest, and to you, I had my doubts of these men's real designs, believing that they meant to avail themselves of the present troubles in order to get rid of their obligations to Government by letting loose a rabble of their own, that they might plunder the country and afterwards declare it was done by the disaffected of Chyte Singh.

I hope you will pardon my suggestions of these men; but the great backwardness they show in paying up their balances give me great reason to think that they secretly enjoy and have wished for these commotions. Being no longer able to evade their importunities without betraying my suspicions, I have hit upon this expedient in order to protract the time until our affairs wear a more pleasing aspect, which from the report of two hurcaras arrived this morning from Lucknow, appears to be the case, as two regiments are arrived at Chunar, and our troops are fast assembling from all parts of the country. I hope daily to hear of the total extirpation of Chyte Singh and the disaffected to Government.

No. 31.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BROOKE, to Major ALEXANDER HARDY,
Commanding the Militia Sepoys at Patna.

JANUARY 4, 1782.

It having been thought expedient to remove Rajah Khyaliram from his house to a close and secure place of confinement, you will be pleased to receive him into the Khilla and to furnish

him with proper appointments. You will also give directions to the guards over him to allow him all necessaries and conveniences of life. You will of course place such people over him as you may deem sufficient to prevent his escape.

No. 32.

W. A. BROOKE, to Major HARDY.

JANUARY 20, 1782.

Be pleased on receipt of this to order Rajah Khyaliram to the Havelly Begum, and there place him in confinement under a sufficient guard; you will allow one servant of his own choice to attend him, but peremptorily prohibit any person supplying him with a Hooka and Beetle or similar indulgences to those he has hitherto enjoyed in the Khilla. You will also give orders to the Officer of the Guard to prevent any person having access to Rajah Khyaliram without particular permission.

No. 33.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

APRIL 17, 1782.

I have been favoured with your orders to dispossess the zemindars of Mhytee in consequence of Mr. Champain's representation of their bad conduct. You also direct that their lands be given to some other persons whose zemindaries may be contiguous to them, and that I should apply to the Commanding Officer at Dinapore for such force as might be thought necessary to put the new zemindars in possession. Mr. Champain not having corresponded with me on the subject, I have not been able to act so as to put your orders in execution; but I am now informed that Mr. Champain has made a publick application to Sir John Cummings for a Battalion of Sepoys in order to apprehend the zemindar of Mhytee. I therefore think it advisable to decline taking any steps on this business till I hear further from you on the subject, lest any misunderstanding should arise between the people sent on my part and those of Mr. Champain.

No. 34.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

MAY 8, 1782.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a perwannah to Maharajah Kullian Singh, directing him to pay the amount of his monthly kists to me for the present, in consequence of which I applied to him some days ago for his Bysack kist, and received from him an answer, copy of which I now do himself the pleasure to enclose as well as translate, and his reply to your perwannah. Allowing that his Bysack kist is paid to me, I cannot expect the amount till the middle of next month, as he waits your further orders, and I shall be even happy to receive it so soon, but still there will be above three lacks of rupees required to pay off the present demands upon the treasury, as will appear by my estimate of probable receipts and disbursements. The pay of Sir John Cummings' detachment is in arrears, and Mr. Young, the Agent to the opium contractor, represents that the want of cash will be of the greatest detriment to the Business of the contract. Under these circumstances I think it necessary to apply to Messrs. Graeme and Grand for assistance. If the amount of Maharajah Cullian Singh's collections was always to be paid into the Treasury, I should be able to answer all demands, but if he is only occasionally to pay a kist, and that only by a special order from you, Gentlemen, many inconveniences may arise. I therefore recommend most strenuously to you to send orders to the Maharajah to pay the amount of his collections to me for the future.

 No. 35.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

MAY 16, 1782.

Agreeable to your orders contained in your letter of the 26th April, I have this day delivered a Sunnad to Futtynarain Singh, putting him and his father in possession of the Nancar villages held by them prior to the year 1172 Fassily.

I presented Futtynarain with Khillet agreeable to the Governor-General's orders, and thinking that a reward to those servants

who render themselves worthy might make a deep impression on the minds of the people, I took the liberty of giving to Futtynarain one of the elephants lately arrived from the Rajah of Nepaul, and I flatter myself that this will meet with your approbation.

[NOTE.—See Letter No. 110, and Introduction, page 30.]

No. 36.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

MAY 17, 1782.

The late disturbances in Nurhut Samoy and the confusion occasioned by the variety of aumils sent into these pergannas having lessened the number of ryotts very considerably, and cultivation being entirely neglected, I cannot find any man desirous of farming the whole for the next year, but many would be willing to take one or two pergannas on the same terms as Rajgir and Amerthoo have been granted to * Yahya Khan; but as this plan may not possibly meet with your approbation, I doubt not being able to let out the remaining pergannas to responsible people for the term of five years. As this appears to me a certain mode of realizing the full Jumma, I hope you will give your consent to such proposals, and as it is necessary that the aumils should be acquainted of this, on account of the cultivation for the ensuing year, you will be so obliging as to favour me with an answer as soon as possible. It appears by the inclosed copy of Ally Cossim Khan's Arzey that there will be a considerable loss this year, notwithstanding the Bandobust made by him.

No. 37.

W. A. BROOKE, to Colonel Sir JOHN CUMMINGS, encamped near Chausa.

MAY 20, 1782.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 16th, and am sorry to hear of the robberies committed in your encampment. I

* Muhammad Yahya, son of Ali Qas'm, the brother of Ali Ibrahim Khan, to whom the life estate (binhayati mukarrari), in these parganas had been given. On Muhammad Yahya's death, the estates were resumed; but they were resettled with his descendants, and the property still remains in the family (the Nawabs of Husseinabad).

have sent orders to Rajah Bikramajeet and Baboo Bhoopnarain Singh, Aumils of Shahabad, and you may depend on their taking every measure in their power to prevent the like inconvenience in future. Mr. Thomas Law being Judge of the Dewani and Phoujdarry Courts, you will of course send such offenders as may be apprehended to that gentleman.

No. 38.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

MAY 26, 1782.

Roy Balgovind, Rajah Kyaliram's son, having represented to Mr. Charters that a great loss would occur, by putting his father's house up to public auction, and at the same time offering to pay into the Treasury whatever sum it should be estimated at by a fair appraisement, Mr. Charters consented to have the house appraised, and it was valued accordingly. Notwithstanding which, tho' Balgovind allows that the sum estimated, (near fourteen thousand rupees), is a fourth of the first cost of the house, he has not to this day offered to pay a rupee or come to any settlement. I have therefore to request you will favour me with your orders, pointing out what you wish to be done with Kyaliram's house, as well as Rajah Sadooram's which in my opinion ought to be disposed of before the rains.

I am sorry to inform you that the Revenue of Shahabad is likely to fall short this year, but you may depend on my utmost endeavours to realise it. The present farmers being in my opinion incapable of attending properly to such an extent of country, and being oppressive upon the ryotts, I beg leave to recommend that the pergunahs Arrah, Behea, Budgetpore, and Barragawah be let out to different farmers upon a lease of five years. If this mode meets with your approbation, I am confident that the full jumma will be realized in future, but it is necessary you should determine soon, as this is the time of cultivation, and much depends on its being properly improved. I recommended the same plan for Nirhut Samoy in my address of the 17th instant, where it is equally expedient to be put in force, as I am apprehensive of a considerable

loss there. Chukya and Serris Cotumba will also fall short. I propose visiting these pergunas about ten days hence in order to investigate the cause of the present failures, and to encourage the ryotts to cultivation for the ensuing season, of which I have not a doubt of realizing the full jumma, allowing that the plan proposed meets with your approbation. The same was observed by Mr. Vansittart in the year 1178 Fussily, and was attended with happy consequences.

No. 39.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

JUNE 23, 1782.

Agreeable to your orders of the 3rd June I advertised for sale the house formerly belonging to Rajah Sadooram, but having since received a letter from Mr. Henry Revell, claiming a mortgage on the said house for fifteen thousand sicca rupees, I have thought proper to postpone the sale, till favored with your further orders on this head.

No. 40.

W. A. BROOKE, to Major ALEXANDER HARDY, Commanding the Militia Sepoys at Patna.

JUNE 23, 1782.

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council having directed me to deliver Rajah Narrain Singh over to the Phousdarry Court for Trial, you will be pleased to tell the Jamadar of the Guard over Narrain Singh to obey such orders as he may receive from Mr. Thomas Law.

No. 41.

W. A. BROOKE, to THOMAS LAW, Superintendent of the Fougedarry at Patna.

JUNE 26, 1782.

Having received orders from the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to deliver Rajah Narrain Singh over to the Phowjdarry Court for trial, both on account of his alleged rebellion and for murder, of which latter crime he stands accused at the charge of Byroo Singh, I am to request the favour of you to order

proper people to take charge of Narrain Singh. He is at present in the house which formerly belonged to Rajah Sadooram under a guard of thirty sepoy's. Major Hardy will give directions to the Jamadar of the Guard to obey such orders as you may give him. The Governor-General and Council positively direct that Narrain Singh be not released without their express orders.

No. 42.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

JULY 3, 1782.

I have been favored with your letter of the 24th ultimo, and now do myself the pleasure to acquaint you that the estimated revenue arising from the sale of spirituous liquors in this province amounts to 44,000 rupees yearly; and as it is a meawal the revenue of which may be depended upon, I beg leave to recommend the continuance of it.

No. 43.

W. A. BROOKE, to Major LANDBG, Commanding detachment on its march to Dinapore.

JULY 3, 1782.

Having occasion for sepoy's to assist in collecting a large balance from the 'aumils of Sircar Shahabad, I am under the necessity of applying to you for a company of sepoy's under the command of a Subadar. I hope to return them to you in the course of fifteen days.

No. 44.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

JULY 27, 1782.

Mustafa Kooly Khan having frequently applied to me for an allowance to be granted him on account of the March of Sir John Cummings' detachment in April last through the pergunnahs Chainpore Sasaram and having repeatedly refused, not thinking myself sufficiently authorized to comply with such applications, Mustafa Kooly Khan has requested me to forward

the enclosed Arzey wherein he further requests that he may not be charged with the Chashum hissa * (hitherto the custom of this province) but that he should only be answerable for such expenses as Rajah Kyaleram was at on account the collections during the time he was in possession. I must confess myself of opinion that his request appears very reasonable, as he took the above named pergunnahs at a very great disadvantage ; and as he has been very regular in paying his kists and has proved himself a very good Aumil in every respect, I beg leave to recommend him to your favour. I also enclose an account of the loss he suffered by the March of the detachment through his pergunnahs signed by the Cauzy and Cancoogoes. I cannot say how far his claim may be just, but I have heard from many of the officers that his loss must have been considerable as the grain was then on the ground. As the followers of the camp were supposed to amount to nearly sixty thousand, and these being the people who do all the mischief in marching through a country, I am induced to believe in part the aumil's representation.

No. 45.

W. A. BROOKS, to the Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1782.

I have the pleasure to enclose you an arzee from the merchants of this city praying for the establishment of a mint, in order to enable them to go on with their business as formerly. I am inclined to believe from the frequent representations that have been made to me on this subject, together with the great scarcity of cash at this particular time, that a mint will be of the greatest benefit to the province, and as such I beg leave to recommend the petition of the merchants to your favoured attention.

[NOTE.—On this subject see *Hand*, page 66.]

* See letter No. 123 below. The abwab referred to is probably the 2½ seer otherwise known as dabiyah, zeg, or khareha, by which the aumil's share of the crop is raised to 12½ seer.

No. 46.

W. A. BROOKE, to Major ALEXANDER HARDY.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1782.

The amil of Chainpur Sasaram having represented to me the impossibility of fulfilling his engagements with Government unless sepoys are allowed to assist him in the collections, I think it necessary to comply with his request. You will therefore be pleased to send a company of sepoys to Sasaram, and give particular orders to the subadar to render all proper assistance to the Amil when called upon.

No. 47.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1782.

I was some days ago favored with your letter of the 5th instant, directing me to enquire into the nature of the balance which Maharajah Kullian Singh represents to be due to him from Meterjeet Singh, zemindar of Ticcarry. I immediately made the Maharajah acquainted with your orders, and told him at the same time that I should send for Meterjeet, and desired him also to write a perwannah to that effect. Far from complying with my request, he sent positive orders to Kulballi Beg, Sezawal of Ticcarry, to keep Meterjeet in close confinement. As a proof I enclose copy of Meterjeet's Arzey to me, representing the cruelty he is treated with. In short, the Maharajah is determined that this business shall not be settled by me, as will be seen by the inclosed copy of his letter to me on the subject, and as he has on several occasions treated me with disrespect, I hope you will reprimand him for the impropriety of his conduct.

I have this moment received an arzy from Meterjeet's vakeel copy of which I also enclose for your information. As the Maharajah is determined not to release Meterjeet, I conclude his claims are not very fair. The disobedience of the Maharajah to your orders in the present instance is, I hope, unexampled. It is needless for me to point out his deserts, but as he looks upon himself as an *Independent Chief*, I shall suspend my enquiries till favored with your further orders.

No. 48.

W. A. BROOKE, to Major LANDEG, Dinapore.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1782.

This will be presented to you by the Vakeel of Mustopha Kooly Khan, Amil of Chainpore Sasaram. He will attend you during your march through the pergunahs, and supply you with such necessaries as you may require. You will much oblige me by giving very positive orders to your people not to molest the ryots, and to avoid as much as possible treading down the grain.

No. 49.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

OCTOBER 8, 1782.

I informed you in a former letter of my intention of visiting sarcar Shahabad, in consequence of the unfavourable representations that were made to me, of the want of cultivation for this year and the great probability of a heavy balance at the end of last year. I arrived at Arrah on the 30th June, and although it was the season for cultivation, I observed that many of the villages were deserted, and not a plough was to be seen, owing to the oppression of Rajah Bikramajit and the Dewan and Zilladars employed by Babu Bhup Narain. The ryotts were very loud in their complaints, and I am sorry to say it, not without good reason. I endeavoured to pacify them as much as possible, but they were determined not to enter into engagements with Bikramajit and Bhup Narain. Finding them thus obstinate and that Bikramajit and Bhup Narain's people were very obnoxious to the ryotts, I was under the necessity of dispossessing Bikramajit of parganas Bhojpur, Dinwar, Dinarah, and Taluq Behea; and Bhup Narain of parganas Arrah, Barragowan, Matfuroat Bihia, and part of Bhojpur. Petty farmers and ryotts were highly pleased at this, and I had the pleasure to see the ryotts return to their villages and to the cultivation of their grounds. I now do myself

the pleasure of inclosing you copies of Lala Santoke Roy's darkhaust for Danwar and Dinnarah for 5 years, and his son Lellut Ram's darkhaust for Talooka Behea for three years for the sudder jumma. As these are men who may be depended upon, I have given them possession, which will, I hope, meet with your approbation.

The pergunnahs Peru, Nonnore, and Powara being held by Baboo Bhoop Narain for three years, viz., 1189, 1190, 1191, and not being in arrears, I have continued him in the charge of them, being confident that his khists will be regularly paid. The pergunnahs Budgepore, Mutfurcat Behea, Arrah and Barragyah are left amawny, as I could not get any one to give a Darkhaust for near the sudder jumma; but I do not conceive this circumstance will be attended with any real loss, because the country is always most improved when amawny, and there will be plenty willing to give in Darkhausts next year. I say I do not consider these pergunnahs remaining amawny as a loss, because no man of property has made any offer; and to lease them to needy men would be subjecting the ryots to a greater degree of oppression than they have already experienced; consequently, the country would go to ruin.

I enclose copies of Rajah Bickutmajeet and Baboo Bhoop Narain's arzeys, claiming Malikanah at the rate of 10 per cent, together with the Amanat Duftar Darogha's reports. In the year 1187 fussly, Bhoop Narain received his Malikhannah to the end of 1184 by order of the Board, and that circumstance induced me to give him so great a share of the pergunnahs of Shahabad, as the sum due him will in a great measure liquidate the heavy balance owed on account last year. I therefore hope you will consider his claim as just, in which event the amount will be carried to his credit. I also inclose Rajah Bikramajeet and Baboo Bhoop Narain's arzeys claiming an allowance for expenses incurred in keeping up an armed force during the troubles at Benares. I cannot actually ascertain the number of men employed; but it is very certain they were at some extra expense on that account.

No. 50.

W. A. BROOKE, to HENRY REVELL, Esq., Collector of Government Customs,
Patna.

OCTOBER 31, 1782.

I have received your letter of 23rd instant. I have in consequence issued the most positive orders to the Aumils of the pergunnahs under me, to forbid their collecting any Bhadarry duties; but as some of the petty zemindars and talookdars are guilty of this practice sometimes, I think you had better direct the Bheoparies to apply to the Aumils for redress. This will save us both a great deal of trouble, as I flatter myself the Aumils will not suffer Bhadarry duties to be collected in future, without chastising the offending parties; but should they also transgress, punishment shall attend them.

 No. 51.

W. A. BROOKE, to JONATHAN DUNCAN, Esq., Preparer of Reports to the
Committee of Revenue (deputed to Patna to realise arrears of revenue
from Kallian Singh).

NOVEMBER 3, 1782.

The Committee of Revenue have authorized me to draw on them for two lacks and a half of rupees, in order to enable me to answer several heavy demands on this treasury; but I have been very unsuccessful in my applications to the different merchants and sharrafs in the city, they being entirely out of cash at this time. The troops at Dinapore and Chattra are greatly in arrears, and Mr. Young is in great distress for cash to make the proper advance to the Opium ryots; and as Messrs. Graeme and Grand have not sent any cash in the course of the present month, I am under the necessity of applying to you for the amount of the first khists due from Maharajah Cullian Singh. Major Crawford's regiment is above four months in arrears; and the troops at Dinapore are in the same situation. It is needless for me to point out to you the necessity of preventing as much as possible the troops being so very much in arrears.

No. 52.

J. L. ROSS (temporarily acting as Revenue Chief), to JONATHAN DUNCAN.

DECEMBER 17, 1762.

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, setting forth the renter of Fulwarrie's claims upon the present boundaries of the Danapore Cantonments, I have only to observe that soon after Mr. Brooke took charge from me, a similar complaint was exhibited against Colonel Ahmuty, the Commanding Officer; in consequence of which I was deputed by Mr. Brooke to investigate the matter, in order to ascertain the ancient boundaries as established and approved of by Government during the time of the Brigades being fixed at that station, upon which I went, accompanied by Captain William Wood, the Barrack Master, who had been attached to the different Brigades many years whilst a Subaltern at that station. We likewise had Major John Fullerton to accompany us, who had himself been a commanding officer of those cantonments; and it appeared to me, and by the acknowledgment of Major Fullerton, that the Farmer had positively encroached upon the established boundaries as approved of and ascertained by two members of the late Patna Council; and that the Renter had presumed upon the mere indulgence of former commanding officers, who had given up their ancient limits from motives of humanity and a desire to encourage cultivation, as the number of troops had been reduced for some years past at that station and of course no absolute necessity for such a space of land laying waste, as was formerly required by the Brigade with its Battalions attached and Regiment of Cavalry to exercise and parade upon: and that Messrs. Lieutenant-Colonel John Fullerton, and Majors Moses Crawford and John Macpherson, the former commanding officers, had at different periods given up their ancient boundaries (as I have observed, through mere indulgence to the Renter), and that in my humble opinion, gentlemen of the Committee, the present Commanding Officer has made no innovations or encroachments whatever, but in holding those rights which he is vested of by authority of Government; and the Renter can have no claims for remission but those long ago established and

admitted of by Government for the building of the Cantonments, and which he and every renter are acquainted with, previous to their entering into engagements with the Rajah Cullian Singh for holding that District.

No. 53.

W. A. BROCKE, to Governor-General and Council.

DECEMBER 20, 1782.

I am encouraged to address you respecting the Magistracy of the City of Patna and the judicial Powers exercised in the Mofussil, through a Persuasion that your solicitude for the good Administration of the Revenues will always dispose you to receive with indulgence and examine with Attention any proposal that shall profess to have that important point in view.

Since my appointment to the Trust which I have at this time the Honor to discharge, I have had frequent occasion to remark that the public business is subjected to many difficulties, and obstructions eventually detrimental to the Revenue, by the superintendence of the Cutwally or Police of the City of Patna being lodged in other hands than those of the Revenue Chief. Perhaps the diminution of that respect and consequence which are so peculiarly necessary in this country towards giving Efficacy to Official Exertions, is the principal, if not the sole source of the Disadvantages here alluded to. Being aware, however, that this Argument must have been often considered by your Board, and being convinced that you will allow it all the weight it may be entitled to, altho' it should not be formally urged or expatiated upon, I shall content myself with barely recalling your attention to it, not doubting but you will readily discover abundant reasons for vesting the Cutwally of the City of Patna in the Person of the Principal Revenue Officer stationed there.

With regard to the Powers exercised by the Foujedarry in the Mofussil, in the instance of sending Seavoyes and Peons thither for the purpose of apprehending such persons as are charged with the commission of murder, robbery, or other offences, I shall

briefly observe that the frequent irregularities and misconduct of the men so employed, are productive of much injury to the public revenue by furnishing the zemindars and farmers with pretexts for claiming deductions and indulgences on account of losses, which though they may sometimes be pretended are often real. I need not represent how difficult it is for me to check these evils, to which Government alone possesses the power of applying an effectual remedy. I trust that the Hon'ble Board will pardon me if I presume to suggest that an end so desirable might be accomplished by their giving to me, as the Company's Revenue Officer at Patna, the Power of arresting delinquents of whatever description, and of resigning them to the Foujedarry for trial. Such a Regulation, I humbly conceive, Gentlemen, would at once put a stop in its operation to that pernicious practice of screening offenders against the Laws from Justice, at present but too common among the zemindars and farmers, who expect to be supported in it under various disguises by the Collector or Revenue Chief.

No. 54.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

JANUARY 11, 1783.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 21st November and am sorry the account balances of the year 1189 enclosed in my letter of the 31st October were so very considerable, and that so small a part can be deemed recoverable; but I beg leave to assure you that it has not been owing to any neglect on my part, but has proceeded from various causes which I beg leave to lay before you; and I flatter myself they will be favourably attended to. As the heaviest part of the balances of last year fell in those Mehals that were held amawny, I think it necessary to observe that those purgunnahs were in a very bad state of cultivation at the time of Rajah Kyaliram's being dispossessed; greatly owing to the bad management of the sumils and the disturbances occasioned by Rajah Akbal All

Khan in Nirhut Samoy, and by Rajah Narain Singh in Seris Cotumba and Chirkawan. It clearly appeared that Rajah Kyaliram had given the management of these three purgunnahs to Narain Singh, and I leave you to judge of his conduct, when I inform you that the Mofassil Bandobast of Seris Cotumba only amounted Rs. 1,37,000. As for Chirkawan there was no Bandobast made at all but it was held amany by two or three of Rajah Kyaliram's people who deserted the country immediately they heard of Kyaliram's confinement. When Rajah Narain Singh was apprehended in April last, his Gomashatass, who had the management of all the small farms in Seris Cotumba, did every thing in their power to prevent the aumils sent on the part of Government collecting the kists regularly. This they did by low practices and cunning so very natural to people of their caste. When I consider their behaviour to me during the time of my residence in those purgunnahs in August last, I am really surprised that Bauber Ali Khan could collect so much as he did and still keep the country in a situation to enable him to enter into engagements with Government for the present year. The purgunnahs in Nirhut Samoy were in a state of confusion from the beginning to the end of the year owing to the disturbances occasioned by Akbal Ali Khan and the change of Aumils in the course of the year, for no less than four were sent. The last, Ali Kasim Khan was prevented from acting on account of a very bad state of health that has constantly attended him for some months past, and as I have very great reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of his Naibs, and their accounts appearing to me calculated to deceive, I have been under the necessity of sending out Mir Gulam Hyder in the room of Ali Kasim Khan. I have great dependence on the management of this man from his general good character and the knowledge he has of these purgunnahs, from having acted as Sazawall there for some years past. I enclose the accounts of Nirhut Samoy for your inspection as well as those of Seris Cotumba and Chukyah. You may rely on my utmost endeavour to realise as much as possible of the balances due from these purgunnahs.

You will observe by a reference to the Mehals held in thicca that very little balance is due from them except in Sarcar Shahabad; and although this balance has in some measure been owing to the bad conduct of the renters: I am inclined to believe that the increase of the year 1188 fell too heavy on this part of the country, so much so, that no one but Rajah Bikermajeet Singh would take charge of it on such terms, and there is still a balance of Rs. 66,000 due from him for the year 1188. I cannot say whether this circumstance was known to you, but in your letter of the 31st September 1781 you directed me to keep Bikermajeet in possession, in consequence of which I sent for the Rajah and acquainted him with your orders. He candidly confessed to me that he had lost so much the preceding year that he wished only to hold that part of Shahabad of which he was zamindar, but recommended his relation Babu Bloop Narain for the remainder, saying that he had considerable sums due him from Government for Malikannah. It being absolutely necessary to farm these pergunnahs without loss of time, I made enquiry and found out that Bloop Narain had a just claim for Malikannah; deeming it therefore a sufficient security I put him in possession of pergunnah Arrah, etc. The Hon'ble Board having since thought proper to allow him Malikannah the amount will be placed to his credit and then the balance will be trifling; and if he is indulged with an allowance for the expenses he was at during the troubles at Benares for the force he kept in pay, and for his attachment to our Government, his balance will be made up. Such sums as he can prove to have advanced as tuccavy or other balances that may be justly due him from his under-renters will shortly be collected and carried to the credit of his account. It is impossible for me to ascertain the forces kept by Bikeramajeet and Bloop Narain during the troubles at Benares, but as they have both parwanas from the Hon'ble the Governor-General, approving of their conduct at that time, I doubt not but it will be thought necessary to grant them some indulgence.

The balance due from Rajah Kyaliram can only be realized by the sale of his Ultamgah and different villages belonging to

him and others that are mortgaged to him, a list of which I now do myself the pleasure to enclose, and wait your further orders as to the disposal of them. I also have taken all possible pains to apprehend Muhammad Shaw, the amil of Ismail Kooly Khan's Jagir, but without success; nor can I find that he had any security. He was amil in the time of the council and as he had regularly paid his kists, I continued him in the charge. I apprehend it will be a difficult matter to get any amil to give security for the performance of his engagements with Government, as few will become security without a weighty consideration, and the present state of the different purgunnahs will not admit of it.

I have not been able to get anything from Balgovind and Bakshiram, Rajah Kyaliram's sons. They assert that they have not had the least money transactions with Kyaliram for some years past; but as they have not produced any deed of separation, I have, agreeable to your orders, put mohussels over them. I now enclose you a report of the Pandits of this place, by which it appears that the son is answerable for the debts of the father. I shall be glad to be favoured with your orders respecting Balgovind and Bakshiram.

I have advertised Rajah Sadooram's house for sale several times, but no one has attended. I shall try once more, but am of opinion that few will come up to the price of 10,000 rupees. I shall be glad to know whether I am to sell the house to the highest bidder or wait till they come up to the price it was bought in at.

No. 55.

W. A. BROOKS, to the Committee of Revenue.

FEBRUARY 11, 1783.

I have the pleasure to enclose you the following Persian accounts agreeable to your orders communicated to me by your secretary in his letter of the 13th ultimo:—

Bandobast for the year 1189,

Kistbundy for ditto,

Jama Wasil Baki for ditto,

and the Treasury accounts in Persian for the months of July, August, September, October, and November. These last are

under the Maharajah Kallian Singh's seal; the others are not, as the Maharajah is not here at present, having left this place for Benares some days since, without giving me the least information. As he receives a considerable salary as Company's Dewan under me, I think his leaving this station without my permission is highly improper; and as I doubt not that his conduct will meet with your disapprobation, I flatter myself that you will point out to him the impropriety of his inattention in this instance.

No. 56.

W. A. BROOKE, encamped at Arrah, to the Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 11, 1783.

I informed you in my letter of the 9th instant of my being at this place in order to investigate the conduct of the Amawny Amils and at the same time to judge of the probable loss that has occurred for want of rain in the proper season; immediately on my arrival I called upon Hanuman Singh, Amil of purgunnahs Arrah and Barragayah, for his account Bandobast and kistbandy for the present year, and was greatly astonished, when he replied that neither were finished though he has had the management ever since last August. Thus situated, I thought it necessary to set about forming the Bandobast and for that purpose ordered him to summon the principal Malguzars; far from attending to the orders he received, he advised the Malguzars (with whom it seems he had entered into private arrangements) to abscond, meaning by this finesse to prevent my coming to a knowledge of the tricks he had been practising. I was therefore under the necessity of sending ameens to form an estimate of the produce of the different Talook and have with a great deal of trouble effected a Bandobast agreeable to the Jaydad. Having positive proofs of Hanuman Singh's bad conduct as above represented, I have thought it expedient to remove him and have appointed Meer Sultan Hyder in his room, as it would have been the height of imprudence to trust Hanuman Singh with the management of these purgunnahs after my absence, when he had the insolence

to play so many tricks under my own eyes. Although it is the custom in this purgannah to collect at least 10 annas of the jama before the end of Fanguun he has not to this day realized six annas, having only paid into the treasury forty thousand rupees on account of those two purgannahs. This is a sufficient proof of his neglect, and as I have ordered a Wasilat of these Mahals to be taken, any sums that he may have defrauded Government of will appear against him for which he must be made answerable. I have therefore put him under mohussils for the present; his conduct has been so very reprehensible in the instance of advising Malguzars to abscond, that he deserves a very severe punishment for it, by being confined in the Havily Begum, but as I trust you will attend to this my representation of real facts, you will see the necessity of making an example of Hanuman Singh, to deter others in the same situation from a similar neglect. Hanuman Singh's family reside in this purgannah and he has besides a great number of relations, etc. Those are the persons he has advised to absent themselves, because he had let out to them all the profitable farms at a very low rate, by which they must have gained a very considerable advantage at the end of the year had he been continued. I have long had reason to suspect this Hanuman Singh, and in order to bind him as much as possible I wrote him positive perwannahs some time ago, to remind him of the propriety of getting malzamins for every Malguzar. Although this is a practice rigidly observed throughout the country, he has not paid the least attention to it, notwithstanding my repeated injunction. Hanuman Singh was appointed Sazawal over Rajah Bikermajeet Singh in the year 1188, and he sent the sum of thirty-four thousand rupees from the purgannahs for which his Vakeel Zabboo Lall gave a promissory note, but the amount was never paid into the treasury. Rajah Bikermajeet therefore accuses Hanuman Singh and Zabboo Lall of having embezzled the above sum. Bikermajeet says he can prove this and expects the amount to be carried to his credit. I shall therefore make strict enquiry into this complaint, and acquaint you with my proceedings.

P. S.—I am sorry to acquaint you that for want of rain in the months of September and October the country has suffered very much, but as the price of grain has rose very considerably, the loss will not be so great as might be expected, from seeing the vast tracts of lands that were ploughed and now lay waste for want of rain.

No. 57.

W. A. BROOKS, to the Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 24, 1783.

I do myself the pleasure to enclose you an account of the Jaydad of the Nankar villages of Rajah Akbal Ali Khan which have been seized agreeable to your orders. Rajah Imam Buksh Khan* enjoyed four villages as his share of the Nankar agreeable to Sanads of the Council ever since the commencement of the grant; and as he had mortgaged them, and his conduct towards Government has been uniformly correct, even at the time of the troubles when his relation Akbal Ali Khan was up in arms, I have released the above four villages, which will, I hope, meet with your approbation. I beg leave to recommend the continuance of the seven villages to the Rajamatta, as she had not the least concern in the disturbance occasioned by Akbal Ali Khan.

No. 58.

W. A. BROOKS, to the Governor-General and Council.

JUNE 23, 1783.

I beg leave to acquaint you that an application has been made to me by Banker Ali Khan † to be put in possession of a Jagir formerly granted to his father and which is at present occupied and withheld from him unjustly by Maharajah Kullian Singh. I enclose you a letter I received from the Maharajah in answer to one I wrote him requesting information from him

*NOTE.—Imam Bar Khan was son of Kadir Bar, who was son of Kamgar Khan's brother Dalil Khan. (See Introduction, page 28 above.)

† Nephew of Surajud daula. (See Eastern India, Vol. I, page 225.)

on this subject, and also Banker Ali Khan's reply to the assertion contained therein. I have made strict enquiries into the particulars of the Jagir in question, and find the right and title of the claimant Banker Ali Khan clearly proved and that the fact is as stated in Banker Ali Khan's replications. I have in my possession the sunad granted to Banker Ali Khan the father and on examination of the Company's records, I find Banker Ali Khan the son recognized by Mr. George Vansittart as the actual possessor of the Jagir in right of his father. The Maharsjah's answer to my letter is so full of contradiction and Banker Ali Khan's right to the Jagir so clearly proved by the public records, that you will I hope favour me with proper orders to put Banker Ali Khan in possession.

No. 59.

W. A. BROCKE, to CHARLES GRAHME, Esq.

JULY 5, 1783.

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant informing me of the apprehension of Mirza Firaud and sepoye attending him, of your having brought them prisoners to Chuprah and their subsequent release.

I beg leave to acquaint you that in consequence of the orders of the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to me, for putting Mirza Abdullah in possession of the purgunnahs of Rotihut and Putebrotah, I sent Meer Firaud with a Havildar and twelve sepoye to effect that purpose, and furnished him with the necessary orders usual on such occasions, copies of which I herewith enclose you. Hence you will perceive that there has been nothing unusual, nothing irregular in my department, and the orders of the Hon'ble Board have been carried into execution as far as depended on me. Whether your conduct, in the apprehension of Meer Firaud and these sepoye and withdrawing them from the duty they were employed upon has been regular, or not, is a point that can only be decided upon by our superiors.

It is necessary to acquaint you that it was mere accident that detained Meer Firaud and the sepoye in your district occasioned by Naar Singh, on the part of the Nepal Rajah, refusing to deliver

up the purgunnahs above mentioned, and they were waiting near Moniary on the frontiers of Champaran for further orders. It is therefore a matter of great surprise to me that Meer Firaud and the Havildar should refuse to show you, when required, the orders and authority under which they acted.

No. 60.

W. A. BROOKS, to the Committee of Revenue.

JULY 6, 1783.

I beg leave to enclose you the following Derkhasts:—

1. Babu Dusht Dowan Singh for Budgepore with an increase for five years.
2. Mustafa Kooly Khan for ditto ditto.
3. Bunday Ali Khan for Nurhut Samoy with an increase for five years.
4. Babu Bygenot Singh for Arrah and Baragyah with an increase for five years.
5. Noor Ali Beg for Chukyah for three years.
6. Shaikh Wali Muammad for Mutfercaut Behea with an increase for five years.

I also enclose you a statement of the sums collected from the above purgunnahs for four years. You will observe that I have been under the necessity of estimating the receipts from some of the purgunnahs for the year 1188, because they were under Rajah Kyaliram and the particulars of the receipts from each purgunnah could not be ascertained. I have had so many instances of the bad management of Amauny Aumils, that I am induced to recommend the acceptance of the enclosed proposals, being confident that should the purgunnahs remain amawny it will be a loss to Government. Babu Baijnath Singh, Bunday Ali Khan, and Mustafa Kooly Khan have agreed to deposit ten thousand rupees each as peishgi; and as I have given them hopes that their Darkhasts will be accepted, and they have applied to be sent into the purgunnahs that they may attend properly to the cultivation, I have appointed them for that purpose, for as they expect to benefit from their attention, they will of course exert themselves more than any others that could be sent. I most strenuously

recommend your approval of the enclosed Darkhasts from a conviction of their being advantageous to Government in every respect, but should you be inclined to keep these Mahawls Amawny another year, the only mode that presents itself to me for securing the Revenue is that of authorizing me to sign the pattas of the different Ryots, for they have so constantly been deceived by the Aumils that they have not the least faith or confidence in them. My signing the different pattas, etc., etc., will give confidence to the Ryots, but the execution of it will be attended with some trouble and expense to me and will after all, not answer near so well as farming out the purgunnahs agreeable to the enclosed Darkhasts, but I shall with pleasure embrace any mode which can possibly tend to increase the collections under my superintendence.

It has ever been the custom in this province to farm out purgannahs after having remained amawny one year for the sum collected in the course of that year with a regular increase; the enclosed Darkhasts even exceed that rule, at any rate they are the most advantageous that have been offered; although public notice has been given by me for these two months past, that such as were inclined to give in proposals for the amawny purgannahs to deliver them to me and that they should be forwarded for your approbation. I beg leave to recommend Mustapha Kooly Khan's proposals in preference to Babu Dusht Diwan Singh, as he is in my opinion the most responsible man in every respect. It may be necessary to acquaint you that this Mustapha Kooly Khan is not the Aumil of Chainpore. Rajgir and Amertoo are not included in Bunday Ali Khan's Darkhasts of course. The jama of the whole of Nurhut Samey for the next year will be Rs. 1,50,115-3-3 the medium of the receipts for four years does not exceed Rs. 1,31,078.

No. 61.

W. A. PROCK, to Governor-General and Council.

JULY 6, 1783.

I beg leave to acquaint you that previous to my taking charge of Sujah Kuli Khan's Jaghir, he had farmed it-out for five years

to one Deen Muhammad Khan, a dependant of Ahmad Ali Khan. I have a very bad opinion of the management of amawny sazawals, European as well as native, having ever found them much more attached to their own Interest than that of their Employers. I would recommend the jaghir should be farmed out in the same manner as other purgunnahs. I therefore enclose you a derkhaut from Lala Dowani Sing, of whose good management I have the greatest opinion, that you may order Deen Muhammad to be continued, or if you think this liable to objection, that Dewani Sing's proposals may be accepted. I believe I may venture to assure you that there is no probability of any loss arising by the employment of either of these men; but should you rather be disposed to have the jaghir held amawny, you may rely on my utmost exertions to realize as much as possible, but for the reason above given I would rather wish the jaghir to be farmed. I hope to be honored with your commands on this subject as soon as possible.

No. 62.

To the same.

JULY 8, 1783.

I have been honored with the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant; and as it appears to me to be your intention that each Collector should superintend that part of the late Munner ul Dowlah's jaghir situated within the limits of his jurisdiction, I shall give up that part of it in pargana Bhaal to Mr. Graeme, and the other share in pargana Arwal to Mr. Bathurst, it being within the limits of the Maharajah Kullian Sing's District; and as Shahjhanpore, Bhimpur and Biswak are within the Districts under my superintendence I shall keep them under my own management. The inclosed account of the jaghir will show you the greatest part is within my Division. I shall be glad to be informed whether I am to procure from Sujah Kuli Khan an account stating the sums distributed by him for the subsistence of his brother Abbas Kuli Khan and all the other branches of Munner ul Dowlah's family from his possession of the jaghir to the present time, as well as to

make enquiry into the conditions of the pretensions of the several claimants to it.

AN ACCOUNT IN DAMS OF MUNNER UL DOWLAN'S FAKHIE--

	DAMS.	DAMS.
In Mr. Brooks's Division--		
Shahjahanpore	24,76,784	
Bhimpur	28,93,900	
Biswak	11,10,989	64,81,682
In Mr. Graeme's Division--		
Bhd		8,93,896
In Maharajah Kullian Sing's Division--		
Arwal		12,92,200
	DAMS	81,67,878

No. 63.

W. A. BROOKS, to the Committee of Revenue.

JULY 23, 1783.

I had the pleasure of addressing you on the 17th March respecting Shahabad and the conduct of Hanuman Singh, since which I have accurately examined the Mufassil accounts and other official testimony of that District for the year 1188, and find that agreeable to a Wasilat of that year Rs. 4,69,169-10-9 was collected of which was paid into the Treasury Rs. 3,59,508-13-0. The balance unaccounted for therefore appears to be Rs. 1,09,600-13-9. It also appears that Zubboo Lall, nominally the Vakeel to Bikermajeet, but in reality a creature of Hanuman Singh, executed a promissory note to the late Chief's Munshi on account of the Assar Kist for the sum of Rs. 45,760=14-3, of which Rs. 12,829-6-0 has only been received, for which he has credit in the sum above stated to be received into the treasury. In consequence of your orders contained in your letter of the 31st March, I have used every endeavour to bring the accounts of Shahabad for 1188 to a conclusion but in vain. The impediments opposed to me are these. When I call upon Hanuman Singh he affirms that he is exonerated from all responsibility for the balances of 1188 because Bikermajeet Singh the farmer has executed and delivered to him a farkhutti. On the other hand, Bikermajeet Singh solemnly affirms that Hanuman Singh was appointed Sexawal over him in February 1781 and took absolute management of the affairs of the Mufassil into his hands from that period. During the remainder

of the year consequently Government can only have claims on those to whom they specially entrusted the management of the collections; and that during the time he had the charge of the Mofassil in 1188 the kists were regularly and faithfully paid to Government. Hanuman Singh denies his appointment of Sezawal over Bikermajeet Singh.

I have carefully examined the Company's records and find no entry of the appointment of Hanuman Singh as Sezawal over Bikermajeet Singh; yet it was a circumstance so well known that the affirmation of Bikermajeet Singh, together with concurrent testimony of a letter from Mr. Maxwell to Maharajah Kullian Singh, clearly proves that he actually exercised the office of Sezawal by official authority during the period above mentioned. Hence it may be inferred that the omission of the entry of this appointment on the records of the Company originated from intention not error. And from the character of Hanuman Singh and the notorious intimacy subsisting between him and the Munshi of the late Chief, I am induced to believe it to be the case, and that the intention of the parties in this respect proceeded from a presumption that such omission might screen Hanuman Singh from all responsibility in his office when called upon on a future occasion.

If from the enclosed evidence and information you should be of opinion that Hanuman Singh was an actual Sezawal over Bikermajeet Singh, notwithstanding the omission before mentioned, then the farkhuty which Hanuman Singh sets forth in his justification cannot have any weight whatsoever; for though it may release Hanuman Singh from all subsequent claims of Bikermajeet Singh, yet it cannot release him from his obligation to the Company and of rendering a faithful account of his collection.

No. 64.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1783.

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you on the 6th July last, enclosing you Darkhasts for purgunnahs Nurbut Samoy,

Budgepore, Mutfercaut Behea, Arrah and Barragyah and Chukyah, and at the same time acquainted you that public notice had been given by me for two months past, that such men as were inclined to give in proposals for the amawny purgunnahs should deliver them to me and that I should forward them for your approbation. I also informed you that the Darkhasts then transmitted were the most favourable that had been offered, and that keeping the purgunnahs amawny any longer would not be so advantageous to Government. In my letter of the 29th ultimo I pointed out to you the unfavourableness of the season for want of rain, as well as the dearness of all sorts of grain. I am sorry to acquaint you that these evils have been daily increasing to a very alarming degree. We have not had a drop of rain for these five weeks past and there is a great seeming want of grain, so much so, that it is difficult to get twenty seers of coarse rice for a rupee. I think it my duty to state these facts to you, that you may take such measures as shall to your judgment appear most salutary. Should the grain continue to grow scarce at the rate it has rose in price for some days past, the distress of the poor natives will be great indeed; and we can expect no supplies from the westward, as the want of rain in that quarter has if possible been more severely felt than in this province. I am confident that there must be grain sufficient to answer the consumption of more than one year, but the people in whose possession it is, take advantage of the necessities of the poor; but were proper measures adopted this evil might be remedied. I am sorry my authority is too much limited to admit of my interference without positive orders on that head, as the want of rain will greatly affect the revenue this year, and the men whose Darkhasts I sent in my letter of the 6th July foresees a very considerable loss. They wish to consider those purgunnahs as amawny still; but as I took moshulkas from them that they were to be considered as farmers of the said purgunnahs in case of your approving of their proposals; you have it still in your power to keep them to their engagements; but even then some loss may be expected unless the merchants are induced to make advances to the sumils in consideration of their holding the purgunnahs for the remaining four years. Give me

leave to assure you that if the purgunnahs are to remain amawny they will fall very short indeed of the estimated sudder jama ; and you will find it a double difficulty when you may wish to make a Bandobast for the next year, for as I before acquainted you it very seldom happens that an aumil will engage for any purgunnah for more than has been realized the preceding year. Should you have any doubts of the circumstances above related, I shall esteem myself particularly obliged if you will depute one of your members to this place in order to ascertain the justness of the statement I have laid before you.

No. 65.

W. A. BROOKE, to the Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 27, 1784.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 4th instant acknowledging the receipt of my letter to you of the 23rd ultimo. I am extremely concerned that you have not pointed out to me the conduct you wish me to observe to the aumils who refuse to pay their kists in proper time. Some severe measures are absolutely necessary, and if they are not very shortly adopted, I shall not have the least attention paid to my orders, and many of the aumils will fall considerably in arrears, particularly the aumils of Havily Azeemabad and Sandeh Bulleah. I am at a loss to account for their disrespectful behaviour towards me ; but if you expect me to realize the settlement of the purgunnahs under my charge, I hope you will invest me with full powers to use such modes of obtaining payment of the kists, as may to me seem best calculated to answer that end. If on the other hand, you should think proper to make a regulation on that head, I beg to be favoured with it as soon as possible, and you may be assured that I shall pay the strictest attention to it. I was greatly concerned that so great a balance appeared at the end of Faghun. The sum suspended on account of the disputes between the new and old aumils, I hope to have finally adjusted shortly. The delay has been occasioned (as the aumeens write me), by the new aumils not producing the several Malguzars necessary to attend at the examination of the wasoolbaky accounts,

as well as the Taccavy and Gillandazy. I have therefore sent orders to the different aumils, acquainting them that if they do not in the course of ten days after the receipt of my perwanahs produce the several Malguzars before the aumeen, that they shall be made answerable for the sums in dispute. As this mode promises a speedy adjustment of the accounts and the aumeens have already been a considerable time employed, I flatter myself that you will approve of the above mentioned orders. I cannot conclude without once more entreating you to favour me with particular instructions how I am to treat such farmers as refuse payment of their kists.

No. 66.

W. A. BROOKS, to Major HARDY.

MARCH 27, 1784.

The aumil of Sircar Shahabad having represented to me that some of the zemindars of purgunnah Bheah have refused paying their kists and have by force taken away all the crops; I am to request that you will send me six sepoy's as soon as possible that I may oblige the zemindars to settle their accounts with the aumil. I sent a Dustuck with some Harkarahs some time ago, but the zemindars have not paid the least attention to my orders which is the cause of my present application for sepoy's.

No. 67.

J. L. ROSS, Acting Chief during the absence of W. A. BROOKS at Calcutta to the Committee of Revenue.

AUGUST 13, 1784.

Being apprized that Meer Burket-Ullah has this day deputed a Vakeel to the presidency, (no doubt with a heavy charge against me for having deprived him of his liberty), I have only to request that the gentlemen of the Committee will suspend their judgment until they have perused and reflected upon the accompanying charges which require your most serious attention, and to determine, whether or not a Malguzar or any renter of the Company is to put the presumptive chief's orders at defiance and treat his

perwannahs with ineffable contempt, even in the midst of his own cutchery, and in the presence of the whole city of Patna, which the enclosed affidavit of the Chobdar, who presented him with my perwannah, will show.

Upon Mr. Brooke's quitting Patna, he recommended this man very particularly to me as a principal renter of Government and that I should give him every laudable and necessary support amongst his under renters, or aumils, which I did most cheerfully, knowing the consequence it is to Government in giving that countenance to the head renter; but Meer Burkut-Ullah not satisfied to keep within the bounds of mediocrity, presumes upon my indulgence, and usurps every pottah or moccurray lease, which he had granted agreeable to the tenures and dates of the different obligations herewith enclosed and setting aside his seal and signature, as nothing binding in those sacred ties of Government and social compact.

These arbitrary and unjust proceedings of Meer Burkut-Ullah coming daily before me were so very numerous from all quarters as to take up my sole attention. I frequently admonished Meer Burkut-Ullah against oppressing the poor ryots, and was often obliged to give him safe-guard from the Revenue office to his Budgerow, for so obnoxious had this man made himself to the whole inhabitants of the city by his oppressions and tyranny, that he durst not venture to Bankipore in his palanqueen for fear that the populace would pull him to pieces, and therefore was obliged to pass to and from the city by water. My public duty called upon me to check this intemperance of Meer Burkut-Ullah and I even wished to settle his difference with the aumils by Arbitration, as the most equitable manner, and to the entire consent of the parties; but those, after having acquiesced to by every tie of arbitration, he has also violated in a most open manner by secretly opposing my perwannahs, throughout his districts. At last, finding that I was not to be tampered with by bribes, or threats, he withdrew himself entirely from attending the durbar or presence. This was a matter of no consequence to me, whilst he had a Vakeel to represent him; and I therefore went on with the

current business of the Nezamat as usual, but upon my perwannah of the 5th instant being returned by the chobdar with the most severe contempt, the question then only remained whether he or I was to be Chief of Patna. A Naik and six sepoy's brought him to Mr. Brooke's Revenue Office at my express orders. I only required from him a muchalka or acknowledgment for his daring behaviour, and that in future he would not oppose the orders of Government, but this he has repeatedly refused to do, nor will he give any obligation whatever, for his misconduct, which I must construe into an open declaration against my public authority, as acting Chief of this district. Now, gentlemen, it rests with you to determine, whether or not Meer Burkut-Ullah is to act independently of the Chief of Patna. These provinces I presided over as acting Chief during the revolt of Rajah Cheyte Singh, but in the whole of that critical time, I never met with such treatment as I have experienced from this man.

No. 68.

MR. WILLIAM BUSHBY, Superintendent of alienated lands in Behar, to the Governor-General and Council.

PATNA, JANUARY 11, 1785.

Since my arrival at this place, I have regularly transmitted a particular account of my proceedings to the Committee of Revenue, but as several cases will soon occur that require your sanction, I take the liberty of recommending them to your notice in order that I may receive sufficient authority before I proceed any further in the enquiry of my office.

About two months ago I issued orders to the several Jagirdars and the other free landholders requiring their attendance in my Cutchery together with the documents authorizing the possession of their several lands; as many of them resided at a considerable distance, I deemed it necessary to allow them a term of three months, for the either producing in person, or sending through agents their respective papers. The time allowed them (which was from the 13th of November last to the 1st of February

next) is nearly expired, and as many of the Jagirdars, ultamgaw-dars and others have as yet paid no attention to my orders, but on the contrary have shown every disinclination to pay obedience to the authority vested in me by Government, I take the liberty of recommending to you the resuming the lands of any one of the most refractory. This, gentlemen, will serve as an example to the rest; and I may safely venture to affirm that should this plan meet with your approbation, it will effectually put a stop to all further non-compliance with your orders. As any such jagir may be restored whenever due obedience shall have been paid to your commands, I do not conceive that this measure will appear either rigorous or urgent, and the less so, as it is but a fair deduction, that their dilatoriness proceeds not from any dread of their being dispossessed of their lands, if lawfully entitled to them, but from a conviction either of their jagirs being resumable in conformity to the institutions of the ancient Mogul Government, or of the grants by which they hold them being either false or forged.

It has been an established law that jagirs, upon the demise of the persons to whom they were granted, should not devolve to their heirs, but from death or delinquency should revert to Government. Since the English have acquired the Dewany it has been a very common practice among the jagirdars to sell and mortgage their jagirs; and after the death of the person in whose name the title deeds are made out, for the next-of-kin to take possession, as this appears to be an innovation of a very few years, I humbly beg leave to submit it to your consideration whether or not all jagirs coming under this description should be resumed.

It has been usual whenever disputes have arisen between the rent-free landholders to refer the decision of them to the different Collectors of this province; but since I have taken charge of my office, they have not known by whose decision to abide. I must therefore request that the Hon'ble Board will be pleased to signify to the several Collectors that all matters regarding the rent-free lands should come wholly and solely under my superintendence, as by this means many difficulties and delays will be obviated, and the whole business will appear before you from one Department only.

As the Ayemadars who are for the most part extremely poor must naturally feel the inconvenience of coming themselves from the remote parts of this province, and the expense of separately deputing a Vakeel to transact their business at my Cutcherry; I deemed it a necessary indulgence to allow them permission to send only one Vakeel to represent the Ayemadars of each purgunnah. By this means the hardships complained of would be effectually removed, and the investigation of their lands by no means impeded. This, gentlemen, I trust will meet with your approbation. I have been endeavouring since my arrival to form a register of the rent-free lands, but as it cannot possibly be completed until such time as I shall have received all the records from the different Cancongoes, (Officers of the Nazarat for compiling the records of the rent-free lands, etc.), and the Sanads and other documents from the several jagirdars, ulumgadars, and others; I hope your Hon'ble Board will not attribute the unavoidable delays to any negligence on my part.

I have been and now am daily employed in the receiving the Sanads from the different jagirdars, etc., they have hitherto come in but very slowly; but I flatter myself should your Hon'ble Board think proper to adopt the plan recommended in the former part of my letter the whole will be brought in in the course of a few days.

No. 69.

W. A. BROOKS, to Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 5, 1785.

I beg leave to enclose you an Arzey I have received from Ahmad Ali Khan the farmer of Saroar Shahabad; and as I think it necessary that you should be informed of the nature of the engagement between Syed Noorul Hossain Khan and Ahmad Ali Khan, the following are the particulars as far as have appeared before me.

In the beginning of the year 1191 Syed Noorul Hossain Khan* gave in his proposals to Ahmad Ali Khan for farming his own

* Nurul Hossain Bilgrami, who settled in Shahabad in 1763. His descendants are the well-known Koach family.

Talooka in purgunnah Arrah at the rate of ninety-five thousand rupees each year for three years certain; his proposals were accepted; and he gave in a kabuliat and kistbundy accordingly in the name of one of his relations Meer Tabarak Husain, and signed himself security upon both as is the frequent custom in this part of the country. After this one Mustapha Kooly Khan entered into engagements with Ahmad Ali Khan for two years for the remaining Talookas in the same purgunnah. There is a very considerable tract of land belonging to purgunnah Arrah called Diarra, which has been increasing for many years as the river has encroached on the banks of the Arrah side; the greatest part of this land belongs to Syed Noorul Hossain Khan's Talooka, the remainder to a village named Khurpore. The whole of this Diarra was formerly attached to Sarcar Sawrun, but in the year 1187 the farmer of Shahabad represented to the Council at this place, that the Diarra properly belonged to Shahabad; upon this an enquiry was made and being referred to the Hon'ble Board they directed that the Diarra should be considered as a part of Shahabad. From that time to the end of 1190 Syed Noorul Hossain Khan's Talooka was never farmed separately, nor the remaining Talookas as in the present instance, but the Diarra Bandobust has been entirely unconnected with any other place. Noorul Hossain Khan considered the whole Jaydad of the Diarra as included in his engagements with Ahmad Ali Khan, and took possession of it accordingly, upon which Mustapha Kooly Khan, who judged that Syed Noorul Hossain Khan had no right to the Diarra of Khurpore, complained of this encroachment to Ahmad Ali Khan, who immediately sent an amin to secure the jaydad of the disputed part of the Diarra amounting to about four thousand rupees, and to keep it in deposit. Some time after this, Mustapha Kooly Khan represented his case to me and desired that he might be put in possession of the Khurpore Diarra and that he might secure the amount of this jaydad under charge of the amin. I immediately called upon the Umlah of Noorul Hossain Khan for their answer to Mustapha Kooly Khan's complaint, also for the sanads, etc., etc., which they received from Ahmad Ali Khan, and I called upon him

for their Kaluliat. The umlah of Syed Noorul Hossain Khan confessed that part of the Diarrah belonged to Khurpore but claimed the jaydad as being included in their engagements with Ahmad Ali Khan; but this they were not able to prove by any Sanad of Ahmad Ali Khan's or their Kabuliat and Kistbundy; in short, they had no writing which they could produce as a sufficient proof. I then demanded of Ahmad Ali Khan the particulars of the jaydad upon which he formed his settlement with Noorul Hossain Khan and Mustapha Kooly Khan, from which it appeared that the jaydad of the Khurpore Diarrah formed a part of his settlement with Mustapha Kooly Khan. I therefore decided in favour of Mustapha Kooly Khan, since it was fully proved that part of the Diarrah belongs to Khurpore; and as that village does not belong to Noorul Hossain Khan's Talooka, he has not by the Sanads he holds, the least right to it. The umlah of Noorul Hossain Khan represented that he gave his Kabuliat for the whole of his own Talooka in the year 1179, and that he had the whole of the Diarrah; but this they have not been able to prove, and it is very certain that the Diarrah at that time was very trifling in comparison to what it is now.

When I was in Calcutta, Ahmad Ali Khan represented to Mr. Ross that there was a balance due to him from Syed Noorul Hossain Khan of thirty-one thousand rupees, and requested that proper people might be sent to take charge of his Malikannah villages, that the produce might be appropriated to liquidate the debt. Mr. Ross directed Ahmad Ali Khan to send a Sezawal, but the whole of last year's balance is not yet realized, and although the Malikannah villages may be worth more than Noorul Hossain Khan's balance to Ahmad Ali Khan's of 38,000 rupees to the end of Faugun; still as he is obliged to pay his kists regularly to Government, which he has hitherto strictly observed, and as the produce of the Malikannah villages is so very trifling in comparison with Ahmad Ali Khan's just demands, he is a very considerable sufferer by the immense and heavy interest he is obliged to pay for the money he borrows from the merchants in the city. I hope you will favour me with your instructions how

I am to act, as soon as possible; for although Ahmad Ali Khan has hitherto been very regular in the payment of his kists, I much fear if some mode be not speedily adopted to secure to him the balance due from Noorul Hossain Khan, that he will not be able to pay the next kists, which are very considerable, with the same punctuality as he has hitherto observed. Although the merchants have the highest opinion of him they have it not in their power to give him any further assistance. I am sorry to observe that their credit is greatly fallen within this two years.

No. 70.

W. A. BROOKS, to Committee of Revenue.

JULY 13, 1785.

It gives me great concern to be under the disagreeable necessity of forwarding to you the enclosed arzey from Ahmad Ali Khan. He has with great difficulty delivered in a part for the balance of his kist for Jeyte; but I much fear it will not be in his power to pay the two remaining kists with that regularity he has hitherto observed, as the reverses he has met with this year have distressed him very considerably, and are the cause of his now applying for indulgence in point of time to enable him to pay the balance of the present year. He by no means wishes any part thereof excused him. The circumstance he represents respecting the zemindar of purgunnah Dinnarah is a fact. I can answer for the riotous conduct of the tickadars and ryots in Shahabad, as they have frequently had the insolence to drive away people whom I have sent with Dustuks over them; in short, there is no sort of villainy which they do not practice when closely pressed for payment of the kists. The Adalat and Faujdari being under different persons, it is not in the least impossible that underfarmers may, when owing a considerable balance, contrive to have a suit instituted against them in the Adalat for a trifling sum, for which they are confined, and by that means avoid the payment of a larger, for imprisonment seems to be no sort of punishment to

a native of this part of the country. In respect to the Faujdari various are the means left the ryots to give trouble to the Aumils of which I have experienced several instances; and I am confident that the farmers are on that account deprived of the power of realizing their just balances, which is ultimately a loss to Government. It is not here as in Bengal, when a peon acting by order may bring a whole purgunnah of ryots before the Collector without the least trouble; but in this part of the country, and in Shahabad in particular, it is very different; for they do not scruple to oppose even an armed force sent by orders of Government. Purgunnah Chowsah being under the Resident at Benares, Mr. Wordsworth forwarded Ahmad Ali Khan's arzey to Mr. Fowke requesting that Dhol Singh might be apprehended and punished, but as no answer is yet arrived, I know not whether any steps have been taken to secure the zemindar's person. Balanaut was a farmer of Ahmad Ali Khan to the amount of two lakhs of rupees a year and was esteemed a man of property. Two or three months before he ran off he was very ill and confined to the house, on account of which he contrived to put off payment, which Ahmed Ali Khan was unavoidably obliged to concur in, not thinking that Balanaut would abscond. As I have a high opinion of Ahmad Ali Khan as a man of abilities and a good farmer, I beg leave to recommend the indulgence he requests in point of time, more particularly as he is a farmer to the amount of ten lacks of rupees, and the kists for Asaur and Sawan being very heavy, was he to be called upon for the full amount immediately they become due, he might not (although I believe the family possessed of great property) be able to discharge it; and if harsh measures should be pursued in consequence, great difficulties would in my opinion occur in realizing the balances due from him to Government, and be a very great detriment to the cultivation for the ensuing season. Syed Noorul Hossain Khan owes Ahmad Ali Khan about fifty thousand rupees, to which he cannot make any just objection. I would therefore recommend that his Malikannah villages be immediately sold. This will reduce Ahmad Ali Khan's balance to Government very considerably, and it is a support that he has

a right to demand of Government; for if he is not assisted in recovering his just balances, how can it be expected that he will be able to fulfill his engagements? If you do not think yourselves authorized to comply with Ahmad Ali Khan's request, I beg that you will refer it to the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council, for I foresee that if Ahmad Ali Khan should be dispossessed at this time the loss to Government would be very great; and on that account I recommend Ahmad Ali Khan's petition to your serious attention.

ANNEXURE.

The petition of Ahmad Ally Khan, farmer of Sircar Shahabad.

Altho' the fixt jumma of Sircar Shahabad had not been realized for four years, as is well known to you, either when held in farm or when amawny, I was persuaded to undertake it in farm at the jumma fixed by the Committee, in hopes that I should be able by punctual payment to recommend myself to the favor of Government; and altho' the year 1191 was unfavourable on account of the scarcity of rain, I fulfilled my engagement by paying the full amount of the jumma, and never made any objection. But this year unforeseen accidents have occurred, on account of the boundaries of Shahabad being so near to pergunnahs under different Collectors and that the ryots are remarkable for their tricks and refractory behaviour. At the time the khists are demanded from them, they make various and improper evasions, and do not attend to the sezawafs put over them to enforce payment, but frequently beat them away; they have also a custom of stabbing themselves when closely pressed for payment; and in order to avoid paying their khists they often get a friend to complain against them in the Adawlut for sums supposed to be lent them and which they refused to pay; and they often contrive by similar means to be summoned by the Adawlut as witnesses, and that at a time when the khists become due. By these means they evade payment, and I am the sufferer in the end. I have always represented these circumstances to you, pointing out that if they were not removed the business of the collection could not be carried on. Lately a very extraordinary circumstance has happened. Dhole Singh, Zemindar of Pergunnah Dinarah, attended with many followers came into the catcherry in the day time, released a number of malguzars who were in confinement for balances due, took away all the money then in the treasury, and after having killed five men and wounding thirteen more who endeavoured to prevent execution of their plan, went away with the people they had released, together with the money they took from the catcherry into pergunnah Chousa in Sircar Gawzeypore. In consequence of this disturbance, the other

Malguzars of pergunnahs Dinwar and Dinarah discontinued to pay their khids, and there was an end of all order and management in those pergunnahs. I represented this circumstance to Mr. Wardenworth, who wrote to me that he could not redress the grievances complained of without orders from the Committee, as the people were gone into another hills; nor do I know if any measures have been taken to punish the offenders. At that time another severe loss attended me. Bolonant, farmer of Bundgore, &c., absconded with a balance of a lack of rupees. Among the other malguzars in Shabhad who are in balance, Nooral Hussein Khan is the most considerable, as he owes me about fifty thousand rupees agreeable to usual banking accounts. This balance added to Bolonant's, and the impediments above mentioned not being removed, and the being the end of the year, render my situation very disagreeing and alarming. I have nevertheless paid my khids to the end of Jyè without complaining; but I am now remissive, because the sums due me from two malguzars amount to one lack and a half of rupees, besides large sums due me from others. All this is well known to you; if you do not therefore at this time of my distress show me some favor and protection, it will be extremely difficult, almost impossible, for me to fulfill my engagements. I therefore beg leave to represent that in the two khids that are due from me for the months of Ameer and Sawan I do not wish or request any part thereof to be excused me; but as I have been a great sufferer by unforeseen accident, I trust for favor. My honor is in your hands; I therefore beg that the balance which is due from me for this year may be taken from me along with the khids of the next year. By this indulgence, I shall be able to pay what is due to Government, provide for the cultivation of the coming season and devote myself to the service of Government. In consequence of Nooral Hussein Khan's balances of 80,000 rupees due me, the Committee were pleased to order his malikmah villages to be attached, and that the amount collected should be carried to my credit; but those sums being very trifling when compared with my demand, if the gentlemen of the committee would give orders for the sale of the malikmah villages, the whole amount would be immediately realized and paid into the treasury in part of the khids due from me. Sir, my father and I have for these eighteen years past been malguzars to the amount of many lacks of rupees, and never claimed any deduction, nor do I now request it; but on account of the losses which I have suffered in Sherar Shabhad, I am reduced to the necessity of applying for time as the only mode left me of obtaining the desired end of conducting the business of the pergunnahs in Shabhad with propriety, and of fulfilling my engagements with Government.

No. 71.

W. A. BROOKS, to THOMAS LAW, Collector of Bohna.

JUNE 30, 1785.

I have been favored with your letter of the 29th ultimo, inclosing me an account with particulars of the Dam at Putehumbha,

as delivered to you by the Aumil of Mehawl Suppurd, by which it appears Raja Sunder Singh was at great expense in erecting the dam, and that he had at that time the whole of Ekyll Belawur under him as well as the Mehawl Suppurd; but then the water which was collected by the dam, being at Putchumba, never went on the side of Mehawl Zupty. There can be no doubt as to Sunder Singh having made the dam in question at Putchumba, and that he was at considerable expense on that account; but it is equally certain by the answer of the Aumil of Sunnout to the petition presented to you by the Aumil of Mehawl Zupty, that Rajah Sunder Singh was Aumil of both the mehawls Zupty and Suppurd at that time, and as such had in his option to turn the course of the stream on which side he thought most to his advantage. It therefore does not follow that Kulbullabeg had the same rights, even allowing that Roy Beany Ram did repair the dam in 1172; at the Mehawl Zupty is not under him as it was under Rajah Sunder Singh. But it appears by the particulars delivered to me by Shake Mohamad Raffy, that the dam was not repaired in 1172 by Roy Beany Ram, and he has confirmed this by affixing his seal to this assertion of the zemindars; and on the side of the Mehawl Zupty at any rate it is clear that the dam had been thrown down for near twenty years. Of course the renewing it being a detriment to the Aumil of the Mehawl Zupty, he will be entitled to damages for as much as he can prove to have lost by the erection of the dam at Putchumba last year, and I am willing to send out an amin on my part to act with the one sent by you for the purpose of ascertaining the loss sustained by my aumil; but in respect to the right of the dam, it is clearly proved by the answer of the Aumil of Mehawl Suppurd that it is contrary to usage and custom, and the Aumil of Mehawl Zupty has an undoubted right to an ample allowance for any loss he has sustained in consequence of the renewal of the dam. I shall be glad to be favored with your answer as soon as possible, for the Aumil of Mehawl Zupty claims a Deduction on account the loss he has sustained.

No. 72.

W. A. BROOKE, to THOMAS LAW.

AUGUST 10, 1785.

I have been favored with your letters of the 1st and 2nd instant, the latter inclosing copy of an Arzey presented to you by Rajah Meterjeet Sing. I see little or no probability of the dispute being settled between our farmers by deputing an aumil as you have proposed. Your Aumil clearly in my opinion admits that the dam at Putchumba had been out of repair twenty years; and over the reasons I have already stated to you in my letter of the 30th ultimo, I am confident that your aumil had no right to repair the dam, which was evidently a loss to my aumil. As the whole of the dispute rests on the propriety of your aumil's repairing the dam in question; and we are not likely to bring about a settlement between them, I shall send all the particulars to the Committee of Revenue, and leave it to them to decide on the different claims. My aumil, you will observe, in his answer to Rajah Meterjeet's Arzey to you, points out a loss of ten thousand rupæes, which he suffered last year by the Dam's being established contrary to custom.

No. 73.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

AUGUST 10, 1785.

This will be presented to you by Rajah Bikermajeet Singh zemindar of a part of Sirar Shahabad. He has frequently applied for Malikannah at the same rate that is allowed to all other zemindars within the provinces, but as he has not yet met with the success he expected, he is at a loss to account for the deviation from the general rule, and has requested my permission to attend at the Presidency to make his claim in person. The particulars of his zemindari and the Malikannah due to him have been forwarded to you, and for which I refer you to my letters of the 6th October 1782, 17th February 1783, and 19th December 1784.

Mr. Shore in his report on the balances in Behar considers the Rajah's balance for 1188 irrecoverable and that for 1189 doubtful ; these sums together amount to nearly one lack of rupees. Mr. Shore further observes that Rajah Bikermajeet Singh is the only zemindar in the country who has no allowance on account of Malik as there can be no doubt of his zemindary. If Malikannah is granted to him at the usual and customary rate of ten per cent, it will nearly clear off the whole of the balances he owes to Government, and he will then be on a footing with the other zemindars in this province.

The sum which he formerly claimed for the expenses he was at during the troubles at Benares for keeping up an armed force has been allowed him by the Hon'ble Board, and the amount has been carried to his credit.

No. 74.

J. L. Ross, Acting Chief, to Committee of Revenue.

NOVEMBER 21, 1785.

Upon a retrospective view into the balances of the last year, I find that Ahmad Ali Khan the farmer of Shahabad has not paid back the sum of 20,000 rupees balance of Taccavy on account of the year 1191 Fusli. There is likewise a heavy balance due from him on account of the last year's revenue, which amounts to Ra. 1,60,327-3-0 ; and if that sum is not immediately collected should he be permitted to resign the district of Shahabad at this period of the year, a great loss will be sustained by the Company in collecting the above sums, and will occasion a great difficulty in the collection of this current year, (that is provided he gives up Shahabad), as this is the immediate season for collecting those balances due to Government. I wait for your orders, on what coercive measures the Committee will be pleased to adopt in realizing those balances.

The sum of 14,000 rupees Taccavy advanced to the farmer of Havily Azeemabad for the present year, contrary to the injunctions of the Committee, shall be demanded back from the aumil and credit given for the same in the treasury accounts.

The amil of Ekyl, etc., owes the sum of 5,000 rupees on account of the last year's revenue, and therefore request you will be pleased to give me your final instructions upon the above subject as soon as possible.

No. 75.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

NOVEMBER 24, 1785.

I have been favoured with a letter from your Secretary enclosing an extract from your proceedings on Ahmad Ali Khan's request to resign the charge of Sircar Shahabad, and desiring me to furnish you as soon as possible with any information in my power relative to the advances of Taccavy and Gillandazy for which Ahmad Ali Khan solicits credit.

It has invariably been the custom in Behar to give credit to every farmer for such sums as he can prove to have advanced on account of Taccavy and Gillandazy, and where it appears that balances are actually due to the amil from the Mofassil and capable of recovery, the collecting of which having been deferred with a view to the increase and cultivation of the purgunnabs, as in the present instance; it is my opinion that Ahmad A'i Khan should be allowed a certain time for the recovery of such balances as may be deemed just, so as not to interfere with the collections of the present year, and the demand be suspended for a few months, he being answerable for any deficiency that may arise; the sums which shall appear to be justly due to him on account of balances, Taccavy and Gillandazy being deducted from the sum total of his debt, he should immediately discharge the balance. I recommend this mode to be observed in respect to Ahmad Ali Khan because he is a good man, and if coercive measures were to be pursued, in order to obtain payment of his balances, as they now stand, I have every reason to think that he could not fulfil your wishes in that respect, and that it would be the means of his being a considerable loser in the other Mehals which he holds in Mr. Bathurst's and Mr. Law's districts amounting to about 6 lacks of rupees. I beg leave to observe to you

that Ahmad Ali Khan frequently applied to me for an allowance to advance Taccavy and Gillandazy, but as your orders on this head have been very positive to discourage such claims, I did not pay any attention to his representations.

No. 76.

W. A. BROOKE (on deputation to Calcutta), to Governor-General and Council.

FORT WILLIAM, NOVEMBER 29, 1785.

Permit me to solicit your attention in stating the peculiarity of my situation with respect to my allowances being insufficient for the purpose of fulfilling the several duties of my station as your Chief and Representative at Patna, and I trust you will, on a candid and impartial review of this subject, consider me entitled to a salary in some degree proportioned to the expenses necessarily and unavoidably incident thereto. The city of Patna is from its situation on the Ganges and great road leading to our upper civil and military stations, liable to a constant resort of your servants, in their progress to and from the Presidency; the House of the Chief has ever been and still is on these occasions considered the usual and most proper place to repair to, and an attention to their conveniences, wants, and necessities deemed inseparable from the duties of his station.

In the city of Patna also reside the representatives of three several nations occupying stations in point of rank equal to my own, but of emolument much superior; and our situations render a mutual exchange of civilities and friendly intercourse necessary and unavoidable. I leave it then to you, Gentlemen, to judge, how inadequate my present allowances are to the fulfilling these several duties and others necessarily attached to my station.

I do not solicit an additional allowance from any motive of increasing my fortune, but in order that I may support the dignity of my office with honour to my employers and credit to myself which I trust you will enable me to do.

I am fully aware that my request for an increase of salary comes before you at an unfavourable period, when all your

measures are calculated towards a diminution of the expenses, yet as my application is founded on absolute necessity, I flatter myself that you will not reject it.

No. 77.

W. A. BROOKER, to Governor-General and Council.

DECEMBER 5, 1785.

I have received a letter from your Secretary in answer to my address to you of the 29th ultimo wherein he informs me that you are sensible of the inadequacy of my present allowances as your Chief at Patna to support my expenses with that hospitality which I have shown, and the credit due to my station, but that the particular distressed situation of the Company at present will not admit of any increase to my salary ; at the same time he informs me that if you find my attention to the revenue brings me under the description of those servants mentioned in your late regulations you will be happy to take that opportunity of making me a proper reward :—

The reward which you hold forth in the latter part of your letter, cannot be accomplished by me nor can I hope to benefit by your late regulations respecting collections in the course of the present year, because I cannot come under the description of those servants therein alluded to. I think it my duty to point out to you the particular situation I am placed in with respect to the collections under my management, and I doubt not, you will enable me to perform the several duties of my office to the greatest advantage to my employers, by giving encouragement to my endeavours. Within these five years past (the greatest part of which I have acted as your Chief at Patna), three different settlements have been made by members of the Committee of Revenue deputed to Patna for that purpose, upon a comparative statement between the sums realized on their settlements, which specified an increase, and the sums formerly collected. It will be found, that ever since such increase has been put on the collections of Behar, the sums actually realized have not been equal to those of former years and always considerably

less than the estimated jama. It must therefore be very evident to you, Gentlemen, that if the estimate formed by the Committee of Revenue has not hitherto been realized, the prospect of an increase is very improbable. The truth of this conclusion is more fully exemplified in the following instances.

The Committee of Revenue have directed me to make the settlement of Sircar Shahabad, in consequence of the present amil under the last settlement falling in arrears and requesting permission to be released from his engagement. It cannot therefore be expected that the situation of this province will admit of an increase this year and the balance of the last being realized; it would be deceiving you to promise it.

It must therefore be evidently conspicuous considering my particular situation, that I am utterly precluded from receiving any participation of the indulgence offered to Collectors by the Regulations alluded to, and by your answer to my last address I am placed in a predicament further removed from receiving that support and assistance which is essential to the execution of my duty, which a faithful representation of my actual and necessary expenses gave me reason to expect, and to the inadequacy of which you have been pleased to subscribe.

However invidious the task is, to draw a comparative statement of the allowances of public officers under my department with my own, I consider my present situation a sufficient justification for my pointing out to you the distinction, as well as the means of making a fair and equitable apportionment without any additional charge to the expenses of Government.

Maharajah Kullian Singh, who holds the office of Dewan under me at Patna, has a salary of above four thousand rupees allowed him; if the exigencies of Government will not admit of an increase to my allowances, there can be no sufficient reason urged, I humbly conceive, against the application of part of these allowances towards supporting the expenses and dignity of my superior situation. Should however objections be stated against the adoption of this mode, there is another which if you will carry into effect, wants not precedent to establish it, or advantages to recommend it.

I mean the granting me a commission on the sums which I may realize in the settlement which I am to make of Shahabad; and in order to facilitate and give vigour to the collection of the revenue I recommend as I have already done in former letters that the Dewany Adalat and Faujdary in the Mofassil throughout my districts be put under my immediate management in the same manner as they are held by the Chief of Chittagong, Collectors of Boglepore, Rungpore, Ramgar, Rotas, and Saran and Champaran. By this means, the great losses which the farmers under me have suffered hitherto by these offices being independent of the revenue servant will be removed, and I shall then be enabled to make an advantageous settlement with perfect assurance of realizing the full amount.

At the time when I am applying to you for an increase of salary I have thought it my duty to point out to you the mode best calculated for the proper management and increase of the collections under my charge, and I trust that they will be favourably attended to.

No. 78.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

JANUARY 8, 1786.

Enclosed I do myself the pleasure to transmit you my treasury accounts, etc., of this division for the month of December 1785 in English and Persian.

You will observe that my head assistant Mr. Ross has drawn my salary and allowance for house rent for December, and that he has paid Mr. Wordsworth, my second assistant, the sum of five hundred rupees as acting first assistant. I am not a little astonished at Mr. Wordsworth's having drawn the allowance of head assistant at a time when he was absent; and surely as that gentleman has not been at Patna for more than three months in the course of near three years, I think he ought to have been satisfied with the allowances which he received during all that time, considering that I had not the least assistance from him; nor can I conceive by what mode of reasoning Mr. Ross could

think of depriving me of my pay and allowances for being absent, and granting at the same time a superior pay to Mr. Wordsworth, who also was absent, and enjoyed a superior appointment at the distance of forty koses from Patna.

This conduct of my assistants is so extraordinary that I have thought proper to make you acquainted with it, choosing rather to abide by your determination than to enter into any arguments with them on the subject. Should you think Mr. Ross authorized by the usages of the service to receive my pay because I was absent, he cannot surely expect that you will admit of his receiving his pay for the seven months that he was in Calcutta; but if on the other hand, you think him entitled to pay for the time he was absent, I trust that the same indulgence will be granted to me, more particularly in the present instance, as I had the honour of being called before you when in Calcutta, on the subject of Ahmad Ali Khan's resignation of Shahabad, and consulted as to the most probable means of adjusting his accounts, and realizing the heavy balance he owes to Government.

No. 79.

W. A. BROOKE, to Committee of Revenue.

FEBRUARY 7, 1786.

I have to acquaint you of the death of Roy Mohun Lall, late aumil of Nirhut Samoy; for in fact he was the aumil, though the kabuliat was given in his nephew's name Harnarain. I have thought it prudent for the present to continue him in charge till I get the Maugh kist from him, but as he is not a man of property, I would recommend (if he cannot give security for the performance of his engagement) to remove him immediately or put a sazawal over him till the end of the year, when a new settlement may be made to advantage for the ensuing season. I understand that the Mofassil settlement of Nirhut Samoy for the present year will amply admit of the aumil's paying the kists with punctuality; but I have not the most favourable opinion of Roy Mohun Lall's family, which is the reason of my recommending a sazawal to the end of the present year, in case he cannot give a proper security.

No. 80.

W. A. BROOKE, in camp at Arrah, to Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 8, 1786.

I acquainted you on the 7th ultimo of the death of Roy Mohun Lall and expressed my fears that Harnarain, the amil of Nirhut Samoy, was not a man much to be depended upon; I have since found upon enquiry that he is son to the late Soojeet Roy, a man who was frequently employed, and had the management at times of Mehals to the amount of ten and twelve lacks of rupees in Purnea. Harnarain and his brother Kuer Ramnarain having with the greatest readiness paid the kist for Maugh, which is the largest in the whole year, immediately after the death of Roy Mohun Lall, and having at the same time requested to be continued in the management of Nirhut Samoy, in the same manner, and agreeable to the terms of the settlement made by Mr. Shore, I demanded security of them, or that they would pay a sum down as peshgi. This they positively refused, asserting that they were in every respect as responsible as their late uncle Roy Mohun Lall and their giving either security or money in advance would lessen them in the opinion of the world, that they were confident they should fulfil their engagements with the greatest exactness, and therefore requested that perwannahs might be issued into the Mofassil proclaiming them the farmers of Nirhut Samoy for the terms of Mr. Shore's settlement. This they said was absolutely necessary to give confidence to the under-farmers and others; because Roy Mohun Lall having taken kabuliats from every one for five years with a regular increase, in the same manner as he had engaged to pay to Government, and that if the under-farmers therefore were not assured of those engagements being attended to, they would of course neglect the cultivation for the ensuing season. All this being really true, made their request appear to me very reasonable, and as Kuer Ramnarain, who will in fact have the management of the purgunnahs, is a very good man, and at the same time remarkably clever and careful, I thought it advisable, and most for the interest of Government to continue them in charge agreeable to the term of Mr. Shore's settlement and gave them sanads accordingly. I am confident that the kists will be

paid with the greatest punctuality, and that by continuing Harnarain in charge, the increase and proper cultivation of these purgunnahs under him will be secured for the next two years. I therefore hope that you will approve of my having confirmed Harnarain and his brother Kner Bamnarain in the management of Nirhut Samoy. I received an arzey from Rajah Akbal Ali Khan requesting that any proposal which might be offered to me by his Vakil should be accepted, but as the Rajah is a very young man, and totally unacquainted with the mode of managing a country of such extent, and the season being so far advanced, I thought it most prudent to refuse his request, more particularly so as complying with it, might have been considered by the relations of Roy Mohun Lall as an act of injustice, and might have occasioned their withholding the payment of the sums collected by Roy Mohun Lall, more than have been paid into the treasury. This together with the trouble of making Wasulats so late in the year could not have failed of causing a loss to Government for the present year. The increase which they have agreed to pay for the next year, would have become very uncertain, for it cannot be supposed that any new aumil would have been contented with the settlement made in the Mofassil by his predecessor, although ever so proper. Experience has convinced me of the justness of this remark, also that frequent changes in a purgunnah are always attended with certain loss to Government; for I well remember in the year 1189, when there were three different aumils in Nirhut Samoy, only 90,492 rupees were received from those places, which now promise 1,32,000 rupees for the present year, 1,44,000 rupees for 1194, and for the following year, (1195), 1,54,113 rupees. I shall alter the kistbundy for the next year as there is a greater proportion of Kurruf than Rubby in Nirhut Samoy.

P.S.—Bandobast of Nirhut Samoy made by Mr. Shore with Roy Mohun Lall :—

					Rs.
For 1191	...	..	...	..	1,05,000
" 1192	...	...	...	...	1,20,000
" 1193	...	...	...	...	1,32,000
" 1194	...	...	...	...	1,44,000
" 1195	...	...	...	...	1,54,113

No. 61.

W. A. BROOKE, to Major ALEXANDER HARDY:

MARCH 5, 1786.

The Committee of Revenue having thought proper to order the removal of Rajah Narain Singh to Dacca, and Mr. Law having received directions from the gentlemen of the Committee to that effect, as you will see by the enclosed copy of Mr. Law's letter to me on the subject, I have to request that you will order a proper guard to escort the Rajah to Dacca. You will be pleased to give the guard over to Gounesy Harcarah, who has the charge of Narain Singh, and who will attend him to the place of his destination.

 No. 82.

W. A. BROOKE, at Arrah, to JONATHAN DUNCAN, Esq., Preparer of Reports to the Revenue Department, Fort William.

MARCH 22, 1786.

Not having yet received an answer to the perwannah sent to Tabarak Hosain and Sakhawat Ali two days ago, I have thought it necessary in my own justification to make known in the public Kutcherry this day my proceedings in respect to the demand of Ahmad Ali Khan on Syed Noorul Hosain Khan, to show the perwannahs written in consequence to Mir Tabarak Hosain and Sakhawat Ali, as well as the Wasool Bauky account delivered to me by the Dewan of Ahmad Ali Khan, by which it clearly appeared (indeed how could it be otherwise), that neither the seals or signature of Tabarak Hosain or Sakhawat Ali were affixed to the account. I also asked these men in presence of the whole Kutcherry whether I had ordered them to put their seals, etc., to the Wasool Bauky account above mentioned, or whether they were ever threatened by me in order to oblige them to put their seals to the account or other writings as mentioned in the Arsey presented to you by Syed Noorul Hosain Khan's Vakeel. Both circumstances they positively denied, although Sakhawat Ali has by his disrespectful behaviour endeavoured to make me so far lose my

temper as to beat him. His conduct has been highly reprehensible, but I have been particularly cautious not to give him the least just cause of complaint against me. I have thought it necessary to send you the enclosed account of particulars in Persian to which I have put my name and you will also see that of a number of witnesses to it. Should any doubts arise it will very easily be proved whether the signature of the witnesses has been obtained by any undue influence or not by sending the enclosed paper to Mr. Mercer, the Judge of the Dewany Adalat at Patna, and let the witnesses be questioned upon oath. I am also ready to answer upon oath to the truth of the particulars stated in the enclosed declaration. The falsehoods which the Vakil of Syed Noorul Hosain Khan has by his malice been guilty of being evidently conspicuous, I trust, Sir, that proper notice will be taken of his conduct by punishing him as he deserves.

No. 83.

W. A. BROOKE, at Arrah, to Board of Revenue.

JUNE 28, 1786.

I am this day favoured with your letter of the 7th instanc informing me of the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council having been pleased to comply with a request made to them by Colonel Norman Macleod, Commanding at Dinapore, of putting certain villages at the distance of three miles round cantonments under his management, and directing me to carry such orders into execution as soon as Colonel Macleod shall have qualified himself for the trust by taking the revenue oath prescribed by the late Act of Parliament. Gentlemen, I think it my duty in all revenue matters to give you my opinion where I see a probable loss by the adoption of any new mode or plan of collection within the limits which have hitherto been considered as under me. I therefore beg leave to point out to you that putting the places above mentioned under Colonel Macleod will be attended with the following inconveniences: the ryots belonging to the different villages at a small distance from Cantonments will invariably fall in arrears and under some pretence or other find refuge at Dinapore, and by

that means occasion a constant and disagreeable correspondence between the Colonel and me, and ultimately there will be a loss in the collection of the Revenue. I also foresee a great probability of a clashing between the Judge at the Patna station and the Commanding Officer at Dinapore in the Faujdary line, but the greatest objection that occurs to me at present is, that the amils of pergunnahs Fulwary and Shawpore Moner will claim greater deductions on account of such villages as may be put under Colonel Macleod than they really may be worth, and this is not a time of the year for ascertaining their real value. At any rate, taking away any part of the pergunnahs from these amils will be violating the engagements entered into with them, and will not fail to have a bad tendency, the places required by Colonel Macleod being near my Kutcherry if taken away from me cannot fail to lessen my authority, already too circumscribed. All the Gunges in and about Patna are under the custom-master, and I presume that Leslie Gunge being made independent of him, may cause a great and real loss, and in times of scarcity in particular; as the Officer at Dinapore, from the influence of his command, may give such encouragement or adopt such other modes to secure all sorts of grain in Leslie Gunge, as to reduce the inhabitants of Patna to the necessity of going to that Gunge (a distance of eight or ten miles) as was the case in the year 1770. In short, gentlemen, it would take too much of your time to point out the present inconveniences and those that may hereafter occur if Colonel Macleod's request is fully complied with. The only plea that can possibly be urged by the Colonel for such a considerable tract of land being put under him must be the health of the troops under his command and consequently he wishes to prevent the sale of all spirituous liquors within a certain distance round the cantonments. All this may be effected in the course of three days, and if you will authorize me I will be answerable to remove every shop where liquors are sold within any distance which Colonel Macleod may think proper to point out: and the loss on this part of the revenue will not I believe exceed one thousand rupees yearly. I beg leave to submit these objections to your consideration, and hope they

will have sufficient weight with you to recommend them to the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council that this addition to a divided authority already too prevalent in Behar, may be set aside, and that I may be spared the mortification of seeing myself thus degraded, a circumstance that cannot fail of being detrimental to the collections under my management, and which must attend a want of influence in a country like this.

No. 84.

W. A. BROOKS, at Arrah, to Board of Revenue.

JULY 6, 1786.

I am this day favoured with your letter of the 16th ultimo acknowledging the receipt of my address to you of the 28th May on the subject of making a settlement of this place for the year 1194 and desiring me to give you my reasons why the settlement of this place should be made at so early a period when so considerable a part of the Behar year remains yet unexpired. Gentlemen, I have found from experience (excepting the present year, and that only since my arrival in Shahabad) that the kists of the year were generally realized by the aumils at the end of Jeyte or middle of Assarh, and on that account I reduced the Assarh kist (as you will see by a reference to the kistbundy account of the present year), to thirty-five thousand odd hundred rupees, a trifling sum considering that it is the last kist of the year from Shahabad; and as I expected long ere this to have realized the Jeyte kist, I recommend the making the settlement early, that the aumils might be put in possession immediately on the setting in of the rains, a circumstance that must have been attended with great benefit, as they would readily have made themselves answerable for such balances of the present year, as I should have deemed just and recoverable after a thorough examination on the spot; and the still greater benefit proposed would have been fully effected by the ryots receiving proper puttabs at the commencement of the year, on which they might depend and from which an increase of cultivation might have been expected. I should by these means

in a great degree have averted the evils of the pernicious system of one year's settlement. These were my reasons for pointing out the necessity of making the settlement of Shahabad at so early a period; but, as by your answer it did not appear to you a necessary measure and my being disappointed also in regard to the realization of the Jeyte kist, it would have been difficult, nay, utterly impossible to have formed a settlement at this time. I therefore previous to the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo sent perwannahs to the different zemindars, talukdars and ryots encouraging them to a strict attention to an increase of cultivation for the ensuing season; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have accounts of their being all busily employed, and the season being favourable, I trust that there will be good crops; but in regard to an advantageous settlement for next year, I really cannot answer, for as I have before hinted, there are very few aumils possessed of any property, and those and others who have a regard for their characters will not come near Shahabad, the people here being so very unlike those of all other parts of the country and so famous for their failures and making false complaints in the Faujdari in order to avoid payment of the kists due from them, that the aumils are really afraid of using the necessary and customary modes of enforcing payment. They therefore of course fall in arrears, and are disgraced.

Dhole Singh the zemindar of pergunnah Dinnarrah has refused to attend me, and has not even condescended to answer my perwannah. I therefore sent six sepoy's to bring him in, but they write me they cannot comply with my orders, as the zemindar has assembled near six hundred men and is determined to make a resistance. The sepoy's are still there and I wrote to Mr. Grant desiring him to have Dhole Singh apprehended and sent to me. Mr. Grant has informed me that Rajah Mahipnarain has promised to send people to seize him. This Dhole Singh is also zemindar of part of pergunnah Chowsah in the Benares District and is the man who this time last year went to the aumil's Kutcherry and took away all the ready money that was there; and in the scuffle that ensued between his and the aumil's attendants four men were

killed and many others wounded. I am therefore of opinion that a large party of sepoy's should be sent from Dinapore to seize this man and all who have assisted him to resist my orders; for if he is not made a public example of, others seeing that he by his resistance to the orders of Government avoids payment of his kists, will observe the same mode, and throw the whole sircar into confusion, and make it difficult ever to realize any part of the revenue from this country. Thus situated I am very far from being desirous of making the settlement of Shahabad, for notwithstanding the pains I have taken for these five weeks past, I almost despair of realizing the whole of the settlement of the present year. This will not be owing to a want of jaydad for I am confident there was more ground cultivated this year than the two preceding; but the uncommon cheapness of all sorts of grain compared with former seasons has been severely felt both by the ryots and amils. The Bhadai crops will be ready by the beginning of October, and it will then be a proper season for making the settlement for 1194, but for the reasons above mentioned, I wish if possible it may be made by a member of your Board, if it would be thought expedient to send one to Behar; for I really do not feel myself easy, at the jama of this place falling off annually, which I foresee will constantly be the case, unless the settlement is made for five years with a regular small increase upon each year, and no amil to have charge of collection exceeding one lack of rupees. Even then it will be difficult for any of them to give proper securities and few will be found to venture proposals for any purgunnahs in Shahabad unless the Faujdari is put into the hands of the Revenue Collector.

No. 86.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

JULY 18, 1786.

It appearing from a letter from the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to the late Committee of Revenue (copy of which was enclosed to me in their letter of the 6th April last), that

it was the pleasure of the Hon'ble Board that Balgovind and Bukhshi Ram (sons of Rajah Khyaliram) should be put in possession of such places belonging to them as were resumed on account of their father's debt to Government: I have to acquaint you that I immediately on receipt of the Committee's letter delivered over to them such places as were unconnected with the malguzary lands; and the year being nearly expired I have also put Bukshiram in possession of purgunnah Powarrah on the terms of his former Mokarry sanad, making him answerable for the balances due to Babu Bhop Narain; the farmer of the present year 1193.

No. 86.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

JULY 29, 1786.

I did myself the pleasure of forwarding to you my Touzi account for Assar by yesterday's Dawk, the particulars of the balances are as follows:—

The recovery of the amount due from Havily Azeemabad depends on your answer to my letter of the 16th instant enclosing Meer Barkat-ullah's petition requesting a remission for the losses he has suffered by not having full possession of the Scorup Mehaul in Mr. Law's districts. I hope to realize about half of the balances due from purgunnahs Arrah and Beha by the end of this month of Sawan, and after that time I shall observe such measure to recover the remaining part, as may then appear to me most effectual. At present I do not think coercive measures would have any good effect with Husan Ali Khan and Shere Afg'an Khan, as they might occasion some loss in their recovering the balances due to them in the Mofasil. As I before observed the uncommon cheapness of grain this year has distressed the amails exceedingly. Hasan Ali Khan has had near twenty thousand maunds of grain ready for these three months past, which he has not been able to dispose of. I have, therefore, ordered him to send it to the city and expect to collect the amount it may sell in the course of fourteen or fifteen days.

The amount due from purgunnahs Bhojpore, Denwar and Dinarrah is owing to the villainy of Santoke Roy and his two sons Sital Ram and Ram Partab. I have ordered them all into close confinement, having ascertained previous to my departure from Shahabad that their collections have been sufficient to answer Government demands on them. I hope Santoke Roy will pay a great part of what is due from him soon, if not, I must request your permission to punish him and his sons. They are not men of any high caste, or consequence, and I have every reason to be dissatisfied with their conduct, for their oppressive mode of collecting the revenue and for their rognery in withholding the rents due to Government. Ram Partab by the oppression he exercised in purgunnah Dinwar has caused the desertion of near one thousand ryots; all gone to purgunnah Sasaram. I have in order to re-establish them, appointed a Sazawal to encourage cultivation for the ensuing season, and have already advanced one thousand rupees Taccavy; this was absolutely necessary, and one thousand rupees more will be required; but I will wait your orders previous to making any further advances.

Babu Bhoop Narain has paid his kists regularly up to the end of Jeyte, but having considerable balances due him in the Mofassil, the collecting of which at this time would occasion a loss in the cultivation for the ensuing season, has requested that the Assar kist may be taken from the balance of Malikannah due him for the year 1192 and for the whole of the present year. As the Malikannah is a just demand and the motives that have induced Bhoop Narain to request it may be appropriated to liquidate his kist for Assar, appear to me just and advantageous, as purgunnahs Pero and Nannore (his zemindary) will be the better cultivated, I beg leave to recommend his request to your favourable attention.

The sums which appear due from Nirhut Samoy and Darga Beejoy Singh Talooka, will I hope be realized in a few days.

When I went to Shahabad I expected to recover some part of the balance due to Ahmad Ali Khan in the Mofassil for the year 1192; but not being able to realise the whole of the present year's settlement, I desisted from the attempt of calling on those who were

in balance to Ahmad Ali Khan, they being also Malguzars of the present year; as I saw that it would be productive of greater loss. I therefore am of opinion that no part of the sums due to Ahmad Ali Khan in Shahabad can be recovered without seizing and selling the whole of the property of those who are indebted to him; but in doing this a great loss would be incurred, as it would not fail impeding the cultivation for the next year. Of course this is not a step that I can recommend although the balances due to Ahmad Ali Khan are fair and just.

No. 87.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

August 10, 1786.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 18th ultimo and am glad that you have referred my proposals for being invested with the Faujdary authority in Shahabad to the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council; and I further beg leave to point out to you that, if the Faujdary together with the mofassil Dewany 'Adalat throughout the whole of my division were put under me it would be of great benefit to Government in the collection of their revenue. I do not mean or wish to interfere with either the Dewany or Faujdary Adalat within the city of Patna and suburbs these being very properly under the Judge and will afford him sufficient employment. Civil causes in the Mofassil are in general very trifling, and mostly calculated to deprive Government of their just revenue, and in which the parties frequently succeed at present, from the Adalat being independent of the Collector.

You have already seen the utility of the Dewani Adalat and Faujdari being in the hands of the Collector as Messrs. Montgomerie and Law have long since been invested with both: and I therefore hope that you will see the propriety of my having such additional authority and recommend it to the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council. You direct me to apply to the Commanding Officer at Baggah for a sufficient force to apprehend Dhole Singh, the semindar of Dinnarah, but Baggah being in Sircar Champaran, a very considerable distance from Shahabad

I shall be obliged to you if you procure an order from the Hon'ble Board to the Commanding Officer at Dinapore to furnish me with such Military force as he may think necessary, on my applying and stating to him the service on which it is to be employed. But in the present instance I beg leave to observe that if a letter was written to Mr. Grant the President at Benares it would in my opinion be a more effectual mode of apprehending Dhole Singh who no doubt has his spies over me, and he would get immediate intelligence of any force that might be sent from hence and of course abscond; but not having any suspicion on the Benares side he will be easily taken, if Rajah Mahip Narain exerts himself as he ought on the occasion. Dhole Singh and his followers obliged the sepoys to retire so he remains entire master of purgunnah Dinnarah.

No. 88.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1786.

I have received accounts from Shahabad that the Bhudai crop will be ready in about ten or twelve days. I have, therefore, taken the necessary steps to secure it, but I hope before that time either to receive your orders for making the settlement agreeable to the plan proposed in my letter of the 5th July, or that one of your members will be deputed for that purpose; for a variety of aumils in the course of one year always occasion great confusion in the accounts, and of course a certain loss; and a new aumil is never so much to be depended upon as an aumil who is bound by written engagements for a certain sum. In my explanation of the balances of my towzee account for Sawan, I recommended that the settlement should be made by the end of Bhado. I wish this had been approved of as it would have prevented all possibility of loss. The inconveniences which frequently occur from the Dewani Adalat and Faujdari being in other hands than those of the Collector, induce me once more most strenuously to recommend my being vested with this additional authority, if not throughout the whole of the districts under me, I hope that it will be thought particularly requisite in the Sircar Shahabad.

No. 89.

W. A. BROOKE, to Board of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1786.

I beg leave to enclose you a petition which has been presented to me by Mir Muhammad Bakar Khan, Shaikh Muhammad Rafi and Mir Barkat Ullah on the subject of your late orders respecting the sales of zemindaries at the Khalsa in Calcutta, instead of their being sold at the Collector's Cutcherry, a long and established custom in the Subah Behar.

Petition of Meer Muhammad Bakar Khan, Shaikh Muhammad Rafi and Meer Barkat-Ullah, Aumils.

Orders are arrived from the Board under date 18th July 1786 directing that the sale of zamindary lands for balances of Revenue in the districts where the lands are situated is liable to certain objections, which will be removed by making the sales under immediate inspection at the Khalsa. Notice is given that they have determined in future all sales of zamindary lands whether on account of balances due to Government or otherwise shall be made at the Khalsa in Calcutta by the preparer of reports to the Revenue Department. Sir, it has been the custom in the Subah Behar for centuries past, that aumils take kabuliats in the mofassil from the zamindars in preference to all other offers, knowing the sale of the zamindary, if they fall in arrears, will pay up their balances. The zamindars and maliks on hearing this advertisement, will flatter themselves that their zamindaries etc., will not be sold and will of course, make many objections and find pretences enough to put off the payment of their kists. The Collector will not give us any time; but will demand and insist on the payment of our kists as they become due to Government, and if we fall in arrears our effects are seized and sold to pay up our balances. The gentlemen of the Board of Revenue are masters of the country. If the sales of zamindaries in the different districts are not to be made by the Collector, we hope that they will authorize him

to suspend the amount from our kists, of whatever balances on kabuliats and Wasool Baky accounts may be due to us in the mofassil from the zamindars, or that agreeable to custom the sales may be made in the Collector's Kutcherry in order to realize our outstanding balances.

No. 80.

W. A. BROOKE, to R. BATHURST, Esq.
 SEPTEMBER 25, 1783.

I received a letter yesterday from the Board of Revenue acquainting me of their having sent you orders to apprehend the person of Ahmad Ali Khan and to enforce payment of the balance due from him on account Arwul and Mussowrah in the usual mode and directing me at the same time to deliver him over to you. As Ahmad Ali Khan is already under charge of your Nazir, I have withdrawn my Hercarrahs. If you should succeed in recovering from Ahmad Ali Khan the balance due from him, you will be so good to give me timely notice, that I may endeavour to get from him the amount he owes in my division on account of Sircar Shahabad.

No. 91.

W. A. BROOKE, to Board of Revenue.
 SEPTEMBER 30, 1786.

I was some time ago favoured with your Secretary's letter of the 18th July last enclosing a petition from Umraon Singh. On examining the proceedings of the Patna Council I find that they decided the Right of inheritance in Babu Bhoopnarain agreeable to the customs of the country and of that family. I therefore enclose you copy of the proceedings for your information acquainting you at the same time that Babu Bhoopnarain has strictly attended to his obligation of providing for Umraon Singh and his family agreeable to their Raah. Umraon Singh is incapable of attending to business on account of his advanced age and infirmity and his son is out of his senses. Umraon Singh is very unreasonable in demanding half of the sum which appears

to have been paid to Babu Bhoopnarain on account of Malikannah since the decision of the Patna Council; as he very well knows that the greatest part has been repaid into the Company's Treasury at this place in consequence of balances incurred by his having farmed his zamindary.

No. 92.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

OCTOBER 30, 1786.

I was some days ago favoured with your letter of the 3rd instant in which you express your disapprobation of my conduct at the heavy balance which appeared against my division in the Touzee account for Bhadon in very strong terms; so much so indeed, that if my conscience did not fully acquit me of having in the smallest degree deviated from my duty, I should be overwhelmed with the deepest concern. I now do myself the pleasure to enclose you a general Towzee account for the year 1193, by which there appears only a balance of Rs. 27,715-15-8, exclusive of the Dutch Nuzzranah; and I flatter myself, (from the reliance I have in your justice and candour), that in perusing this letter, pointing out to you my situation at the time of forming the settlement of Shahabad for last year, and the great pains I took to realize it, you will be induced to remove a censure so severe which could not fail of giving me great uneasiness, although confident of making it clearly appear to you, gentlemen, that I have not been guilty of neglect. I was in Calcutta when the late Committee of Revenue were pleased to accept of Ahmad Ali Khan's resignation of Shahabad, and I was directed to form the settlement for 1193, in consequence of which I proceeded to this place. Immediately on my arrival, I gave public notice throughout the city of Patna that I was about making the *Bandobast* of Shahabad for 1193 and invited such as had inclination to give in *Darkhasts* and acquainted them at the same time that I should receive their proposals at Arrah. When I arrived there, I was surprised that

proposals were not delivered in, but contented myself with waiting a few days as I should be able to ascertain the jaydad of each purgunnah, a circumstance which you will admit to be highly necessary for any person who is entrusted with forming a settlement. The season being far advanced, I was under the necessity of accepting the proposals that were offered, although they were not made by men of property and could not give security, for I know from experience, that keeping mehals amawny is always attended with certain loss. I thought by making an alteration in the kistbundies I should be able to attach the jaydad, immediately that any aumil should fail in the regular payment of his kist; but in this I was disappointed by the ignorance of the aumils, and villainy of the people who became security for the different ryots, prior to the aumils granting permission for cutting down and taking away the grain (a custom which is observed throughout Behar, and particularly in Shahabad). When I was in Calcutta I one day mentioned to Mr. Cowper at the Committee that I did not expect to make a settlement exceeding 4,60,000 rupees, notwithstanding which my Bandobast amounted to 4,86,932 rupees, which although less than the former estimated jama, was surely as much as could have been expected, when it is considered that Ahmad Ali Khan requested as a favour, to be relinquished from, his engagements, which circumstances alone in my humble opinion clearly proves his being certain of the jama falling short in 1198.

I acquainted you in my letter of the 26th January that I had reason to expect that the full amount of my settlement would be realized, and I was justified in giving such assurances at that time, but I could not foresee that the price of all sorts of grain would have been so uncommonly cheap, and to which I attribute the balance which now appears against Shahabad. Hassan Ali Khan has at this time some grain which he has not been able to dispose off either in purgunna Behea or at this place.

When I found that the Baisakh kist was not paid as soon as I had reason to expect, I did not hesitate (although very ill at the time) going at that inclement season of the year to Shahabad, where I remained in tents for two months, and feel myself happy

in reflecting that by having done so, I recovered very considerable sums, which would otherwise have been lost. Hasan Ali Khan is allowed to be the cleverest aumil in Behar, but that could not save him from the tricks and roguery of the Shahabad ryots. The greater part of the balance being due from him and Shere Afghan Khan, I have them both under mohasils. I do not expect to recover much from them ; I shall therefore be glad to know what you wish me to do with them. Severity will not in my opinion answer any good purpose, for what can be expected from men, not possessed of property ? I hope to receive the whole amount due from Bhojpore soon. Santoke Roy has property, and I shall of course insist on his making good the balance which stands against him. I have as you have directed, concluded the settlement of Shahabad for 118½ with Rajah Bikermajeet Singh, as I am sensible that no proposals would be made apparently so advantageous and that I should not think myself justified in making a settlement with any other person, or even in objecting to Rajah Bikermajeet Singh after the suspicions you have been pleased to entertain of my capacity. I think it necessary to point out to you that Rajah Bikermajeet was farmer of Shahabad in the year 1188 when the jama was at rupees 5,21,208-3 and that he fell in balance near 70,000 rupees and which sum still stands against him. This happened before my appointment to this station ; and I mention the circumstance to show that the jama of Shahabad has for many years past been overrated, but I hope Rajah Bikermajeet Singh has given you security for his engagements for the present year. Otherwise you will be greatly disappointed ; for I am confident there will not be above 4,60,000 rupees realized this year from Shahabad, unless grain should sell at a greater price than it did last year, and of which there is not the least prospect at present.

I have now to answer that part of your letter which gives me the most serious concern, as I know not on what grounds you think of making me answerable for any balance that may at any time appear against the purgannahs under my superintendance. I on a former occasion protested against this measure, and was

sorry that my sentiments on the subject were treated with slight, and that notwithstanding the arguments I used, I was informed that I should be held answerable for such deficiency of revenue. As my sentiments are still the same, and I do not hold myself responsible for any such balances while I act conformable to my duty, I must in justice to myself once more decline such responsibility, which if you are not inclined to agree with me in, I beg to submit my objections to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council. As Revenue Chief at this Station I only receive 1,200 rupees per month besides an allowance of 120 rupees for house rent : the whole so inadequate to the necessary expenses attending my station, that I applied in November and December last to the Hon'ble Board for an increase of salary to enable me to support the dignity of my office with honour to my employers and credit to myself, independent of any motive to increase my fortune; and to which the Hon'ble Board were pleased to write me that " they were sensible of the inadequacy of my allowances as Chief of Patna to support my expenses with the credit due to my station, but that the particularly distressed situation of the Company at that time would not admit of any increase to my salary ". Thus situated, gentlemen, how would it be possible for me to make up and be answerable for any deficiencies of revenue? I should be placed in a worse situation than aumils who enter into engagements with Government to which they are induced by the hopes of profit; and I have ever understood that where there is a probability of loss some hope of gain should also attend it. My necessary expenses so far exceeding the salary I receive from Government, and there being no fees of office attached to my station, make me urge these arguments in hopes that some remedy will be afforded me, and to point out the impracticability of one thus situated being answerable for sums so indefinite, for it is not within the line of any man's ability to ascertain at the beginning of a year, how much will be collected from any district, so various are the accidents and causes that may occur to set aside the best regulated conjectures, for I cannot call them by any other name.

No. 93.

W. A. BROOKE, to Board of Revenue

NOVEMBER 13, 1786.

I have the pleasure to send you the kabuliats and kistbundies received from the aumils of the purgannahs under my superintendence for the present year 1194 as per enclosed list. I beg leave to acquaint you that Harnarain and Kuer Ramnarain have signed the kabuliats and kistbundies of Nirhut Samoy in consequence of their former engagements; but that they have represented to me the improbability of their fulfilling their engagements, on account of the want of rain in the purgannahs under them, by which the cultivation has suffered considerably. They have requested that they may be allowed a deduction of twenty-five thousand rupees from the kists of the present year, which they promise to pay by the end of Faugoon 1195. I think it necessary to inform you that I have in consequence of their representation made enquiries, and have ascertained that the crops in Nirhut Samoy have suffered greatly from the scarcity of rain in those purgannahs; and that there is every reason to believe the ryots will not be able nearly to pay up their kists to the aumils. I therefore am of opinion, from the knowledge I have of the mofassil Bandobast made by Roy Mohun Lall for five years, which his nephews Kuer and Harnarain have hit herto steadily observed, that some indulgence should be shown to these men, as they in turn will have it in their power to favour the ryots, and by it insure the increase of jama next year.

Kuer and Harnarain, having fully proved their honesty and good intentions at the time of Roy Mohun Lall's death, by binding themselves to fulfil his engagements with Government and which they have hitherto done, and as I have not a doubt of the truth of their representations, I think it will be more advisable to grant them the indulgence required than to dispossess them, as it would be difficult at this time to form a new settlement. At any rate a greater loss would attend it than can possibly arise by keeping them in charge. I shall be glad to be favoured with your sentiments on this subject as soon as possible.

No. 93-A.

COLLECTION CHARGES AT PATNA IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER
1786.

	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Mr. W. A. Brooke, Chief, Salary	1,200	0	0			
House rent ...	120	0	0			
Salary as Senior Marchant ...	26	10	8			
Diet Allowance ...	17	9	0	1,364	3	8
<hr/>						
Mr. Ross, First Assistant, Salary	300	0	0			
Salary as Senior Marchant	26	10	8			
Diet Allowance as do. ...	17	9	0	344	3	8
<hr/>						
Mr. Wordsworth, 2nd Assistant,						
Salary ...	300	0	0			
Salary as Junior Marchant ...	20	0	0			
Diet Allowance as do. ...	17	9	3			
Family Allowance as do. ...	12	14	10			
Munshi Allowance as do. ...	27	14	11	378	6	10
<hr/>						
Mr. Sweedland, 3rd Assistant,						
Salary ...	300	0	0			
Salary as Factor ...	10	0	0			
Diet Allowance as do. ...	17	9	0	327	9	0
<hr/>						
Mr. Sturt, 4th Assistant, Salary	800	0	0			
Munshi Allowance ...	27	14	11	327	14	11
<hr/>						
DEWAN'S OFFICE—						
1 Sharistadar ...	150	0	0			
3 Bengali Muharrirs ...	45	0	0			
3 Persian Muharrirs ...	60	0	0	255	0	0
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		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
MUNSHI'S OFFICE—							
1 Persian Munshi	...	100	0	0			
1 Naib	...	80	0	0			
1 Muharrir	...	15	0	0	148	0	0
<hr/>							
TREASURY OFFICE—							
1 Khazanchi	...	40	0	0			
4 Muharrirs	...	48	0	0			
2 Potdars	...	20	0	0			
2 Perkiahs	...	10	0	0			
5 Peons	...	15	0	0	133	0	0
<hr/>							
AMANAT DAFTAR—							
1 Daroga	...	80	0	0			
1 Sharistadar	...	80	0	0			
3 Muharrirs	...	36	0	0	146	0	0
<hr/>							
NAZIR'S OFFICE—							
1 Nazir	...	80	0	0			
2 Naibs	...	20	0	0			
Daftar Band and Farash	...	24	0	0			
10 Peons	...	80	0	0	104	0	0
<hr/>							
Biladars	...				250	0	0
Treasury Guards	...				93	1	10
<hr/>							
Total	...				3,868	7	11
<hr/>							

PATNA,
January 5th, 1787.

(Signed) W. A. BROOKE.

No. 94.

W. A. BROOKE, to Board of Revenue.

MARCH 24, 1787.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 20th ultimo directing me to communicate to you such information as I may have obtained, necessary for forming the ensuing year's settlement, and at the same time to point out such mode as may appear to me best calculated to remove every imperfection in the system of collecting in the mofassil, used by the zemindars and farmers.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the zemindars and renters under my authority have not imposed any new taxes on the ryots for these three years past, and that many which appeared to me oppressive have been abolished. The zemindars and other farmers will always attempt under various pretences to impose on the ryots, but it is the business of the Collector to interfere and prevent such impositions, and I am happy in the reflection, that I have by my constant attention to the just claims of the ryots in a great measure set aside this evil practice, but it will be impossible effectually to remove it while the present system of a new yearly settlement exists. The new amil seldom gets possession till three or four months of the year are elapsed, and he then objects to the puttahs granted to the ryots by his predecessors where he sees that the ryot is likely to reap any advantage; and where it is the reverse, he rigidly exacts the revenue agreeable to the conditions of the puttah, and although the ryot on a reference to the Collector will have justice done him, still it is always attended with much trouble and vexation. A settlement made under these circumstances, and that possibly to the highest bidder, will not admit of the amils affording that indulgence and encouragement which is necessary to induce the ryots to an increase of cultivation; and the amil not being answerable is of course indifferent for the revenue of the ensuing season. Many are the disadvantages attending the system of a yearly settlement, which as they cannot be unknown to you, gentlemen, I will not take up your time with pointing out; but as I presume that it is the wish of Government in order to realize the just revenue from the country, to afford a proper degree of indulgence and protection

to the ryots, I do not hesitate to give it my opinion, that these ends cannot be effectually secured till a settlement is made for five years.

The ryots will then have a reliance on the puttahs granted them by the aumil or zemindar under such settlement; as it will be their interest to adhere to such engagements, well knowing that the ryots will not labour without some hopes of profit. I have ever observed that where the aumil adheres to their puttahs given to the ryots, the purgannah in a short time becomes properly cultivated, the ryots are happy and easy, and the aumil never fails of realizing the revenue; whereas when an aumil deviates from this rule, the ryots become refractory, and as their numbers are great, and the aumil and his attendants few, they effectually prevent the aumil getting even that which he is entitled to; and the purgannah, for want of that confidence which the ryots ought to have in the puttah given them, falls off considerably in the cultivation and the natural consequence is a decrease of revenue.

I will do myself the pleasure of forwarding the forms of the proper kistbundies for the next season, before the expiration of the present year; as I shall by that time be better able to judge how to distribute the different kists on each fasil, but the kistbundies of the present year appear to me to be nearly calculated to the just periods of demanding the kists. The preparation of an account of all zemindars, commencing with the establishment of the zemindary, etc., etc., shall be forwarded as soon as ready; but to notice the zemindars of every denomination in each purgannah will take up much time, I shall therefore put down the names of principal ones, and if you should think it necessary to have an account also of the petty zemindars, that shall also be prepared and transmitted without delay.

No. 95.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

APRIL 14, 1787.

I have the pleasure to enclose you a petition presented to me by Meer Barkat Ullah the aumil of Havily Azemabad, etc., etc.,

respecting the red lead Mehal. I addressed you on this subject on the 16th July last and strongly recommended the abolition both of the Soorup and Neckoss Mehals on account of the oppression which numbers must suffer in order to enable the amil to pay the revenue of them. I may venture to say that every individual in the city of Patna is put to the greatest inconvenience by the duties imposed by these Mehals. The jamah of the Neckoss Mahal is not estimated at more than 1,300 rupees, the Soorup Mahals at 22,000 Rupees but then the amil is to have the exclusive privilege of selling the red lead throughout Behar except in the Saran and Champaran districts. I dare say Mr. Law, the Collector of Sarcar Rotas, will acknowledge that the umlah of the Soorup Mahal have not had that encouragement in his division as was formerly granted to the amil of this Mahal; and as I have ascertained that Mr. Keir's agents do sell the red lead in those districts as well as others, I cannot see how it can well be expected that Meer Barkat-Ullah should be answerable for the jama of this Mehal, as he is effectually prevented from making those advantages which his predecessors enjoyed and it is more particularly hard upon him as he gave an increase. He therefore expects a remission of 19,413 rupees to the end of last year. I have ascertained that the annual profit of this Mehal in Mr. Law's districts amounted formerly to between five and six thousand rupees. From a knowledge of this circumstance and of Mr. Keir's red lead being sold in zillah Muggah * I think it a duty incumbent on me to recommend Meer Barkat Ullah's petition to your favourable attention and indulgence; and as the Soorup and Neckoss Mehals are of great inconvenience and vexation to the inhabitants of this city as well as the lower class of people throughout Behar, I most earnestly recommend their being abolished.

Petition of Barkat Ullah, Amil of Havily Azeemabad, etc.

The Red Lead Mehal is included in my farm of Havily Azeemabad, etc., etc. Mr. John Shore signed certain requisitions made by me at the time of taking the farm, and promised that I should

* Regarding the term Magah, applied to what is now the Gaya district, see the Gaya Gazetteer, page 17.

be permitted to sell the red lead agreeable to custom, and that if any one should oppose me, that I should complain to the Collector, who would immediately afford me every necessary assistance, but I have never had the liberty of selling the red lead in Mr. Law's district. I have already represented this circumstance to you as well as the loss which I have sustained on that account. Afterwards I went to Calcutta, and represented my grievances to the gentlemen of the Committee, and showed them the Wajibul Arz signed by Mr. John Shore and then was an order sent to you. In consequence on account of my not having possession given me in Mr. Law's districts and other places, you suspended the sum of 19,413 rupees in my Wasul Bakee account in Assar, and sent my arzey to the gentlemen of the Committee enclosed in your letter, in answer to which you wrote me a perwannah to the following effect on the 19th September 1786 :—" That in consequence of your request of a remission for not having possession of the Soorup Mahal in Mr. Law's districts and others I wrote your objections to the gentlemen of the Committee, and I have received their answer, forbidding any remission on that score for the present, that if a remission should be thought proper, you should have credit given you in 1194. You must therefore immediately pay the amount which has been suspended; and should the gentlemen of the Committee hereafter think proper to grant you any indulgence you will receive credit for it in the year 1194." Thus situated I was helpless; and in obedience to your orders I paid the amount which had been suspended till the pleasure of the gentlemen of the Committee was known; and although I have paid six kists of the present year 1194, I have not as yet received any allowance on that account although in addition to my former representations Mr. Keir prepares and sells red lead in zilla Muggah, by which my gumashtas are deprived of selling red lead agreeable to custom. Sir, this is not a Mehal composed of ground and villages that from the revenue of it, I should be able to pay my kists to Government; but by preparation the red lead is made and sold to the people of different purgunnahs at fixed rate by which the profit arises. As my umlahs are dispossessed, and the people sell the red lead contrary to

custom, I leave you to judge whether it would be possible for a farmer who had not possession of the purgunnah he engaged for, to pay or be answerable for the revenue of it. I therefore hope that I may have credit given me in the kists of this year for the sum which I have been deprived of till the end of 1193, by not having possession in Mr. Law's districts and other places, and that the revenue of zillah Muggah, etc., may not be demanded of me for this year.

No. 96.

W. A. BROOKE, to Board of Revenue.

MAY 6, 1787.

Raja Bikermajeet Singh's brother Babu Dostdawan Singh has made some requests of me which I did not think myself authorized to comply with. I deem it necessary to make you acquainted with them that you may favour me with instructions for my guidance with as little delay as possible. At the beginning of the present year great numbers of ryots were about deserting from Shahabad, on account of the puttahs granted them not being properly observed and attended to. I therefore thought it necessary to give the ryots every encouragement in my power, and wrote purwannahs to the different zemindars, talookdars, and ryots, acquainting them that I had sent orders to the aumils to give them puttahs, which should be rigidly observed in settling their accounts of this year. Upon the faith of my purwannahs the ryots remained and cultivated their lands, and of this I acquainted you in my letter of the 5th July last. Babu Dostdawan Singh now wants to set aside these puttahs (although agreeable to the terms of former years and much more in favour of the aumil than the regulations of Government direct), and has requested of me to authorize him to collect from the ryots agreeable to the enclosed account. He observes in his petition that his brother Raja Bikermajeet Singh engaged for Shahabad for this year at the full jama, that he must at any rate be a considerable loser on account of the cheapness of grain, and that he cannot therefore allow the

ryots their shares agreeable to the standing regulations, that if he does, the loss will be very considerable. The regulations of Government direct that the ryots shall have out of each maund 17½ seers without abwab ; and all aumils in their kabuliats engage to observe these orders. I did not think myself authorized to comply with Babu Dostdawan Singh's requests, they being in my opinion highly unjust, and allowing him to collect agreeable to his proposed plan, when so trifling a share of grain as 3 maunds 3½ seers only remains to the ryots out of every ten maunds, was equally improper, as well as to suffer him to set aside the puttahs given to the ryots at the beginning of the year. Babu Dostdawan Singh also requested to be permitted to collect from the ryots agreeable to the mode observed for these two years past. This I could not with propriety acquiesce in, not being authorized to give any orders which can possibly militate with the standing regulations of Government, and Babu Dostdawn Singh, at present master of Shahabad, could easily obtain from the Chaudhries and Canoongoes any accounts he might direct them to make out for the most trifling consideration ; more particularly so, as in some of the purgunnahs in Shahabad the Chaudhries and Canoongoes are his under-farmers. Babu Dostdawan Singh not having paid attention to many referenes made to him in consequence of the complaints of the ryots I was obliged to send hercarrabs to see my orders carried into execution. Babu Dostdawan Singh has requested of me to withdraw those hercarrabs and to make the ryots over to him ; and he engages to satisfy them and send me their razinamas in the course of 15 days. As this is the heavy kist and only one month remaining for collecting in the mofassil, I have in order to put it entirely out of his power to use any plea at the end of the year for the non-performance of his engagement, complied with his request ; although I have no great reliance on his promises. I shall, I hope, be favoured with instructions for my guidance before that time ; and if he should then fail to satisfy the ryots, and you approve of the puttahs which ryots hold, and by which they were encouraged to

cultivate, I shall then take proper care to see them strictly adhered to, by which alone justice can be done the ryot, and the cultivation for the ensuing season secured. I do not hesitate in asserting that if the ryots' puttahs are not observed this year there will be little or no cultivation in Shahabad for the next year, and that the jama will of course be considerably reduced. As it is very probable that Babu Dostdawan Singh may endeavour to throw some blame on me, I have thought it absolutely necessary to point out to you his request with my objections to comply with them.

Babu Dostdawan Singh wants me to authorize him to collect as follows*—

	Mds.	srs.	cha.	Mds.	srs.	cha.
Suppose Begah produces	10	0	0
The aumil's share	5	0	0		
Five seer abwab on each maund	0	25	0		
Two annas on each rupee at $4\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per rupee.	0	28	0		
One anna on each Eegah	0	11	$\frac{1}{2}$		
Ten seer difference of Bazar price in favour of the aumil in each rupee.	0	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	$36\frac{1}{2}$
						$3\ 8\ \frac{1}{2}$
Besides the above the aumil demanded on account of village expenses two annas on each Begah.				0	22	$\frac{1}{2}$
						$2\ 20\ \frac{1}{2}$

No. 97.

W. A. BROOKE, to Board of Revenue.

MAY 12, 1787.

I now do myself the pleasure to inclose you an account of Malikhanah due to Rajah Bickermajeet Singh, zamindar of part of Shahabad, as well as particulars of this zamindary; I have also stated the balances which are due from the Rajah on account the years 1178, 1179, 1187, 1188 and 1189.

* See Introduction, page 46.

Why Rajah Bickermajeet Singh's claim for malikannah has not hitherto been settled, I really cannot tell. His zamindary cannot be doubted, and he has not neglected applying for what he conceived to be his right, and it is certain that the Rajah of Tirhut and others received large sums for malikannah, etc., etc. Rajah Bickermajeet Singh frequently applied to the Council at this place for the like indulgence; and I have, since my appointment to this station, forwarded several petitions from him, as will appear on a reference to my letters to the late Committee of Revenue under date 17th February 1783, 19th December 1784, and 8th August 1785.

ABSTRACT.

Due from Rajah Bickermajeet Singh to Government on account balances of Revenue and Taccavi.

	Rs.	s.	p.
Balance against the Rajah for 1178 and 1179 (This sum was excused at that time, with other balances which were deemed irrecoverable; but if Government allow the Rajah malikannah at the rate of 10 per cent. he should be answerable for the sum.)	30,867	9	6
Due on account balance of the year 1187	9,048	1	6
Ditto ditto ditto 1188	65,673	8	0
Ditto ditto ditto 1189	5,847	0	3
Total	1,11,436	3	3

Particulars of Rajah Bickermajeet Singh's zamindary in sircar Shukabad.

Nizamut Villages.

	Mans Conwab.	Buckbals of Bighas, Cottas, chhatkars.
Talooka in Bhojepore, Asly and Dukly	508 10 0	2,10,287 0 0
" in Arrah	8 0 0	1,702 18 0
" in Dinwar	230 0 0	97,834 0 0
" in Dinarrah	12 0 0	5,650 0 0
" in Bahra	135 11 10	66,519 0 0
Total	889 5 10	3,82,592 18 0

Nancar Villages.

	Mauzas.	Buckbats.
In pergunna Bhojepore Dumraon, villages, etc., from the year 1172.	12 0 0	4,590 0 0
Ditto in villages Muttealah, etc., received from Government in part of his malikannah, in amount of Rs. 5,000.	67 0 0	31,152 0 0
Total ...	79 0 0	35,742 0 0
Grand Total ...	968 5 10	4,18,334 18 0

Particulars of malikannah due to the Rajah from the year 1180 to the year 1193.

Total amounts collected in the mofussil agreeable to the account of the kanungoes delivered annually to the darogha of the accountant's department, 1180 to 1193.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Bhojepore	9,42,314	15	3
Arrah	12,239	10	9
Dinwar	2,23,446	0	6
Dinarrah	6,589	10	3
Beha	6,95,702	15	0
Total	18,80,293	3	9
Deduct batta	1,812	5	6
Nett collection	18,78,480	14	3
Total malikannah on the above amount at 10 per cent.	1,87,843	1	3

Received by Rajah Bickermajeet in part of his malikannah :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
In ready money from 1180 to 1185 at Rs. 5,000 per annum :—	30,000	0	0
In villages Muttealah, etc., in lieu of ready money from 1186 to 1193 at Rs. 5,000 per annum.	40,000	0	0
Total	70,000	0	0

Balance due to Rajah Bickermajeet Singh on 1,17,843 1 3 account of malikannah.

No. 99.

W. A. BROOKS, to Board of Revenue.

MAY 12, 1787.

In answer to your letter respecting the present state of the Canoongoes' office, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that there are Canoongoes in every purgunnah in Bihar whose forefathers originally received their appointments from the King and had sanads granted to them at the time. The duties of the Canoongoes are as follows:—

1st—To collect the amount of the Bandobast of each purgunnah:

2nd—A daily account of cash paid by every Ticcadar and ryot in the aumil's Cutcherry and for which the Canoongoes grant receipts.

3rd—Wasool Banki accounts of the year.

4th—List of villages of each purgunnah.

5th—Particulars of every zamindari.

6th—Particulars of the Nancar and Dustoor of the Canoongoes and zemindars.

7th—Particulars of Razeenadars.

Besides those accounts the Canoongoes being witness to all deeds and engagements entered into in the mofassil they keep copies of all kabuliats, kistbundies, mochalkas and ekrarnamahs, bills of sale or mortgage deeds, and wasoolats. For all these several duties a handsome provision was made for the Canoongoes when they were first appointed: they had certain villages allotted for their support, and had a rusoom from every village. Others had a fixed allowance paid them regularly out of the treasury, but within these sixteen years many of the villages formerly granted for the support of the Canoongoes have been attached and annexed to the jama of each purgunnah; and as the aumils have of late years scarcely been able to fulfil their engagements with Government, they have given little or nothing to the Canoongoes for their support, so that there are not at present in Bihar a more wretched set of people than the Canoongoes, who being entirely dependant on the aumil will sign any papers or accounts he may direct and

very frequently to the great injury of individuals. By these means their office is not of that use and benefit for which it was originally instituted. The Canoongoes' office under proper Regulations would be a great blessing ; and I therefore recommend the continuance of it, and that the Canoongoes be liberally rewarded, either by granting them villages or such allowance in ready money from the treasury as may be thought adequate to the trust reposed in them. This will at once make them independent of the aumils, and enable them to act with justice and impartiality when their evidence may be required in settling disputes between the aumil and ryots.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE REVENUE CHIEFS.

No. 99.

Returns made by HENRY REVELL, Collector of Customs, at Patna, 1781-1782.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SALT TO AND FROM PATNA, 1781-1782.

					Balance at begin- ning of month.	Import.	Export.
					Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
COAST SALT.							
April, 1781	...	...	...	...	4,689	Nil	1,280
October "	...	...	...	...	7,899	Nil	5,159
December "	...	...	...	...	599	Nil	244
BENGAL SALT.							
April 1781	...	...	...	...	68,820	3,405	7,811
October "	...	...	...	...	19,342	8,185	13,785
December "	...	...	...	...	24,087	27,434	9,591
April, 1782	...	...	...	...	70,425	14,344	11,233
May "	...	...	...	...	73,536	16,290	10,165
June "	...	...	...	...	79,591	10,584	14,481
July "	...	...	...	...	75,644	9,540	17,531
August "	...	...	...	...	67,653	950	27,152

No. 99A.

Price current of salt per maund (returns of Henry Revell, Collector
of Customs, Patna, 1781-1782).

COAST SALT.

						1st quality.	2nd quality.	3rd quality.
						Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
April	1781	...	...	...	...	2 5 0	2 4 0	2 2 0
October	"	...	...	...	...	2 14 0	2 12 0	2 10 0
December	"	...	...	...	...	2 14 0	2 12 0	2 10 0

BENGAL SALT.

						1st quality.	2nd quality.	3rd quality.
						Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
April	1781	...	...	...	...	2 8 0	2 6 8	2 5 0
October	"	...	...	...	...	3 4 0	3 2 0	2 15 0
December	"	...	...	...	...	3 2 0	3 0 0	2 14 0
April	1782	...	...	...	...	2 14 0	2 12 0	2 11 0
May	"	...	...	...	...	2 15 0	2 13 0	2 11 0
June	"	...	...	...	...	2 14 6	2 13 6	2 11 6
July	"	...	...	...	...	3 6 0	3 4 0	3 3 0
August	"	...	...	...	...	3 4 0	3 1 6	3 0 6

No. 99B.

Medium price-current of grain in the Patna gunges in seers per rupee, 1781 and 1782.

Lists prepared by Henry Revell, Collector of Customs, Patna.

			1781.		1782.				
			April.	Deca.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August
RICE			S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
Bansmati, old	{	1st quality	31 8	33 4	33 4	33 8	33 8	35 4	34 12
		2nd "	33 4	33 4	33 4	34 8	34 8	37 4	35 12
"	new	{							
		1st "	34 8	34 4	34 4	35 0	37 12	39 4	38 8
		2nd "	36 0	35 4	35 4	37 0	44 0	45 4	44 8
Aulib, old	{	1st "	37 12	37 12	37 4	38 0	42 8	50 4	39 0
		2nd "	35 4	40 0	40 0	42 8	45 12	53 12	51 0
"	new	{							
		1st "	40 8	42 8	41 8	45 0	47 0	53 8	52 8
		2nd "	38 8	43 4	45 8	48 0	50 8	56 8	54 8
Balan, old	{	1st "	55 0	53 12	53 8	59 8	61 14	64 8	63 8
		2nd "	55 0	55 4	54 8	61 0	62 0	65 0	65 8
"	new	{							
		1st "	57 0	55 4	...	64 12	66 4	67 0	66 8
		2nd "	55 0	57 4	...	45 12	67 4	67 12	67 8
Lalki, old	{	1st "	59 0	63 8	...	68 12	68 8	68 8	68 8
		2nd "	61 0	63 4	...	69 0	70 8	70 0	69 8
		3rd "	62 0	63 4	...	70 12	80 4	71 8	72 4
Balempur dhan	...	...	71 0	70 12	71 0	75 14	86 4	81 2	83 0
Marua	{	1st "	106 0	...	113 12	125 12	127 4	...	129 8
		2nd "	114 4	...	123 12	131 12	133 4	...	136 8
Janera	...	...	116 12	125 0	...	119 24	123 2	131 4	133 4
Maise (Bhutta)	...	...	123 8	145 12	...	157 8	180 0	140 20	168 8
Paddy, old	{	1st "	95 12	105 12	...	117 4	116 10	115 12	116 4
		2nd "	97 0	121 0	...	127 4	116 14	117 12	117 4
"	new	{							
		1st "	108 0	123 6	...	123 4	130 0	121 0	124
		2nd "	111 0	...	...	120 10	135 6	121 0	129 8
Wheat, old	{	1st "	86 12	...	...	71 0	85 4	85 12	85 8
		2nd "	83 0	...	...	73 0	78 14	80 12	87 0
"	new	{							
		1st "	80 4	...	...	74 12	83 2	88 12	88 8
		2nd "	83 0	...	...	78 12	86 4	78 12	84 8
Barley	{	1st "	126 12	...	121 8	124 4	128 8	122 0	124 8
		2nd "	127 8	...	126 0	127 0	130 2	...	128 8

		1781.		1782.				
		April.	Dec.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.
		S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
Arhar ...	{ 1st quality	100 0	...	101 8	99 0	90 2	...	84 4
	{ 2nd ..	105 8	...	102 8	101 0	85 8	...	89 4
Arhar dal	{ 1st ..	59 0	...	66 0	66 8	59 12	...	59 8
	{ 2nd ..	62 0	...	70 8	70 0	62 12	...	61 2
Khesari	{ 1st ..	161 8	...	184 8	187 0	185 0	...	179 4
	{ 2nd ..	167 8	...	195 8	199 10	191 0	...	184 8
Khesari dal	...	156 4	...	160 0	169 8	160 0	...	159 4
Cabully (peas).	mattar { 1st quality	116 8	...	156 4	164 4	130 8	...	119 4
	{ 2nd ..	124 0	...	163 12	167 0	133 14	145 8	131 8
Gram ...	{ 1st ..	100 12	...	137 12	137 4	112 2	107 14	73 4
	{ 2nd ..	104 0	...	142 4	141 12	123 8	110 0	79 4
Maskalal	{ 1st ..	82 8	...	109 8	98 8	84 8	90 12	84 8
	{ 2nd ..	86 9	...	112 4	103 0	86 8	91 12	89 4
Kala mug	{ 1st ..	45 12	...	105 0	90 12	101 14	60 12	59 8
	{ 2nd ..	48 4	...	105 12	107 4	92 6	65 8	61 8
Masur ...	...	106 12	...	127 12	158 0	121 14	150 0	120 0
Masur dal	...	71 12	...	108 4	104 8	74 14	98 0	94 8
Brinjee	...	96 0	...	99 8	104 12	110 4	111 12	99 8
Hari mug	...	...	...	100 8	121 8	101 4	100 12	94 8
Tlai ...	...	72 0	...	68 4	77 8	61 6	69 12	106 0
Til ...	...	49 0	...	59 0	57 8	60 4	61 12	56 12
Mustard seed	{ 1st quality	60 12	...	69 0	47 8	50 4	53 8	46 12
	{ 2nd ..	63 4	...	70 0	59 0	52 12	54 12	53 4
Castor oil seed	...	65 0	...	65 0	78 8	79 8	59 12	78 4
Turi ...	...	66 0	...	62 0	77 4	66 0	67 12	67 8
Kodo ...	...	150 4	...	169 0	164 8	163 8	65 8	79 0
China ...	...	...	...	129 0	126 8	127 12	123 8	141 0
Opium seed	...	46 0	...	69 0	51 12	55 12	50 12	50 8
Summah	...	159 2	...	168 4	185 12	189 0	180 12	169 0
Belwas ...	...	108 12	...	169 0	126 8	131 8	120 12	104 8
China rice	...	...	...	102 4	103 12	101 0	102 8	97 6
Summa rice	...	102 4	...	105 8	109 12	110 0	111 12	111 8
Kodo rice	...	87 0	...	...	116 0	116 10	115 12	89 8
Kurti ...	...	126 4	...	...	131 8	122 4	105 8	107 8

No. 100.

From Mr. JONATHAN DUNCAN, Preparer of reports.

FORT WILLIAM, JULY 27, 1781.

The Committee of Revenue having directed me to communicate to Raja Narain Singh, the zamindar of Siris Cutumba, their decision on the claims set forth in his petition, which you lately transmitted to them, I cannot find that he has any vakil at the Presidency, and therefore beg the favour of you to acquaint him that the Committee do not think him entitled to any allowance on account of malikana for the years 1186 and 1187, being debarred from it not only by the Hon'ble Board's General Regulation of the 4th August 1778, but by his own refractory behaviour in the year 1186, when the zamindary was Amani; neither do they see any cause why he should have the balance of 1185 remitted to him.

No. 101.

From Mr. GRAMME, Collector of Sarat

AUGUST 29TH, 1781.

Reza Cooly Cawn, formerly the Amil of Sasaram, is at this time with Raja Cheyt Singh. Many of the inhabitants of that district, and particularly the Oojains, a tribe of Rajputs, are sincerely attached to him. Petamber Singh, of the family of the Ticcary Raja, is most intimately connected with Cheyt Singh and his dependants are remarkably good soldiers. He has also a number of horsemen in his pay. A person whose name was formerly Boniad Singh, but afterwards changed it on becoming a Musulman, was seen by one who brought me the account, within seven coss of Ramnagore, on his way probably to Reza Cooly Cawn. This man belongs to Chynepur, and has with him 150 horses and 500 armed peons.

No. 102.

From Major ISAAC EATON, at Buxar.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1781.

I delivered the purwana which you sent me to Raja Bikramajeet Singh, who was then with me. In consequence he sent

orders to his naib and the different jamadars to supply me with grain, etc., but they are not so expeditious as I could wish; it comes in but slowly. He, however expresses himself warmly in favour of our cause, and as a proof of his zeal, has sent 500 matchlockmen with Major Crawford, under the command of his brother. He has also left another brother with me and 100 men to obey any orders I may give him.

No. 103.

From Major ISAAC EATON, at Buxar.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1781.

In consequence of the information I had from Hanuman Singh, Naib or Fouzdar of Arrah, that Babu Bhup Narain Singh had raised 1,600 men at Jagdispur in order to obstruct the collections, I addressed you yesterday by the hands of Bowan Singh, Naib, to Bikramajit Singh; but Babu Bhup Narain Singh having come to me yesterday evening with the few men he had collected, I recollected that he had some time ago written me, expressing his desire to raise men for the assistance of Government, and that he was very desirous to join the Governor at Benares. He is now so far on his way. I have this morning made the strictest enquiry respecting his having interfered with the Company's peons, and find it entirely without foundation; on the contrary, he seems more attached to our cause than any other person in the district.

No. 104.

From Major MOSES CRAWFORD, at Dildarnagar.

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1781.

We have been here since the 6th, on which day I had formed a resolution after the accounts of the Rajah's forces at Ramnagar which we are obliged to pass, to halt till I had received certain information from some of the Chunarians of the position of the enemy. On the 7th we had a letter from Popham, dated camp near Chunar, 5th, enjoining me to keep at a distance from Ramnagar till I should hear from him from that place; but as yet

no other orders have come from him, though we expect them hourly to advance. From Popham's silence since his letter of the 5th, I conclude that he has not stirred, nor indeed could he from his post near Chunar, till the Cawnpore regiment or the Lucknow one joined him; and in that event only he meant to facilitate my junction, which I hope now he has done, though I have not heard it is so. The roads on all quarters are stopped, and harcarahs going between this and Ramnagar can only travel in the night and conceal themselves in the day, and even then they are sometimes obliged to show a light pair of heels for their escape.

You will have heard that Popham in a Sally among the enemy some nights ago possessed himself of four of their guns, and that many of the Rajah's followers are relinquishing his causes. This I had from Popham's harcarah. It is uncertain whether this will reach you, as it must pass through a very large jungle which is filled with a crowd of rascals who make a point of intercepting our correspondence as much as they can. I have just sent off a party to burn one of their villages in this neighbourhood, in terrorem to the rest. We have plenty of provisions of all sorts and commonly get it for the trouble of taking it from deserted villages, or of those who are disaffected to us, which villages we always burn. Numbers of samindars daily come in and claim our protection, to whom I give all the confidence and encouragement that lies in my power.

No. 106,

From Major JAMES CRAWFORD, in camp west of Rhotasgurh.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1781.

In a former letter I mentioned to you the good behaviour of Chattarputty Singh, Raja of Churkiyah, as a contrast to Narain Singh. His only son is still with me, and shows much zeal for the public service, having brought upwards of 200 followers, which he supports entirely at his own charge. I therefore judge it highly proper that some public mark of favour should be conferred on the family, as an encouragement to such samindars as are steady at their duty, and the zeal which you have on the

present occasion manifested for the public weal induces me to address you, being confident that my application will meet with real attention, and not be treated lightly, as has sometimes happened to me, when I have ventured to make requests of the present kind. On enquiry I find that Raja Kheally Ram has unjustly deprived Rajah Chattarputty Singh of his malikhana mouzas Tar and Matafar, with half of the Sair Ganjeat Kutshi Tussel for the year 1188 Fasli. The request therefore that I make is that you use your influence with him to restore them immediately. He can have no just plea for withholding them, as Chattarputty Singh has received them for several years, and Kyaliram himself allowed them in 1187. I hope you will on receipt of this expedite the Raja's orders to Mullick Golam Gouse, his naib in Churkiya to have them restored, as I am assured it will have a very beneficial effect in the present time. I have directed the bearer to wait your answer.

No. 106.

From Committee of Revenue.

NOVEMBER 14, 1781.

We think it necessary to direct that, in addition to orders and remonstrances, some further measures should be adopted for securing what is due to the Company; and we think it expedient and proper to direct our attention particularly more to Rajah Kyalliram, whose proposals you think less favourable than those of Maharajah Kullian Singh, and because he has not the same security in personal property to offer for the discharge of his debts to the Company. We direct therefore that you put him under personal restraint, in his own house or any other convenient place of security, and detain him there till he discharges his public debts, gives security for the payment of them in a short period, or till the receipt of our further orders upon this subject.

No. 107.

From Committee of Revenue.

DECEMBER 24, 1781.

We have received your letter of the 18th December with Persian copies of the agreements offered as security for the discharge of the

balances due from Rajah Kyaliram. As we do not deem the security satisfactory, we direct that Kyaliram be not released from the restraint under which he at present is.

[NOTE.—Khiali Ram had offered the security bond of one Balgovind for Rs. 75,000, and the bonds of Mir Zurkhar Ali and Mir Gulam Mubaddi for Rs. 25,000, on condition that he was released from confinement. See *Hand*, p. 21.]

No. 108.

From Secretary to Board of Inspection.

DECEMBER 26, 1781.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Inspection. Establishment for defraying the Hospital and Medical Expense commencing the 1st of March, 1781.

* * * * *

To the Surgeon at Patna per month, Sunnat Rupees three hundred, half of which is to be considered as a Military charge, and to be paid by the paymaster to the Militia sepoy's there, and the other half to be considered as a civil charge, and to be paid by the Chief there.

No. 109.

From Mr. SAMUEL CHARTERS, member of the Committee of Revenue (on deputation to Patna).

JANUARY 19, 1782.

Accompanying you will receive for your future guidance extract from the Hon'ble Board of Inspection Orders relative to the detention in which Rajah Kyaliram has hitherto been placed, having proved ineffectual to the purposes for which it was intended, and as he has not in consequence of his confinement paid any part of the balance due to the Company, I have thought it necessary to remove him from where he now is to the Havelly Begum, which I understand is the usual place of confinement for defaulting renters; and as a further degree of punishment is necessary to enforce obedience to the orders of Government, I think it proper also to deprive him of those conveniences which he has hitherto enjoyed in the Kella, equally as if he had resided in his own house; you will therefore please to order Major Hardy immediately to remove Rajah

Kyaliram to the Havelly Begum and there place him in confinement under a sufficient guard. He will allow one servant of his own cost and choice to attend him but peremptorily prohibit any person from supplying him with a Hooka or beetle or similar indulgences to these he has hitherto enjoyed in the Killa. Major Hardy will also give orders to the officer commanding the guard to prevent any person having access to Raja Kyaliram except by particular permission; you will also order his palankeen to be sent to his house.

No. 110.

From Committee of Revenue.

APRIL 26, 1782.

Having received a letter from Mr. Charters, with an address to him from Major James Crawford in recommendation of Chutterputty Singh, Rajah of Churkyah and of his son Futtynarain Singh in Subah Behar, for the exemplary proofs they gave of their attachment to our Government during the late trouble, we laid these letters before the Hon'ble Board, who have been pleased to approve that the Nankar villages held by Rajah Chutterputty Singh and his son Futtynarain Singh, previous to the year 1172 Fussily, be restored to them for the reasons abovementioned.

We direct therefore that you carry these orders into execution.

Letter from Major James Crawford to Mr. Charters.

When I marched against Cheyt Singh in the end of last August Chattarpatty Singh, the Rajah of Churkiya, came to me as I passed his district, and proposed to accompany me on the expedition with his followers, amounting to about 600 men; but as he is corpulent and advanced in years, I objected thereto, on which he sent his only son, Futtah Narain Singh, and 300 of the best of his matchlockmen and they continued with me during the whole of the service. The sickness which operated so severely on my own troops was still more fatal to these people; scarcely one of them escaped the effects of it, and about 27 died. The young man himself was in imminent danger for several days; yet notwithstanding my earnest request to him to remove to a more salubrious situation, he would not leave me.

This behaviour was the more meritorious, as all the neighbouring Rajas manifested their disaffection at that time, and Narain

Singh, whose country adjoins to Churkiya, had actually assembled a considerable force to resist me. I therefore think it may be of public utility to confer some reward on this family for their conspicuous attachment to Government; and as I am informed they were formerly possessed of Nankar lands to the value of about Rs. 700 per year, I beg leave to recommend that they may be restored to them, if their claim should appear to be well founded.

No. 111.

From Committee of Revenue.

APRIL 29, 1782.

We have received two letters from Mr. Charters, and as we understand that gentleman has left Patna, we think it necessary to communicate instructions to you.

We direct that you retain Rajah Kyalliram in confinement, paying respect to the instructions delivered to you by Mr. Charters. We approve the proposals of Babu Ally Khan for renting the districts of Siris Cotumba upon a five year lease at 1,50,000 rupees per annum, and direct that he be put in possession of the districts accordingly upon his executing the necessary deeds. We desire you will acquaint Ally Ibrahim Khan that we approve the proposal made by him for Rajegir and Amertoo, and direct that he remain in possession of those districts, but as we deem it necessary to apply for the sanction of the Hon'ble Board previous to granting him a Mokurry Sunnad we shall make application to them accordingly. Having passed a decision on the objections of Maharajah Kullian Singh to the payment of the balance of 1138 we shall communicate them to him.

No. 112.

From Committee of Revenue.

MAY 2, 1782.

Enclosed we send a list of the Foujdari charges made by the late Provincial Council and by you, and direct that you transmit us the original vouchers for the payment of the several sums mentioned

Abstract of Foujdari expenses for the Subah Bihar from the Bengal year 1182.

Year,				Rupees.
1182	...	...	...	8,914
1183	...	...	...	47,353
1184	...	...	...	43,072
1185	...	...	...	41,778
1186	...	...	...	51,975
1187	...	...	...	62,741
1188	...	...	...	34,904
			Total	<u>2,85,737</u>

No. 113.

From Governor-General and Council.

MAY 3, 1782.

Extract of a letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Committee of Revenue.

As it is an original and immemorial Law of the constitution of these provinces that no zemindar or other landholder paying revenue to Government shall be permitted to alienate his land without the express authority of Government, and as this law has been confirmed and enforced by repeated publications on the part of the Governor-General and Council, we approve of the steps taken by you in the instance before us, and strictly enjoin you to prevent every attempt to defeat it under whatever authority, by expelling the persons who shall attempt to usurp the possession and proceeding against them as disturbers of the peace in every case of opposition, and either replacing the lands in the possession and charge of the original proprietor, or appointing aumils or other officers on the part of Government to take charge of the lands on behalf of the Company, and of the proprietor.

No. 114.

From Colonel Sir JOHN CUMMINGS, at Chausa.

MAY 16, 1782.

Ever since my arrival here, the camp has been every night under continual alarms from thieves, and scarcely a night passes without either officers, sepoy, or the bazar people being robbed. It would be attended with fatal consequences, were the sentries to

be permitted to fire, the people being spread all over the ground, both in the centre and on the flanks of the camp; and the knowledge of this circumstance makes these plunderers more daring. One of them being caught yesterday has given information of the gang, and of the place where the stolen articles are lodged. I have sent a party with him, in order to seize and bring them in; but as I cannot try them for a felony within the provinces, and wish not to interfere in any thing that concerns the Civil Government, or which might seem an encroachment on it; if they should be brought in, and there appears to be sufficient evidence against them, I will in such case, order them to be sent to you under a guard. In the meantime, I request you will be pleased to send such orders to the Phousdar, or zamindars, as shall appear to you to be most effectual to prevent such practices in future.

No. 115.

From Committee of Revenue.

MAY 20, 1783.

Complaints having been presented to us, by the dealers in horses, that they are subject to many exactions on account of duties levied upon them by zemindars. We therefore direct, that you issue a publication in the zemindaries under your charge strictly prohibiting the collection of all unauthorized duties upon horses.

No. 116.

From Committee of Revenue.

MAY 27, 1783.

We have received your letter of the 16th instant.

We approve of your having presented Fatty Narain with a Khillaut the price of which we limit to sicca rupees 500.

We desire you will inform us what steps you have taken regarding the sale of the house and effects of Rajah Khyalliram.

No. 117.

From Committee of Revenue.

JUNE 3, 1783.

We have received your letters of the 24th and 26th May with their enclosures.

As Roy Balgovind declines to purchase his father's house at the appraised value, we direct that you put the whole of the effects of Rajah Kyalyram to public sale, as well as the house of Rajah Sadhooram.

We are sorry to learn that there is a likelihood of the Revenues of Sircar Shahabad falling short. The expedient which you propose cannot be adopted, while the zemindars' engagements subsist, but as from the observations which you have made respecting their incapacity for the management of such an extensive district it may become necessary to take more effectual measures for the future settlement, than the reletting of particular pargunnahs; we trust you will exert yourself in realizing as much of the revenue from the zemindars as possible, and for the purpose of obtaining a security to Government for such balance as may arise we direct you will immediately attach the Nancar and such other free lands as the zemindars may be possessed of and collect the rents of the same without paying any regard to any mortgage which may have been executed by the zemindars, unless in any instance where the mortgage may be authorized by Government (and in such instance occurring, we desire you will inform us of it,) which is a rule we desire you will observe in all the districts under your charge. If any proposals are made to you for farming Shahabad either in whole or in divisions, we desire you will transmit them to us, accompanied with your opinion of the responsibility of such persons as offer to become renters.

In consequence of the necessity which Ali Kasim Khan states in his arzee for an advance of Takavi in Nirhut Samoy, we consent to allow a sum not exceeding 5,000 rupces to be advanced by him on that account, with the special condition that no part of it shall be lost to Government.

No. 118.

From Governor-General and Council.

MAY 31, 1783.

We approve very much of your proposal to abolish the Tax on horses and desire you will make a publication in the name of

Government to all the zemindars and others under your authority, and that if any persons shall either themselves levy an imposition on the vendors or owners of horses, or stop horses from passing on any pretence whatever, or shall suffer others under their authority to do either, they shall be obliged to refund treble the amount of the exactions so taken, and be made answerable for whatever loss the merchant or proprietor of the horse shall have sustained by such detention.

No. 119.

From Governor-General and Council.

JUNE 7, 1782.

Having received information that several of the persons concerned in the late disturbances in the District of Nirhut Samoy have been apprehended by Lieutenant Polhill, we direct that you do not permit them to be released but by express orders from us. In the meantime they are to be delivered over to the Faujdary Court for trial. We further direct that you observe the same conduct with respect to Narain Singh the zemindar of Serris Cotumba, who is now in confinement, and is to be delivered over to the Faujdary Court for trial, both on account of the alleged rebellion and for murder, of which latter crime he stands accused by Byroo Singh, an inferior zemindar of the same district.

No. 120.

From Committee of Revenue,

JULY 21, 1782.

Information having been given to the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Supreme Council that sundry parcels of land had been seized under an execution, and that the Sheriff's peons had been suffered to take possession thereof quietly, and to remain there ever since without any interruption from the officer of the Company; they have been pleased to direct us to issue a publication immediately, to the following purport:—

That if any person whatever employed in the collection of the revenues shall suffer such an act to take place in future

without using such means for preventing or removing it, or without sending proper notice of it to this Committee, they shall be held answerable for it.

We direct that you pay the strictest attention to the Resolutions of the Hon'ble Board in this instance, and that you issue the publication directed for the information of all persons employed in the collection of the revenues under your authority.

No. 121.

From Committee of Revenue.

JULY 22, 1782.

The Hon'ble Board having been pleased to order that the total expense for the Faujdary Magistracy be fixed at 9,055 Sa. rupees per mensem, and that the Magistrates are to receive the amount of their establishments from the Revenue Treasury that may be nearest their respective stations. We direct that you pay monthly the Magistrate of Patna the sum of Sa. rupees 250 and also further sum of sicca rupees 425, account the Patna Cotevally establishment, and that you observe that this allowance is to commence from the first of August next.

We also enclose you an advertisement issued by the Hon'ble Board in English, Persian and Bengali, and direct that you make it as public as possible throughout the districts under your charge.

Advertisement.

Whereas the peace of the provinces has been greatly disturbed through the negligence or connivance of the zemindars. It is hereby ordered and proclaimed that all zemindars, choudharies, talookdars and other proprietors of land, do conformably to the original and fundamental tenure on which they all hold their zemindaries or other portions of landed property take effectual care that no robberies, burglaries, or murders be committed within their districts, and that they do their utmost to bring all offenders to justice, that they do erect Thanas in such places as shall be pointed out to them by the Magistrates, and be answerable for the good behaviour to the Thanas and other officers appointed

thereto, and for their punctual obedience of all orders issued to them from the Magistrates; and it is hereby declared that if any robbery be committed, the zemindar to whose district the Robbers appertain, or in whose district the robbery shall be committed, according to the circumstances of the case, shall be made to refund the amount. But if any zemindar shall either commit or connive at any murder, robbery, or other breach of the peace, and it be proved against him, he shall be punished with death. And if any zemindar shall refuse or neglect to obey any orders issued under the authority of Government, he shall be punished as the nature of the case and degree of the crime shall require.

No. 122.

From Committee of Revenue.

August 5, 1782.

We direct you to make as public as possible the accompanying declaration in the respective districts under your charge :—
To

The Zemindars, Talookdars, Moostajers, Malguzars, etc.

WHEREAS the general increase in the Revenue which has been established by Government, may have appeared to those unacquainted with the principles of the Hazoor, a general increase upon the whole body of the people; it is therefore made known to you, that the expectation of the said increase having been formed upon a comparison between the Jaydad agreeable to the Husbabood of each Mehal and the amount had into the public treasury, it is to be realized out of the profits of the zemindars and other landholders, and the additional Revenue arising from the increase of population and cultivation, and not by an assessment of any new Abwabs to be collected from the ryots and cultivators.

No. 123.

From Committee of Revenue.

August 12, 1782.

We have received your letter of the 27th enclosing a petition from the renter of Chainpore-Sasaram.

If the article of Cheshum Bissa had been imposed upon this district only, the renter might have had cause of complaint; but

as it applied to the whole of Rajah Kyaliram's Mehals conformably to the general practice of the Subah, in such cases, we cannot consent to make any allowance on this account to any of the new renters.

We cannot either agree to any remission of revenue on account of the loss said to be sustained from the march of the Troops, which indeed is based upon very vague grounds, without any proofs of the facts being given by the Renters, who as well as all others ought to consider such casual inconvenience as unavoidable in the march of the troops from one part of the country to another, and as they happen from measures adopted for their safety, we expect that the Zamindars and Renters of the Districts would aid and facilitate their march rather than make it a plea for a reduction in the Revenue of Government. If, however, you shall afterwards find that any uncommon damage has been done by the Troops, we desire you will authenticate the circumstances in such manner that we may be enabled to judge how far it may be proper to suspend any part of the public demands upon the Renter of Chainpore.

We desire you will consider it as an invariable maxim, that no circumstances can give any pretence for farmers to claim or expect remissions in their rents beyond what are specified in their Kabuliats, and that this is a rule from which we will in no case deviate.

No 124.

From Committee of Revenue.

August 19, 1782.

The Preparer of Reports has laid before us a state of the collections from the districts under your superintendence to the end of month of Jeyth; and we are sorry to observe such an extraordinary balance to remain due so near to the close of the year.

We desire you will regularly specify not only the amount of plants which you may have accepted in payment of the revenue,

but in like manner the particular date upon which they are payable.

We are particularly surprised at the extraordinary deficiency in the collections from the districts of Siris Cotumba, and Nurhut Samoy. This exceeds by so much what may have reasonably been supposed to have been the consequence of the disturbances which existed some time ago in these districts, that we are persuaded they must arise from the infidelity and embezzlement of the Aumils, more particularly in Siris Cotumba, where no disturbance was created in the arrest of the zemindar, whose forfeited lands ought to have insured the payment of the revenue. We direct that you take immediate measures to ascertain the causes of these balances; and if any instance of neglect or infidelity shall appear against the Aumil of Siris Cotumba, who is also in charge of Chno'towah we direct that you do immediately arrest him, as we are resolved to punish such an apparent breach of trust. The disturbances in Nirhut Samoy were more extensive; and the transactions of Rajah Kyaliram were more ruinous to the revenue than in Siris Cotumba, but still we consider the balance to be very high. We strenuously recommend these circumstances to your close attention, and that as the year is nearly drawing to a conclusion you use your utmost efforts to realize the revenue completely; and above all, to discover and check every instance of embezzlement by the Aumils.

No. 125.

From Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1752.

The measures of coercion which have been used to obtain payment of the balance of revenue due by Rajah Kyaliram having proved wholly ineffectual, we have thought it necessary to pass some further resolutions on this subject, and now transmit you our orders in consequence.

By an article of the Hindoo Law, the son is held responsible for the debts of his father, whether they are contracted on a public or private account, unless a full and satisfactory proof is exhibited

of a legal separation of interest having taken place between them, previous to the contract upon which the debt arose.

Upon this principle, we direct, that you call upon Balgovind and Buckshiram for payment of the balance due to Government by Rajah Kyaliram their father. In the event of their making a plea of separation from their father, before he entered into engagements with Government, either for the revenue of certain districts in the Behar year 1188, or for the districts of Chainpore, Sasaram, etc., in the year 1186, we direct that you will investigate the deed of separation with particular accuracy and transmit to us a copy of it, together with your own proceedings for our information and orders; and until you shall receive them, we direct that you hold Balgovind and Buckshiram under restriction of Mohassils. In this business you will call upon the most learned Pundits to assist you with their opinion and information in writing, respecting the Hindoo law in cases of separation between father and son.

We further think it necessary to direct you that you attach on the part of Government all the lands within the limits of your jurisdiction, which were held by Rajah Kyaliram, under the denomination of Jagirs, Altungah, Sersahikon, etc., etc., and collect the revenue of them which you will keep in deposit. By this measure we do not mean to suspend the suit which is instituted in the court of the Dewany Adalat respecting the mortgages, which we consider only as a mode by which the collusive or fraudulent transactions of the parties may be discovered, and in no degree to apply to the right which individuals may claim of mortgaging lands under the denomination of jagir, etc., without the sanction and authority of Government, a point which will be referred to the decision of the Hon'ble Board, and upon which we at present do not form any opinion. We do not mean either to exclude the persons holding mortgages from an opportunity of establishing their pretensions to the property of the lands now ordered to be attached, for which purpose we direct you to limit a reasonable time for such claims to be made, in failure of which the lands will be sold, and the produce applied to extinguish Khyaliram's debt to Government. You are not however to proceed to the sale without further orders from us.

From Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1782.

Maharajah Kallyan Singh having represented to us, that Meterjeet Singh, Zemindar of Tekaroo and Sunnote is indebted to him the sum of 1,63,000 rupees which he is unable to pay except by a sale or mortgage of his Malikannah lands, and has requested our sanction for such mortgage or sale.

We desire that you will in the first instance call upon Meterjeet Singh for the payment of the balance stated against him by Rajah Kallyan Singh. In case he should admit the balance to be due, and should not be able to pay the amount or to give satisfactory security to Maharajah Kallyan Singh for it, you will then proceed to the sale of a portion of the district in the following manner.

You will select a number of pergunnahs contiguous to each other, the annual jama of which does not exceed 80,000 rupees and publish an advertisement that they will be sold on a fixed day at public Cutcherry to the highest bidder; and in case Meterjeet Singh should not have satisfied Maharajah Kallyan Singh respecting the payment of the balance by the period fixed, you will proceed to make the sale in the public Cutcherry, and in presence of the Canoongoes and public officers. You are to give notice at the time of the sale that the jama is to remain fixed and unalterable during the life of the purchaser, and you will be particularly careful in ascertaining the amount of the jama of the land sold. The purchaser is not to receive any Malikannah as the settlement will be mokurrery.

In case Meterjeet Singh should not admit any balance to be due from him, you will call upon him for statement of the accounts, and send a copy of them to us; proceeding in the meantime to adjust and put off the sale till this is effected.

In case however Meterjeet Singh should allow himself to be indebted to Rajah Kallyan Singh, any sum equal to or exceeding one lack of rupees, you will in that case, sell such a portion of

his zemindary in the manner pointed out, as you may deem equal to the discharge of the balance admitted by him.

No. 127.

From Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1782.

We desire you will inform us whether the zemindar of Siris Cotumba was possessed of any Nankar lands, or held any lands in lieu of Malikannah and transmit us a particular account of their amount, attaching them at the same time, on account of Government.

We desire you will attach the Nankar villages in Nirhut Samoy, which were held by Ekbal Ali Khan, the late zemindar and annex them to the Revenue of the district, informing us of the amount of their jama.

NOTE.—Correspondence for the period between September 1782 and November 1784 has apparently been lost. See Introduction, page 2 above.

No. 128.

From Committee of Revenue.

NOVEMBER 22, 1781.

We have received the Jama Wasool Banky accounts of the Districts under your jurisdiction for the year 1191 Fasli, and are happy to observe that the collections have been so well realized.

We consent to admit the several articles of remission stated by you with an exception of the two following:—

First. Account the additional land taken for the Cantonments at Bankipur 450 rupees.

By an adjustment made by Mr. Shore at Patna with the farmer Burkut Ullah the sum he was to receive on this account was 250 rupees.

Secondly. Account Catigong rupees 749.

This is only a conditional remission and the farmer to receive it on his proving that he has been prevented collecting the several duties at Catigong on account of its vicinity to the cantonments. We leave it to you to make this enquiry, and to allow the farmer

such a remission not exceeding the amount above stated as he may, on enquiry appear entitled to.

We desire you will exert yourself in recovering the balances due from the late and present aumils, as stated in the explanation of your Jama Wasool Banky as soon as possible.

No. 129.

Petition of Meer Burkat Ullah, Farmer of the Surab Mehal:

NOVEMBER 22, 1784.

It is an invariable custom in the Subah of Behar for the Sindore and Sheshah vendors to take Dadnee from the factories of the Surab Mehals, which is afterwards collected and paid to Government; and no one has the power of buying or selling any sindore or sheshah but what is made in those factories. Moreover I have the signature of Mr. Shore on my Wajib-ul-ariz to that effect.

The jama of the Surab Mehal in the Districts under Mr. Law amounts to 7,600 rupees, but the Sindore and Sheshah vendors have lately refused to take Dadnee, in consequence of which the Gomashtahs have deserted the Factories to the great prejudice of the dues of Government. I therefore request that letters may be written to the different gentlemen in charge of the collections of the Behar Province, desiring them to oblige the Sindore and Shesha vendors to accept Dadnee and to pay the dues of Government agreeable to established custom, by issuing perwannahs to that effect in the several Districts under their charge, and to prohibit by the same means, the disposal of any Sindore, and Sheshah or other articles of the Surub manufacture but such as is made in the aforesaid Factories.

No. 130.

From THOMAS LAW, Collector of Rohtas District.

DECEMBER 2, 1784.

I am honoured with your letter of the 25th November 1784 enclosing copy of a petition from Burkat Ullah, which I have perused with attention. His farm I should suppose is for the

exclusive sale of red lead. This privilege I am ready to confirm and support, but he claims two customs the practice of which as a Collector and Magistrate I cannot authorize, viz.—

First—To force advances and to receive at his own price.

Secondly—To force the red lead and to sell at his own price.

Last year during the famine he enforced these oppressive usages by Hercarraha, and numerous were the complaints I received, that the Red lead merchants had that article forced upon them at arbitrary "valuation" of the farmer or contractor, which they could not resell in the famine, when existence not ornament was the general object. One instance will suffice, by the enclosed petition it will appear that a merchant and his wife fled from the annil's Hercarraha and a little infant died while they were afraid to return.

I will by every means prevent the illicit sale of red lead to the injury of the farmer, but I trust you will readily admit that I cannot authorize the two customs alluded to, which would be tantamount to an order for him to exchange by force his red lead for any person's money or property he might be desirous of.

No. 131.

From THOMAS LAW, Magistrate and Collector of Rohtas District.

JANUARY 3, 1785.

Having received information of some thieves who plundered a merchant lately settled in the new town Lawabad,* and understanding that they resided in doubtful limits, I by mistake addressed Mr. Bathurst, apprehensive lest my Hercarrahs should enter his boundaries. By the enclosed depositions I find that they reside in your district. It were needless in me to apologise for the apprehension of thieves, conscious that I meet your wishes in so doing, but I trouble you, that the zemindar may be examined and punished who willingly protects these nightly plunderers, and by not arresting them connives at least at their atrocities.

* (NOTE.—This is the earliest reference I know to the town of *Lawabad* or *Sahabganj*. See page 43 above.)

No. 132.

From Committee of Revenue.

JANUARY 17, 1785.

Complaints having been made that the ryots have in many places ploughed up the new road, made by order of Government from Calcutta to Benares, and otherwise damaged it by cutting away the earth, we desire you will make publication in your district, prohibiting all persons from ploughing up or cutting away any part of the road, or in any respect damaging it. That you will also make enquiry whether any damage has been done to that part of the road which lies in your district, ascertain the persons who have done it, and punish them in a public manner. That you also inform the zamindars and talookdars through whose lands the road runs, that in future they shall be made responsible for any damage done to the road, shall be made to pay the expense of repairing the said damage and punished by fine or corporally, as their conduct in this matter shall seem to deserve.

No. 133.

Copy of Resolution passed by the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council in their Secret Department of Inspection.

JANUARY 27, 1785.

The objects proposed on the establishment of the Committee of grain have now been answered and the necessity that dictated the establishment in its present extent no longer exists.

The Board have satisfaction in knowing from the Governor-General, who acquainted them upon undoubted authority, that the Natives in general acknowledge with gratitude the obligation they owe to this Government for their timely and effectual interposition to save them from the dreadful effects of a famine, and that the establishment of this Committee has contributed to rescue many thousands probably from misery and destruction. The Board cannot but feel the most sensible pleasure in contemplating the beneficial effects of this institution; and as the same necessity which required its formation may again exist, as an office of this

kind can only act with advantage and efficacy from experience ; and as that experience can only result from a constant and permanent operation, it is resolved that a partial abolition only be made of this office. The Board being convinced that the Company must approve the continuance of an establishment that has for its object the preservation of the lives of its subjects: *Agreed* therefore that the establishment of the Committee only be abolished, but that the President of it do still remain invested with the same powers and control that the Committee now exercise and under such further regulations as the Board may hereafter deem necessary.

No. 134.

From Secretary to Governor-General and Council.

MARCH 25, 1785.

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to acquaint you that in consequence of the Regulations established by the late Act of Parliament, and more especially the 45th clause thereof which prohibits the receipt of presents ; they have been pleased to resolve that the custom of receiving the common Nazars of ceremony from the Natives shall be discontinued in future, unless instructions to the contrary should be received from the Company, and you are directed to notify and circulate this Resolution throughout the country.

The Governor-General hopes that no person will consider his resolution upon this subject as the least mark of disrespect to those offering or sending any Nazars.

No. 135.

From THOMAS LAW, Collector of Rohas.

MARCH 31, 1785.

Mirza Kallub Ali Beg in arrears to Government has absconded from confinement. I request that you will stop him at Patna, if you can obtain intelligence of him.

No. 136.

Petition of Raja AKBAL ALI KHAN Bahadur.

JUNE 20, 1785.

In consequence of a conciliatory perwannah from Mr. Hastings I returned from Delhi to Benares where I met him and he ordered me to repair to Calcutta, giving me a promise that all my demands should be settled to my satisfaction.

In consequence of this promise I have come down to Calcutta, and I have now to entreat that you will issue a perwannah for the release of the Nankar villages of pergunnah Nirhut Samoy, etc., and of pergunnah Seorenggee in the Carruckdia zilla, also the Malikannah of pergunnah Biswak (the Ultungah mehwal of the Nawab Muzaffer Khan deceased) and the other Mamiliat of my zemindary. This year Sheikh Muhammad Ramzanee, the Muttahid of these pergunnahs is dead, and the country is going to ruin. I beg therefore that my zemindary may be put into my own possession and remain under my own management, that I may attend diligently to the cultivation and improvement of the country and the regular payment of my revenue to Government.

 No. 137.

Extract from the proceedings of the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council in their Secret Department of Inspection, dated 27th June 1785.

Resolved that the net salary and all allowances of the President on the Committee of Revenue be reduced to 55,000 rupees per annum and those of each member to 45,000 rupees per annum, but should there be any general increase in the net collection of the next years respectively beyond the average amount of the net collection for the last four years, it is agreed that a commission be granted to them and the established Collectors of the revenue, in addition to their salaries, and divided by the Board at the end of each year, in such proportions as we may think proper to determine; upon this principle, viz., that the whole receipts of the President of the Committee of Revenue shall not exceed 60,000 rupees

and of each member 50,000 rupees per annum and of each of the Collectors 30,000 rupees per annum. Should there be no general increase in the net collections of the next year the Board will not agree to any addition to the allowance, hereby reduced, to the President and Members of the Committee of Revenue, or to those now drawn by the Collectors; but an increase in the net collections made at the Huzoor, beyond the average of such collections for the last 3 years and an increase in the net collections of any particular Collector, derived from Busoom or otherwise will entitle the President and Members of the Committee of Revenue, and the particular Collector, to an increase of allowances in such liberal proportions as the Board may determine at the end of each year.

Resolved that no house rent be allowed from the 1st August next except that specially granted by the Company, viz—

	Rs.	s.	p.
To a Field Officer having no quarters ...	120	0	0
To a Captain having no quarters ...	90	0	0
To a Subaltern having no quarters ...	60	0	0

Resolved that no civil servant, who now draws house or office rent, do henceforth draw more on either of these accounts than the sum allowed by the Company to a Field Officer, if such servant be above the rank of factor, except the difference between Sonat rupees and siccas; the military establishment having been usually paid in Sonat rupees, and the Civil in siccas. If such servant be a factor or writer, he is to be allowed for office rent 90 sicca rupees.

No. 133.

A petition from the merchants and principal inhabitants of the City of Patna to MR. W. A. BROOKS.

JULY 13, 1785.

We whose seals are hereunto annexed are inhabitants of the City of Patna, and we have been induced to live here on account of the protection which we have received, and hitherto we have experienced the greatest security and comfort from your favour,

but the want of employment and other additional misfortunes which have constantly attended us have reduced us almost to ruin ; and on account of the reduction of Major Hardy's battalion all sepoy's who were attached to the Cutwell, together with the guards at the gates and other parts of the city, have been withdrawn. We are therefore in the most defenceless situation, in consequence of which many robberies have been committed ; so much so, that we have no safety for ourselves and families. We therefore hope, as the protection of the inhabitants of the city has ever been attended to by Government, that you will take our case into consideration, and relieve us from our present distress.

Seals of :—Nawab Fakurul Daula Naki Ali Khan Bahadur.
 Ismail Ali Khan Bahadur,
 Sher Afghan Khan Bahadur.
 Saiyid Ahmad Khan Bahadur.

No. 139.

From HENRY REYLL, Collector of Customs, Patna.
 SEPTEMBER 3, 1785.

From a desire of giving you a proper insight into the complaints, respecting Chebil Roy's exactions, I have herewith transmitted you an extract from the revenue proceedings relative to Gunge duties in paragraph 30 of the General Regulations, regarding the punishment of proprietors of Fandees Division, which was circulated throughout the province of Bengal and Behar, by order of the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council, by the several provincial Chiefs in the year 1781, from whence I am persuaded, you will perceive that the complaints made by the Beoparies against Chebil Roy are for collections which by the foregoing orders are expressly forbid. I am sorry to give you so much trouble upon so trifling a subject but as I have found that upon representations, when the complaints have been justly founded, that the exactions have been repaid, I flatter myself you will upon] this, as upon former occasions, cause restitution to be made to the Beoparies. For should Ahmad Ali, and Chebil Roy, be hereafter authorized to

collect Rahdary duties upon all merchandize passing through their districts, such a precedent would be soon followed by a solicitation from the other renters of Behar for similar indulgences, which would re-establish that train of hinderance and oppression to the merchants, beoparies, etc., which the Board have been labouring so many years effectually to abolish.

Whatever may have been the principal motives towards the abrogation of the Collectorship at Chowsah, it did not proceed so much from the representation made by Ahmad Ali Khan, as from the Collector's exceeding the bounds of his commission: the Collector in question was not the Cawn, but as I do not wish either to extenuate or criminate I beg leave to dismiss the subject.

You will observe by the enclosed comparison of the statement of duties demanded by Chebil Roy, and of which you sent me a copy, how much they exceed those paid at the Government Gunges. If Chebil Roy has continued to collect those duties these thirteen years, as he asserts, he is an old offender. Should you think it expedient, I will undertake any steps you may deem necessary to bring this business to a final *eclaircissement*, because so long as any doubts subsist, it will be equally prejudicial to Sircar Shahabad as it is to the Gunges from supplies being suspended from thence. And I am further of opinion, until it has obtained the sanction of the Board, Chebil Roy as well the other renters of Shahabad, should suspend their Rahdary collections, because I think there is little hope of their succeeding in their applications to the Committee of Revenue for the establishment of Rahdary duties.

Duties collected by Chebil Roy at the following rates.

	Ra.	s.	p.
Barley paka weight on 100 mds. at 3 mds. 20	28	9	0
acres per rupee.			
Duty at 5 per cent. on ditte	1	7	0
Root 100 mds. at 2½ mds. per rupee valued	40	0	0
Duty 5 per cent.	2	0	0
Paddy 100 mds. at 3 mds. per rupee valued	33	5	3
Duty 5 per cent.	1	10	6

	Rs.	a.	p.
Ghee on bullock on 4 mds. at Rs. 7-10-9 per md. valued.	30	11	0
Duty at 2½ per cent.	0	13	3
Cil on bullock on 4 mds. at Rs. 3 per md. valued ...	12	0	0
Duty 2½ per cent.	0	4	9
Cussum flower on 4 mds. at Rs. 5 per md. valued ...	20	0	0
Duty 2½ per cent.	0	8	0
Mustard 100 mds. at 12 annas per md. valued ...	75	0	0
Duty 2½ per cent.	1	14	0

*Extract from the General Regulations for the Collections of the Customs.
June 1781.*

PARAGRAPH 30.

Notwithstanding the repeated orders of Government for abolishing all chowkies and foundies for the collections of Rahdary duties in their provinces, yet there are still some zemindars so hardy as to venture at disregarding the authority of the sewannahs and extorting money from the merchants. It will therefore be necessary for the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to repeat their orders once more to the superior authority in each district and to inform them that in future when any complaints are made and proved the Commissioners are impowered not only to oblige the immediate offender to refund the money so extorted, but also to inflict corporal punishment upon him on the spot where the exactions were made, and the zemindar, chowdhry, talukdars and other proprietors of the pergannah or portion of land where the offence was committed shall be punished by a confiscation of the whole or part of his lands by the Governor-General and Council according to the degree of the offence, nor will the plea of ignorance in any such case be admitted except in the cases of minors, women or persons otherwise incapable of acting for themselves, in which the actual managers shall suffer such punishment as the Governor-General and Council shall determine.

*Extract of the Council of Revenue Proceedings held at Fort William,
the 1st March 1774.*

Resolved that no duties of any denomination shall be levied at the Gunges, excepting on such goods, which are actually there sold. Goods passing through the Gunges for sale at other Gunges are to be liable to no demand or hinderance whatsoever, or if the merchant should after his goods have been landed at any Gunge determine still to carry them to another market, he shall have a right so to do without paying any duty as he will be subject to the established duty at the place of sale.

No. 140.

From Committee of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1785.

Having received the orders of the Hon'ble Board on the subject of the Settlement of several districts in Subah Behar for the ensuing fusli year 1193.

We have only to direct that no alteration take place in the settlement formed by Mr. Shore, except in instances where the amils may have failed in the performance of their engagements, and in such cases, to re-let the lands for one year, giving a preference to the proposals of the zemindars, agreeably to the Board's orders enclosed. We transmit you a form of the kabuliats to be entered into by the renters.

COPY.

Form of the clause to be introduced into the landholder's kabuliats of 1192 Bengal style or 1193 Fusli.

In case of my revenue falling in balance, an adequate portion of my land is, without fail, to be sold, and the produce thereof to be paid in to Government; which condition I do agree to consider as positively binding on me and to take place as a matter of course; unless the Governor-General and Council should be pleased from seeing my favourable circumstances in my situation, to postpone that measure for one or more months beyond the end of the year, with a view to afford me an opportunity to pay up my balance, in which case, I will cheerfully sign an interest bond to the Hon'ble Company or the amount, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for such periods as

may be thus allowed me by the favour of Government, which Bond shall specify that in case of failure on my part to discharge the amount of the principal and premium thereof, when due, it shall certainly, whenever Government may require payment, be together with the interest, completely realized by the sale of my lands as aforesaid, and if they prove insufficient, by that of my personal goods, chattels and effects.

N. B.—The form of the clause for farmers to be in the same words with that above, with this difference, that the term "Property" be inserted instead of "lands" and that the last lines beginning from "and if they prove" to the end, be omitted the sense thereof being sufficiently comprehended in the farmers' leases, by the term *property*.

In case of securities being taken from the renters the securities are at the same time as the original renters for whom they may become bound, to sign separate engagements to the same purport with the above; agreeing that their property shall be sold at the end of the year, for any balance that may remain, unless Government should be pleased, from similar considerations as above intimated in regard to the cases of zemindars, etc., to take interest bonds from them, either jointly or separately, from their principals the landholders, which bonds, if taken, are to be to the same purport, as far as regards the positive sale of such securities' property, and the premium on the debt, etc., as already expressed in regard to the zemindars.

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No. 141.

From THOMAS LAW, Magistrate and Collector of Rchtas.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1785.

I have the pleasure to enclose a petition from five pilgrims complaining of Bishun Singh, the Chowkidar of Holoas Gunge for detaining them three days and extorting a rupee. Unless an example is made of so flagrant a breach of the repeated orders against Rahnary exactions, they will be repeated; but I need only mention the circumstances for the offenders to receive punishment. One example will prevent all future molestation to travellers.

As the spot is not far from hence, with your permission I will legally investigate the matter, whilst the pilgrims are still here, and proof is more easily obtained.

[NOTE.—Permission was duly accorded, and Law was requested to deal with the matter.]

No. 142.

From Committee of Revenue.

NOVEMBER 24, 1785.

We have received your several letters of the 29th ultimo and of this date with their enclosures.

We have consented to accept the resignation of Ahmad Ali Khan, farmer of Shahabad and directed you to make the settlement of that district for the current year agreeably to the general regulations already transmitted you. For your more particular information we now enclose you an extract from our proceedings on this subject.

Although upon general principles we have refused to listen to the representations of Ahmad Ali Khan on the subject of taccavy and outstanding balances, we shall yet be willing to acquiesce in any arrangement, which after a full investigation and adjustment of his accounts may appear to you best calculated to secure the arrears due from him to Government, although such arrangement should go in some degree to postpone the period of their payment. This much of indulgence we think due, in justice, to the character and acknowledgments of Ahmad Ali Khan.

Extract from the proceedings of the Committee of Revenue under date 24th November 1785.

The Committee having referred to the petition of Ahmad Ali Khan, recorded on the 17th instant, and being now in possession of the explanation and information then required from Mr. Brooke, concur in the following Resolutions respecting the prayer of that petition, which they observe consists of three articles, viz. :

- 1st. To be permitted to resign his farm of Shahabad.
- 2nd. To receive credit for his advances of taccavy and gillaudazy made to the under-renters.
- 3rd. To receive credit for his balances outstanding in the mofassil.

With respect to Ahmad Ali Khan's request to resign his farm, the Committee remark that for the reasons assigned

in the petition, which are corroborated by the letter from the Collector of Rohtas, and the opinion of the Chief of Patna, it would be dangerous and impolitic to compel him to continue in the farm of Shahabad, contrary to his own inclination. Dangerous, because his thus avowed embarrassments might lead to neglect and misappropriation of the public revenue; impolitic because the loss, on account of the balances, however apparently postponed, would probably be doubly felt at the expiration of the period of his farm.

Agreed, therefore, that Ahmad Ali Khan's request to resign his farm of Shahabad, be complied with.

In regard to the advances of taccavy and gillandazy, the Committee observe, that as the former was made contrary to their express orders, they cannot admit it; but their prohibitory orders did not include the advances of gillandazy. Agreed, therefore, that his request to receive credit for the advance of taccavy be rejected, but that he receive credit for whatever amount he can prove to have advanced on account of gillandazy.

With respect to receiving credit for his outstanding balances, the Committee observe that part of the petition can by no means be admitted, on account of the dangerous precedent, and the other applications of a similar nature to which it would probably give rise.

Agreed, therefore, that Ahmad Ali Khan's request to receive credit for his outstanding Mofassil balances be rejected.

Ordered that a perwannah be written to Ahmad Ali Khan, informing him of the foregoing Resolutions.

Agreed, lastly, that the Chief of Patna be directed to conclude the settlement of Shahabad for the year 1193 under the general instructions already transmitted to him.

No. 143.

Petition of Mir BARKAT ULLAH.

NOVEMBER 21TH 1785.

When I became farmer of the Surrub Mahal Subah Behar in the year 1191 Fuzli, Mr. Shore signed a *Wajib-ul-Arz* which I presented to him, importing that I was to conduct the business

of this Mehal agreeably to customary and established usage of the Subah, and in case of interruption to apply to the Collector in whose jurisdiction the obstruction might originate. I accordingly procured perwannahs to different aumils of the pergunnahs from Messrs. Grand, Brooke, and Bathurst to assist me in carrying on my business according to ancient custom. The mode of conducting the Surrub Mehal is as follows. The Sandore and Shesha vendors of every pergunnah take from my Warehouse a certain fixed quantity of each article, and some time after pay the price of it to my Gomashta. In this manner the Sandore and Shesha vendors conducted their concerns in pergunnah Rohtas as well as in every other pergunnah in the Subah and still continue to do so with an exception only of those who reside in the districts of Mr. Law. Ever since this gentleman's appointment, the Sandore and Shesha vendors have refused to take any of these articles from my Gomashtahs or pay the revenue arising from them, I therefore request that the jama of the Surrub Mehal of Mr. Law's Districts may be struck out of my Tahood for the year 1193 Fusli, and that I may receive credit in my accounts for 1191 and 1192 for the losses of these two years.

	Rs.
Jama of the Surrub Mehal of ZiUah Tekary for 1191	3,600
Ditto Chainpur Sasaram	1,000
Ditto Naby Nagar and Kuardah	3,000
<hr/>	
Total jama of the Mehals in Mr. Law's district for	
1191 Fusli	7,600
Ditto ditto 1192 Fusli	7,600
<hr/>	
Jama of both years	15,200
Deduct expenses of manufacturing	1,900
etc., for 1191 fusli	3,800
Ditto ditto 1192 "	1,900
<hr/>	
Remains	11,400
Collected in 1191	688-11-1
Do. 1192	822-8-0
<hr/>	
Balance being the amount of my loss for which	1,511-1-1
request to be entitled	9,888-14-3
Balance particularized of 1191	5,011-4-3
Do of 1192...	4,877-10-0
<hr/>	
Total as above	9,888-14-3

No. 144.

From CHARLES GRAMME, Collector of Saran.

NOVEMBER 26, 1785.

I have received your letter of the 17th instant, and am sorry to acquaint you that it will not be in my power to assist you with any money for the use of the Brigade. Bills for the whole balance of my treasury, in favour of the Committee of Revenue were procured before the receipt of your letter. Whatever I may be able to collect before the end of month must be appropriated to the discharge of the paymaster's drafts in favor of the commanding officer of the troops doing duty in these districts, which are upwards of six months in arrears.

 No. 145.

From W. WEBBER, Secretary to Government.

NOVEMBER 29, 1785.

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to acknowledge their receipt of your address to them of this date, and to acquaint you in reply thereto, that they are sensible of the inadequacy of your present allowances as Chief of Patna to support your expenses with that hospitality which you have shown and the credit due to your station; but that the particularly distressed situation of the Company at present will not admit of any increase to your salary. At the same time, if the Board find your attention to the revenues brings you under the description of those servants mentioned in their late regulations, they will be happy to take that opportunity of making you a proper allowance.

 No. 146.

From B. APLIN, Acting Secretary to Government.

DECEMBER 6, 1785.

I am directed by the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to acknowledge their receipt of your address to them of the 5th instant, and to acquaint you that they cannot comply with

your request to have the Fowzedarry and Dewanny Adawlat at your station put under your immediate management, unless general change should hereafter be made in the present system of Government, in which event, the Board will take your propositions into their consideration.

I am also to inform you that the Board cannot consent to allow you any commission at present, and that as to the rest of your letter, they refer you to their former orders of the 29th ultimo.

No. 147.

From Committee of Revenue.

DECEMBER 16, 1785.

We have received your letter of the 12th December, recommending that the district of Shwabad be farmed out on a lease of five years.

We are entirely aware of the disadvantages to which annual leases are for the most part obnoxious, but the orders of Government being to us in this respect positive, we cannot authorise any deviation from them.

No. 148.

From Committee of Revenue.

JANUARY 19, 1786.

We have received your letter of the 8th instant covering your treasury account for last month.

We highly disapprove of Mr. Ross's conduct, in appropriating to himself your salary and allowance for the month you were absent. We desire you will call upon him to refund them immediately, and transmit us a correct treasury account for December.

No. 149.

From Major J. LANDEG, Commanding 28th Regiment, Dinapore.

JANUARY 23, 1786.

I am sorry to trouble you again so soon, on the subject of the bills I received from Mr. Farquharson (paymaster of the 2nd

Brigade), in part of the arrears due to the Regiment, but the distresses and frequent murmurings of the officers and seapoys under my command, induces me to request the favor of your speedy assistance to relieve the difficulties they now labour under; which I beg leave to assure you are very great, not having wherewithal to subsist, but I flatter myself you will on receipt of this, order cash for the drafts which will greatly oblige.

No. 150.

From the same.

FEBRUARY 7, 1783.

Herewith I have the honor to send you paymaster's drafts for pay, etc., due the 28th regiment of Seapoys under my command. I acquainted you in some of my former letters on this subject of the distresses and murmurings there were among the officers and men on account of the great arrears due; and they are now become so very alarming that I most earnestly request the favor you will grant me cash for their amount, or for such part of them as may be convenient for you to discharge. Should I be so unfortunate as not to have this request complied with, I shall be reduced to the necessity of returning the drafts to the paymaster, and for my own safety acquainting the Commander-in-Chief with the distresses we now labour under.

No. 151.

From Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 13, 1786.

We have received your letter of the 3rd instant, informing us of your having continued Hernarrain and his brother Koor Ramnarrain in the farms and management of Nirhut Samoy, which arrangement we confirm, as it appears you have made it under a conviction of the ability of these persons to pay the revenue of that district. At the same time, we must observe, as you have not exacted any security from those persons, that we rely on you for the due performance of their engagements.

No. 152.

From Committee of Revenue.

MARCH 29, 1786.

The Hon'ble Governor-General and Council having thought proper to resolve on disbanding the two independent regiments at Ramgur and Chittagong, and on reducing nine jamadars in each regiment of Seapoys, they have further agreed that the native Commissioned Officers and Non-commissioned Officers reduced by these Regulations shall have waste lands allotted to them in such proportions as were allowed in the Baugulpore district to Invalid Officers, viz. :—

				Bighas.
To a	{	Subadar	... ..	200
		Jemadar	... ..	100
		Havildar	... ..	60
		Naik	... ..	50

The lands are not to be resumed on the death of the Commissioned or Non-Commissioned Officer; but it is to be left to the option of his family to receive a perpetual grant of them at a moderate fixed rent to be determined by the Collector.

The following is the number of Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers for whom waste lands are to be provided :—

Chittagong Regiment	{	10 Subadars,
		20 Jamadars,
		40 Havildars
		40 Naicks,
Ramgur Regiment ...	{	10 Subadars,
		20 Jamadars,
		40 Havildars,
		40 Naicks,

besides 270 Jamadars reduced from the Regiments of Seapoys.

It is the Board's pleasure that you report to them where waste lands can be most conveniently allotted to these several descriptions of Native Officers. With respect to those of the Ramgur and

Chittagong Regiments waste lands are to be granted to them as near as possible to the stations to which they have been respectively attached.

[NOTE.—Many of the villages thus settled exist in Bihar; they are commonly known as Arazi Inglis (English.)]

No. 153.

A Monsieur Guillaume Auguste Brooke, Commandant à Patna.
Monsieur,

Quoique je n'aie pas l'honneur d'être connu par vous, j'espère que vous recevez avec plaisir la recommandation que je vous fais pour Mon. Panon, que Sa Majesté annonce comme chef de notre nation dans la Province de Bahar.

Je vous assure d'avance, Monsieur, que vous trouverez en Mon. Panon tout ce que vous desiriez pour faciliter ce que dépendra de lui pour notre rétablissement dans votre pays, et pour débarrasser toutes les difficultés qui pourront se présenter; j'en ai pleine confiance surtout que j'prend del'avantage de votre caractère honnêteté et obligeance, et j'espère que vous soyez d'accord avec lui pour maintenir la paix et la course intelligent qui ont été heureusement rétabli entre nos deux nations et qui doivent faire notre bonheur commun.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec mes sentiments les plus distingués,

Monsieur,

Chandernagore, 3 Avril 1786.

Votre très humble serviteur,
L. C. DANGEBREUX.

No. 154.

Convention of February 28, 1768, sent by Commissary J. WILTON to W. A. BROOKE, for information.

Whereas by the 11th Article of the Treaty of Peace, made and concluded between His Britannic Majesty and the most Christian King, on the 10th day of February, 1763, it is stipulated and agreed, that in the East Indies, Great Britain shall restore to France, in the condition they are now in, the different Factories which that Crown possessed as well on the coast of Coromandel and Orissa as on that of Malabar as also in Bengal, at the beginning of the year 1749.

Now be it known, that I John Wood constituted by the Right Hon'ble Robert Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey, in the Kingdom of Ireland, Knight Companion of the most Honourable order of the Bath, Major General in the Army of his Britannic Majesty Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Bengal and its dependencies, President of the Councils and Government of Fort William and of all the settlements belonging to the Hon'ble the English East Indian Company, in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the rest of the gentlemen of the Council for and in the name of his Britannic Majesty to restore and deliver up to Mr. Lewis Lachenny, on behalf of his Most Christian Majesty, the possessions which France formerly had at Chupra, Singhia, Fatuah and Ponnerack in the province of Behar, do hereby declare to have accordingly delivered over to the said Mr. Lewis Lachenny, the said possessions according to the limits thereof at the beginning of the year 1749; and I the said Lewis Lachenny, constituted by the Hon'ble John Law de Lawriston, Esqr., Knight of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, Colonel of Infantry, Commandant General of the French Establishments in the East Indies, for and in the name of his Most Christian Majesty, to receive the possessions which France formerly had at Chupra, Singhia, Fatuah and Ponnerack in the province of Bihar, do acknowledge to have received from the said John Wood, the said possessions at Chupra, Singhia, Fatuah and Ponnerack, to be restored to France by virtue of the said Treaty of Peace.

In witness whereof, we the said John Wood, for and in behalf of his Britannick Majesty, and the said Louis Lachenny, for and in behalf of his Most Christian Majesty have hereunto set our hands and seals in Patna this 23th day of January 1766.

No. 155.

Instrument of return of the French Factory, as amended by order of the Commissary.

APRIL 15, 1786.

Whereas by the 13th article of the Treaty of Peace made and concluded between the Most Christian King and His Britannic

Majesty on the 3rd day of September, 1783 it is stipulated and agreed that in the East Indies Great Britain shall restore to France the different Factories which that Crown possessed at the beginning of the present War on the coast of India and in Bengal with liberty to surround Chandernagore with a ditch for carrying off waters, etc.

Now be it known that I William Augustus Brooke constituted by the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, President of the Council, Governor-General of Fort William and of all the settlements belonging to the Honourable the English East Indian Company and the rest of the gentlemen of the Supreme Council, for and in the name of His Britannic Majesty to restore to Monsieur James Panon the French Factory of Patna in the Soubah of Bahar with its dependencies, do hereby declare to have accordingly restored and delivered over the said Factory of Patna with its said dependencies and districts according to the limits thereof at the beginning of the last war on which Factory the French Flag was erected and I the said John James Panon, Ancient Councillor of India, in virtue of a commission given to me by Lewis Charles Dangereux, Esquire, Agent General for His Majesty in the Kingdom of Bengal, do hereby acknowledge to have received from the said William Augustus Brooke the said Factory of Patna in the Soubah of Bahar with the dependencies to be restored by virtue of the said treaty of peace.

In witness whereof, we the said John James Panon for and on behalf of his Most Christian Majesty and the said William Augustus Brooke, for and on behalf of his Britannic Majesty have hereunto set our hands and seals. Done in Patna in the Subah Bahar this 15th day of April 1786.

No. 156.

From Committee of Revenue.

MAY 15, 1786.

We have received your letter of the 22nd ultimo.

We desire that you will immediately dispose of Nurul Hosain's Malikannah villages, under the addition of the 16 villages decreed

on the 10th November 1785 to liquidate his debt to Government Account his balance of 1192.

We can by no means agree to the suspension of Ra. 80,507-15-9; and direct that you proceed against Ahmad Ali Khan for the whole balance, unless any deduction is allowable on account of the Chousa and Patna Custom Houses; for which, however, we cannot see any just grounds, as the Rahdaree is positively prohibited by Government, and a suitable reduction in consequence allowed in the jama. The zamindars' russiaom we likewise think highly improper.

No. 157.

From THOMAS LAW, Collector of Rohtas.

MAY 24, 1786.

I am honoured with your letter enclosing a Persian statement of Malguzars or inferior renters who have absconded to purgannah Sasaram.

When Mr. Fowke applied to me on a similar occasion, I stated to him that I had made it a rule in my district never to transfer the ryots from one aumil to another upon vague pleas of balances where they had taken refuge, and I have found it the greatest check to exaction, as the farmers see their interest in preserving the cultivations for ensuing years. I have issued a perwannah to the aumil to investigate into the complaint of disputes; and if any of the inhabitants of my district have entered yours, upon proof thereof I will make severe examples of them as I am confident you will of yours in the reverse.

I cannot issue orders for the Malguzars indiscriminately to be delivered over in a body to you, but will immediately investigate into the claims of your aumil upon his appointing a Vakeel, a measure he cannot reasonably object to, as the Malguzars will also be enabled to pay his just demands by the cultivation in Sasaram.

If any of the tenants of my district abscond to you, I will order my aumils to claim justice in your Nizamat Court, but should you think that the trial ought to take place in the district

where the Malguzars last resided by issuing summons through me, they shall be required to give security and to appoint a Vakeel to answer, a form which is prescribed in the Dewani Adalat Regulations in similar cases.

The amount claimed from 30 persons who have absconded by the amil's statement is only 3,802 rupees, a trivial sum, for which they will easily give security. I appeal to your own judgment whether mankind are easily induced to quit their birth places, and whether Santoke Roy's character does not justify a doubt of his equity. Moreover the season for cultivation is commenced and if the Malguzars are now thrown into confinement, their labours are lost to Government for next year in both districts.

I could expatiate much upon this subject, but shall conclude with the last paragraph of a former letter with a little alteration.

Happy am I that the migration of ryets into my district is stated to be the dispute; the same motive actuates us both: a desire to benefit our districts and to obtain credit by increase of cultivation, this principle is one good effect amongst many of divided jurisdictions.

No. 158.

From A. SIRON, Assistant Secretary to Government.

JUNE 1, 1786.

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council having been pleased, in conformity to orders received from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, under date the 15th of September 1785, to dissolve the Committee of Revenue, and to constitute a Board of Revenue in its room, of which John Stables, Esquire, has been appointed President, and Messrs William Cowper, Thomas Graham, John Mackenzie, Richard Johnson, and John Evelyn, Members to be resident at the Presidency; I have the Board's direction to inform you that you are to continue in your present charge and to consider the established orders of the late Committee for your guidance in full force and to correspond with this Board in future.

No. 159.

From Board of Revenue.

JUNE 17, 1786.

The Hon'ble Governor-General and Council having been pleased to comply with a request which has been made to them by Colonel Norman Macleod, Commanding at Dinapore:—

“That the villages and lands to the eastward as far as the wooden bridge on the road to Patna, including Lesliemunj, those to the westward including Serpore, and those to the southward to the distance of three miles, may be put under his management and that of his successors in the Command at that station, on condition that the Company shall continue to receive the rents now charged on them.”

We direct you accordingly to carry these orders into execution, and adjust and report to us the amount of the Revenue payable from them, as soon as we shall have intimated to you that Colonel Macleod has qualified himself for the trust, by taking the Revenue Oath prescribed by the late Act of Parliament.

No. 160.

From Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

JULY 10, 1786.

As it appears from your letter of 21st May, that there are waste lands in your district unappropriated, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to desire you will assign waste land to the reduced Native Officers mentioned in the enclosed list (in the division opposite their respective names, which they have themselves chosen), if such divisions contain a sufficiency of waste ground, in the proportions of—

200 bighas to	...	...	...	a Subadar,
100 ditto	...	...	...	a Jemadar,
60 ditto	...	...	...	a Havildar,
50 ditto	...	...	...	a Naick,

on their application for the same. The lands are not to be resumed on the death of the present incumbents; but it is to be left to the option of their families to receive a perpetual grant of them at a moderate rent to be determined by the Collector.

No. 161.

From the same.

JULY 18, 1786.

The President and Members of the Board of Revenue, considering the present mode of making sale of zemindary lands for balances of Revenue in the districts where the lands are situated to be liable to many objections, which will be removed by making the sales under their immediate inspection at the Khalsa, I have their directions to inform you that they have determined in future all sales of zemindary lands, whether on account of balances due to Government or otherwise, shall be made at the Khalsa in Calcutta by the preparer of reports to the Revenue Department, which resolution you are desired to publish in the country languages throughout the districts under your charge.

 No. 162.

From the same.

JULY 25, 1786.

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit you h. re- with an extract of a Provisional Convention entered into between the Viscount Sonillac on the part of His Most Christian Majesty and the Hon'ble Colonel Cathcart on the part of the Governor-General and Council, to which you are directed to conform; and as it is the wish of the Governor-General and Council to carry the purport of it into literal execution, it is their positive order that you do not occasion any impediment to the due accomplishment of it, under pain of their censure.

EXTRACT of a Provisional Convention entered into between the Viscount Sonillac on the part of His Most Christian Majesty and the Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel Cathcart on the part of the Governor-General and Council, recorded on the proceedings of the Board of Revenue the 25th July 1786.

Article 19th.—All the inhabitants, whether Europeans or Natives, of the French Establishment, Factories, and houses of

commerce, as well as of the territory annexed to them shall be under the protection of the French Flag, and subject to the French Jurisdiction.

Article 20th.—The Chiefs of Factories and other French Establishments shall enjoy the privilege of recovering the debts and balances due by the weavers or other manufacturers as also by the dalals employed by the French, altho' they may reside beyond the bounds of the said Establishment, with this restriction, however, that if a dalal should have contracts with more than one European nation at the same time, he must in that case only be proceeded against before the ordinary jurisdiction of the country.

Article 21st.—In whatever French Factories in Bengal the Dewans of the Chiefs may have exercised a jurisdiction over their ryots betwixt the years 1765 and 1778, tho' the territories inhabited by the said ryots may be beyond the bounds of the said Factories the said custom of jurisdiction shall be continued, that is to say, there shall be no innovation in this respect.

Article 22nd.—Natives who being pursued by the Government of the country for crimes, misdemeanours, or debts, shall take refuge in the French Factories shall be delivered up by the Chiefs of the Factories when claimed by the said Government; but the said Chiefs shall have a right to give protection to Europeans in similar circumstances.

Article 23rd.—In cases where French subjects shall be accused of outrages against Natives of the country, they shall be delivered over by the officers of the Government to the nearest French Chief who shall examine the accusation and proceed according to the exigency of the case. If a French subject should have similar cause of complaint against a Native of the country, the cause of the said Native shall be tried in the courts of justice of the said country, provided that these cases occur beyond the bounds of the French Territory.

Article 24th.—The other customs whether relating to Civil or Criminal matters which have not been mentioned on the preceding articles shall be continued in full force, and as they were practised before the last war.

No 163.

From Board of Revenue.

August 1, 1786.

Your address of 28th of June last having been submitted by us to the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council, they have been pleased to repeat their former orders for putting under the management of Colonel Norman Macleod and that of his successors in command at Dinapore, the villages and lands to the eastward as far as the wooden bridge on the road to Patna including Leslie-gunge, those to the westward including Serpore and those to the southward to the distance of three miles on condition that the Company shall continue to receive the rents now charged on them. We therefore direct you to carry these orders into execution as far as depends on you, and immediately adjust and report to us the amount of the revenue payable from them.

No. 164.

From the same.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1786.

In consequence of the balance due from Ahmad Ally Khan account the farm which he rented under Mr. Bathurst, we directed that gentleman to apprehend his person, and enforce payment in the usual mode. Should therefore Ahmad Ally Khan have taken refuge in the district under your authority, we desire that you seize his person, and deliver him over to Mr. Bathurst that he may be enabled to carry our orders into execution.

Under these circumstances of gross failure in his engagements, prudence and equity equally require that he should no longer be entrusted as amil with a part of the Government Revenues. You will therefore at the ensuing settlement consider Ahmad Ally Khan as disqualified to farm or otherwise hold any lands within the limits of your districts, unless he shall have previously paid up the arrears due from him in your own district and that of Mr. Bathurst or that those arrears shall be in course of payment.

No. 165.

From Board of Revenue.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1786.

We have received your letter covering the towzee account of the division under your charge for the month of Assarh and are sorry to find the balance so heavy, and the explanation so very unsatisfactory. We cannot admit any of the expedients suggested by you, but expect that you will regularly realize the revenues under your charge agreeable to the engagements of the several zamindars and aumils, which you are certainly fully empowered to do, by the nature of your situation and local authority vested in you. Should the conduct of any of the zemindars, etc., render coercive measures necessary, you will in adopting such, be guided by the established custom of the country, and the particular circumstances of the case.

We have replied to your reference relative to Burkat Ullah, and disallowed the claim; we therefore expect to see the amount suspended on that account brought to credit in the ensuing month. We cannot, however, admit the propriety of your having suspended the demand until you know the event of the reference, as such a custom, if established, would introduce constant irregularities in the collection's and by giving rise to apparent balances, embarrass and perplex the accounts.

No. 166.

From Board of Revenue.

OCTOBER 3, 1786.

Having received directions from the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to form the settlement of the province of Bihar for the Faali year 1194; as the necessary foundation on which to base our instructions for your division, we proceeded to examine the state of your collections for the last year.

On a reference to your towzee account for Bhadon, we perceive that exclusive of the Dutch Nazrannah in reference to the Supreme Council, a net balance remains due from the districts under your charge of nearly 70,000 rupees of which amount

21,000 rupees are owing from Haveli Azeemabad where the security Meer Berkat-Ullah being a very responsible man, we hope there can be no doubt of the balance being paid. We have little doubt also that the sum of 8,376 rupees due from Nirhut Samoy will be recovered, as a part has been given payable at the end of Asin. But from Shahabad there is due the sum of 40,000 rupees and upwards of which you have given us no satisfactory explanation. We are now surprised and concerned at this failure, as the Settlement of last year was made upon a reduced jama of 37,262 rupees, the full amount of which you informed the Committee in your letter of 25th January last you had reason to expect would be realized.

We cannot therefore help expressing our disappointment at the largeness of the balance that now appears against this pergunnah as well as our surprise at the total want of explanation of it. We observe also that from three of the Mehals in arrear owing more than 30,000 rupees, no security has been taken. Should these therefore ultimately prove deficits we shall look to you for the liquidation of the balance; and we are sorry to remark that if we leave the settlement of Shahabad to you for the year 1194, it is from necessity not choice that we do so.

Having thus performed the painful duty of expressing our sentiments on your collections of the last year, we proceed to communicate the necessary instructions for your guidance in forming the settlement for 1194.

We transmit you the copy of a petition which has been presented to us by the zamiudar of Shahabad, offering to engage for his zemindary at the jama fixed by Mr. Shore. We desire you will conclude the settlement with him unless there are good and strong reasons to the contrary; in which case we must rely on your exertions for the most advantageous arrangement that can be obtained for the ensuing year.

With regard to the other districts in your division we have only to direct your adherence to the settlement formed by Mr. Shore, provided the balances are liquidated, and in cases where the amils who engaged with him have been dispossessed, to re-let

the lands for one year, in doing which you will of course attend to the orders formerly issued, directing a preference to the proposals of zemindars, and will continue to take kabuliats from the renters agreeably to the form transmitted to you last year.

Having considered your letter of the 12th ultimo, we acquiesce in the advance of Tuccavy proposed by you in Shahabad, but on condition that you direct your particular attention to the distribution of it so as to realize the benefit intended to the ryots, and also to the repayment of it by the end of Fagoon, for which we shall hold you responsible.

We have determined for the present to continue the collections account the Red Lead and Nekaas Mehvals and shall hereafter consider the expediency of relinquishing these articles of Revenue.

* ENCLOSURE.

Petition of Rajah BIKERMAJET SINGH, Zemindar of Sirkar Shahabad.

The settlement of Sirkar Shahabad my zemindary, had always been concluded with me till the year 1191 Fasli when Mr. Shore farmed it out to Ahmad Ali Khan, who having depopulated and drained the country, and having incurred a balance of rupees 1,60,000 relinquished his farm last year, in consequence of which the settlement of the present year 1193 was made at a jama of Rs. 37,972-3-0 less than the Bandobast of Mr. Shore. As therefore the present year is nearly expired and as other zemindars have obtained Khud Bandobast I request that the settlement of my zemindary may be made with me for the ensuing year 1194 Fasli at the full jama fixed by Mr. Shore agreeably to the subjoined account—

		Rs.	s.	p.
Jama fixed by Mr. Shore ...	5,24,204	3	0	
Deduction granted in 1193 ...	37,972	3	0	
	4,86,232	0	0	
Remains the present jama ...	4,86,232	0	0	
Proposed increase for 1194 Fasli ...	37,972	3	0	
	5,24,204	3	0	
Which restores Mr. Shore's jama ...				

No. 167.

From Colonel NORMAN MACLEOD.

NOVEMBER 2, 1786.

I am informed by Captain Cullen that the zemindars positively refused to take that part of the pergunnah of Maner which has been put under my charge, at the rent which you have stated it to me to be worth, and as you said, if they did so refuse, that Meer Barkat Ullah was ready to take them on the terms, I request you to settle with him or any other person you please for these lands.

I have also to acquaint you that I have found so many insinuations of an improper kind thrown out concerning my having charge of these lands that notwithstanding my zeal for the health of the troops, I have written to Lord Cornwallis for leave to resign my charge again to you.

No. 168.

From JAMES GRANT, Resident at Benares.

NOVEMBER 3, 1786.

I have the honour of enclosing for your information a copy of a letter I have this day received from Captain Totton, commanding a detachment at Gammar, by which you will perceive that Dhole Singh, zemindar and Chowdhry of pergunnah Dinnarrah, has been apprehended. I have ordered the prisoner to be sent to you under an escort, agreeable to instructions I have received from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General and Council.

No. 169.

From Wm. YOUNG, Opium Contractor.

NOVEMBER 18, 1786.

The answer to your perwannah to the Dewan of the farmer of Shahabad in consequence of my former representation to you is by no means satisfactory to me. My letter of the 13th stated that Sheikh Aminuddin Hossain, my Opium Gomashta

for the year 1193 in pergannahs Arwal and Mussowrah, had taken the farm of Arrah in Shahabad for the year 1194 although he has not paid his balances to the ryots nor delivered in the ryots Farkhatees to me as he had engaged himself to do in one month, which has elapsed some time. The Dewan says that any demands I may have on Shaikh Aminuddin will be answered by his security now at Patna. This is not the point in question, inasmuch as the balance is not due by him to me nor by me to the ryots, but by himself to the ryots. Yet their claims will reach me so long as he evades paying them, or so long as the ryots' Farkhatees are not deposited with me. As it must appear evident to you that the security can have nothing to do with the settlement of accounts between the principal and the ryots, I must request that you will state the matter as herein represented to the Dewan and also that you notify to him that this fair warning not to employ a person under engagements to another, will in the event of Shaikh Aminuddin Hosain's being ordered previously to settle my business, leave him no plea for failing in payment of his own rents.

No. 170.

From Board of Revenue.

NOVEMBER 28, 1786.

Having received information, that notwithstanding the repeated orders of Government for abolishing all Chowkies and Chandees, for the collection of Rahdary and Challunta duties: such exactions are still continued; and particularly on goods transported by water carriage in different districts, to the vexation of merchants and injury of trade:—

We think it necessary to empower you, in case of any future exaction whatsoever, under the general denomination of Rahdary or challunta duty, on proof thereof, as well to oblige the immediate offender to refund the money exacted, as to inflict corporal punishment on him on the spot, where he shall make such exactions. And having done this we desire you will

immediately communicate to us the name of the person in whose territory such offence shall be committed, when, whether zemindar, chowdhry, talookdar or other landholder, he will be punished as declared in the enclosed publication, which we desire you will make as public as possible in your district, translating it (if the accompanying Persian and Bengal versions are insufficient) into every other dialect necessary for the general information of the inhabitants.

Having thus vested you with a power of punishment, we look to you for the complete suppression of the pernicious practice above recited, by the most active and constant vigilance, which, if exerted, cannot fail to ensure obedience to the orders of Government.

No. 171.

From Mr. P. HEATLY, for himself and Mr. YOUNG, Opium Contractors.

JANUARY 29, 1787.

I now send you, under the charge of peons, the undernamed persons who have been detected in smuggling opium. I have long had notice of their practices, and the proofs I can offer you of their illicit trade and guilt will enable you to punish them in the severest manner, and agreeably to the repeated orders of Government for the better support of my business. I apply to you in this instance, as I shall ever do in future, because I observe the authority for punishing smugglers of opium was heretofore given to the Revenue Chief. I must therefore request you, Sir, that you will consider this matter as of very serious consequence to my business; inasmuch as the escape of these fellows, by any art or means, the punishing they deserve will be the signal for others, who are waiting the decision to go on with entire confidence, and to a greater extent than they would otherwise venture to do, and because it will assure them of the difficulty of detection and conviction; and moreover, hold out at least a hope of escape whereas exemplary punishment inflicted on them now may operate to deter others, and check a trade which greatly tends to reduce the privilege I am invested with of the exclusive providing of the opium of these Provinces.

No. 172.

From the Secretary to Government to Mr. HARRY REVELL, Collector
of Government Customs, Patna.

MARCH 27, 1787.

The Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council having granted certain privileges to Mr. Kier in the province of Ramgar, I am directed by the Committee of Revenue to inform you that the Collector of Ramgar has been directed to furnish Mr. Kier or his substitute with a certificate that the metals or minerals accompanying it are the produce of his mines in Ramgar. On his certificate being produced at your office you will collect the duty agreeably to the rates fixed by the Hon'ble Board, and grant a Rwanua to cover the several articles to their destinations. For your more particular information on this subject I enclose extract of the sunnud granted to Mr. Kier.

The committee direct you to consider Red Lead as a mineral and collect duty on it accordingly.

Enclosed extract of a sunnud granted by the Hon'ble the Governor-General and Council to Mr. Kier, dated 23rd March 1779.

The Gentlemen of the Council, having approved and confirmed the deed or agreement of the sale of the mines of the articles above mentioned, which the zamindar of the said Chuckbah hath given in writing for the term of thirty years, have ordered as follows. For the period of five years, into whatever parts of the three soubahs or provinces he shall transport the aforesaid articles, the duties thereupon shall not be taken by Government; after the expiration of these five years, he must pay the duties of Government at the rate of ten rupees for every hundred bhurries of silver or gold, and for other metal articles five rupees per hundred maunds, besides which there is not to be paid a dam or dhirim. As to Brimstons or Sulphur, or the like, whatever shall be found in the mines, shall be sold in Bengal free of duties, and whatever ground shall be requisite in the carrying on and management of the digging of the mines, he shall, with the good will of the zemindar, take and hold the same in farm.

No. 173.

From the Assistant Secretary to the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council in their Revenue Department,

APRIL 4, 1787.

The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council has, on consideration of the entire similitude of power and authorities vested in the different gentlemen now to continue in charge of the collections, been pleased to abolish the denomination of Revenue Chiefships as distinguished from the stations of Collector, which is therefore to be the only remaining designation of all those servants who have the principal charge of the Revenue of the several divisions throughout the country.

No. 174.

From the Board of Revenue to Mr. W. A. BROOKE, Collector of Patna.

MAY 6, 1787.

We have received your letter of the 14th ultimo with a petition from Meer Berkut Ullah.

On the 10th August last, you were informed of our refusal to grant any remission to Berkut Ullah, on account the Soorb Mehal, and on a reference to the Collector of Rotas, we saw no reason to alter our decision. We cannot therefore on any account admit the abatement which is required by the aumil.

We have taken measures to inform ourselves of the nature of the Soorb and Nekhass mehals, and shall hereafter determine on the abolition or continuance of them.

No. 175.

From Governor-General in Council to Board of Revenue, forwarded to Mr. BROOKE.

MAY 9, 1787.

Having reason to believe from some advices which we have lately received from Mr. Dangereux, that it is his intention to assert the privilege claimed by the French of hoisting their Flag

at all their Factories and Houses of Commerce, we desire that you will instruct the different Chiefs and Collectors under your authority not to permit the assumption of this privilege at any other places than those specified in our instructions to you on this subject under date the 13th October last. They are however to execute these instructions with all possible moderation, and with as little appearance or exertion of violence as possible.

No. 176.

From Governor-General and Council.

JULY 18, 1786.

Having taken into consideration the rates of the commission to be allowed to the Collectors of the Revenue, we have resolved that they be fixed in the following proportions upon the amount of the realized Revenue of each Collectorship.

Upon every sum of ten lacks and upwards a commission of one per cent upon the first ten lacks, and one-half per cent on the remainder.

	Ra.
Upon nine lacks and below ...	10,000
Upon eight lacks and below nine ...	9,000
Upon seven lacks and below eight ...	8,000
Upon six lacks and below seven ...	7,000
Where the Collectorships are under six lacks ...	6,000

That from the above commission a deduction be made of one per cent. on the amount of balances of Revenue where the jama of the Collectorship exceeds ten lacks of rupees.

And of two per cent. on the amount of balances of revenue where the jama of the Collectorship exceeds six lacks and is under ten lacks of rupees.

And of three per cent. on the amount of balances where the jama of the Collectorship is under six lacks of rupees.

That the above resolutions authorizing the commission be in force from the commencement of the present Bengal year in those Collectorships where the settlement takes place according to that era; and from the commencement of the Fusli or velayeti

year 1195 in those collectorships where the settlement is made according to that era.

That the commission shall be paid from the Khalsa Treasury under the General Regulations for all payments at the expiration of every three months. That the assistant stationed at Tipperah be allowed to draw commission on collections and the Collector of Chittagong upon the whole of the collections under his charge including those under his assistant at Tipperah.

That the assistant employed in the collections of the Town of Calcutta be also allowed commission agreeable to the preceding rates.

That the Accountant-General of the Revenue Department be directed to lay before the Board of Revenue an account of the commission due to the Collectors reports at the periods prescribed, and the Board hereby authorized to pass and order the payment thereof.

No. 177.

From Board of Revenue.

JULY 31, 1787.

The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council having thought proper to form a new arrangement of Collectorships for the Province of Behar to take place by the 25th Badoon next, has nominated you to the charge of Shahabad and such other districts as are situated to the west of the Sone and south of the Ganges. We have therefore written to Mr. Law to deliver over to you by the above date, such parts of this division, as are not already under your superintendence, with an account particulars of the jama receipts and balances for the current Fusli year, together with all records relating thereto in his possession, and such explanations as may be necessary to enable you to realize any outstanding arrears, also to grant receipts to the Sudder renters corresponding with the Wasool of their Jama Wasil Baky account, that there may be no dispute regarding any stated balances.

In the same manner we direct also that by the said date you deliver over with similar accounts, explanations, and records such

districts now under your charge as are situated to the east of the Sone south of the Ganges to Mr. Law, who has been appointed Collector of the Bihar Division, and the purgunnahs now under you to the north of the Ganges to Mr. R. Bathurst who has been nominated to the Collectorship of Tirhut.

No. 178.

Board of Revenue to Mr. W. A. BROOKS, Collector of Patna.

August 10, 1787.

As it is in contemplation to form a General Settlement of the country for the ensuing Bengal year 1195 for a term of years with a view to this object we think proper to send you the following directions in order to prepare yourself for carrying this measure into execution under such instructions as you may hereafter receive from us.

The principal points to which your attention as preparatory to this measure should be directed are the following:—

- 1st. The amount of the jama.
- 2nd. The person with whom the settlement is to be made.
- 3rd. The rules for preventing oppressions on the Ryots by the Zemindars and Farmers as well as collusions amongst the latter tending to defraud the Zemindars and farmers of their just demands.

In order to ascertain a fair and equitable jama you will revert, as far as the accounts and materials you are possessed of will enable you, to the settlements and collections of former years, tracing the diminutions which have taken place from the highest rate of Taxation, and the causes thereof, and ascertaining whether the latter were of a temporary or permanent operation. You will particularly specify any instances which may occur of remissions upon the jama where reasons are not assigned for them, or where if assigned they should appear in your judgment inadequate.

It is very well known that the Zemindars in different parts of the country have given leases of lands to persons for a term of years, or perhaps in perpetuity at reduced rates of assessment. The influence of the Native Officers employed in the Revenue offices

and under British subjects is supposed to have procured such leases in their own favour. You will particularly advert to this point and notice any such grants or leases wherever you may be able to detect them, in order that the lands held under them may be taxed agreeable to the general rates of the District.

It may not perhaps be possible to determine with a precision precluding all objections the amount of the assessment of each pergunnah without a minute local scrutiny. To this however we object as being contrary to the orders of the Court of Directors but the mode we have pointed out to you, if duly pursued assisted with local information and experience as to the state of cultivation in the district compared with former periods, will enable you to form an opinion with probable accuracy as to the amount of the jama to be fixed in future. You will in every instance name a specific sum, with your reasons at full for fixing it. It is by no means our intention to lay a heavy increase upon the country, which cannot be collected without distress. All that we intend is that the jama shall be such as the company may fairly exact; and to guard against future defalcations in the Revenue by collusion, fraud, and misrepresentation.

In ascertaining this point you will also advert to the charges attending the collections of the Revenues by the zemindars and farmers; and communicate to us your opinion as to the average rates of these charges, in the districts under your superintendence.

The information we require relates to each pergunnah stated in the account settlement of your Collectorship.

Secondly.—The consideration of the person with whom the settlement is to be made. The act of Parliament, and orders of the Court of Directors equally prescribe that the settlement shall be made in all practicable instances with the zemindars, and our instructions for the settlement of 1194 more particularly explain this injunction.

But as many of the zemindars are disqualified from any real interference in the management of the collections from incapacity, on account of sex, minority, or otherwise, it becomes necessary for Government to interfere both for the security of the revenues, the

protection of the ryots, and even that of the zemindars themselves who from incapacity fall a prey to the artifices and frauds of their own officers and servants.

The only general rule which occurs to us as calculated to remedy the abuses incident to this situation is to make the principal officer of the zemindar, who from incapacity cannot manage his own business, a party in his engagements with Government, and to bind him to a faithful discharge of his duty by restrictions imposing a responsibility equally affecting his person and property.

But the principal difficulty occurs in the choice of the person for this trust; and in this respect we must rely upon your knowledge and experience. Capacity for the task is the first requisite; to enforce the faithful discharge of it must depend upon the diligence of Government and its officers.

You will of course endeavour to ascertain amongst the zemindary servants who is the most capable; those to whom trust has already been given, and faithfully and ably discharged, naturally stand forth as the properest persons for future responsibility. You will also further advert to those precautions that may be necessary to prevent the effects arising from a competition with the person who may be selected, or of opposition to his management. When your choice of the person has been confirmed by the approbation of Government it ought to be steadily maintained against all the effects of rivalry or intrigue and this consideration will of course dictate caution on your part. If in the first instance the zemindar should be capable of making a choice, some weight should be allowed to this consideration.

After all however we are sensible that cases may occur in which it may be most advantageous for the Government and for the zemindar that his land should be let to a farmer. In such cases the reasons of which you will assign wherever they may occur, care must be taken for making a provision for the zemindar by allotting him a proportion of the produce of the lands where he does not possess Neizjute, Comar or other rent-free land, or lands under-rated sufficient to furnish his maintenance. You will therefore consider the amount you may deem necessary for the purpose,

taking into consideration the circumstances pointed out to your notice above.

The third article claims your most particular attention as being of the greatest importance to the welfare of the ryots and security of the Government rents.

We desire that you will, in concert with the Cancoongoes and principal Mutsuddies, prepare the form of Pattahs to be executed by the zemindars and farmers in future and to be given to the Ryots. It is much to be wished that these pattahs should contain the specific rates at which each article of assessment upon the Assul is to be collected, or a specific sum for a given quantity of land either generally or according to its quality and produce. We know that the custom in this respect varies, and however desirable it may be to introduce one general form, that these variations will perhaps render it impracticable. The actual measurements of one or two villages of inconsiderable extent in different pergunnahs will enable you to obtain information with regard to the subsisting variations in the rates and rules of assessment, and possibly supply the fundamental Rules of practice; and this measure as far as you may judge it expedient we authorize you to adopt. You will also consider what articles of taxation have been introduced of late years and how far they are deemed oppressive or otherwise; and whether it may not be possible to revert to some former period in which the articles of Taxation were ascertained in order to fix upon that for the rule regarding them in future. In considering this point you will ascertain how far the abolition of the taxes subsequently introduced will affect the jama of the lands.

Every zemindar ought to have in his Cutcherry records a Nirk bunder or Rates of Assessment, specifying the proportions of the several Taxes levied upon the Ryots under his jurisdiction, and these accounts you should endeavour to procure.

After preparing the forms of the Pattahs you should propose them to the zemindars and farmers under you, in order to ascertain from them if any objections occur; and when this is the case consider the weight due to those objections, amending the form wherever it may be necessary, that if it should be determined to

adopt them no difficulties may afterwards arise to frustrate the operation of them.

The forms should be as simple as possible. We are however aware that the zemindars and ryots are in general adverse to the introduction of them, the former because it prevents oppression and affords the means of detecting it and the latter because it removes the opportunities of collusion, and at the same time gives them reason to apprehend that any fixed rules of taxation will be hereafter assumed as established data for the imposition of future articles of increase. We are also fully sensible that the task so prescribed to you is attended with many difficulties, and will require the minutest attention and application on your part to accomplish it; but the importance of the objects requires these exertions, and we trust that animated by zeal they will be attended with success.

In stating these general heads as the objects of your investigations we do not mean to confine your explanations to them only, but desire generally that you will add to them whatever information you can obtain that may in your opinion conduce to the establishment of Regulations tending to promote the success of the collections and prosperity of the country.

APPENDIX I.

THE PATNA REVENUE COUNCIL, 1770-1781.

Year.	President.	Members.
1770	James Alexander ...	George Vansittart Robert Palk.
1771	Richard Barwell ...	Ditto.
1772	Geo. Vansittart ...	Geo. Hurst. Simeon Droz. Edwd. Stephenson.
1773	Thos. Lane ...	Geo. Hurst. Edwd. Stephenson. Simeon Droz. Ewan Law. Wm. Maxwell.
1774	Thos. Lane ...	Geo. Hurst. Robert Palk. Simeon Droz. Ewan Law.
1775	Philip Milner Dac- ces.	Simeon Droz. Ewan Law. Edward Golding. Wm. Young.

Year.	President.	Members.
1776	Isaac Sage	... As in 1775.
1777	Ewan Law	... { Edward Golding. Wm. Maxwell. Wm. Young. Shearman Bird.
1779	Ewan Law	... { As above. <i>David Anderson added as supernu- merary member.</i>
1779, 1780	Ewan Law, Wm. Maxwell.	... { Wm. Maxwell. Wm. Young. Geo. Bright. Shearman Bird. Christopher Keating.

APPENDIX II.

AKBAL ALI KHAN IN KHARAKDIHA.

From GEORGE DALLAS, Acting Collector of Ramgarh, to the Committee of Revenue.

DATED KHARAKDIHA, MARCH 3, 1783.

I do myself the honour of informing you of my arrival at this place on the 1st instant, and of my having summoned the Gantwars of this district to meet me at the Cutcherry. They will all be in in a few days, at which period I will again address you on the state of this country.

In the meantime, I cannot but notice to you how much the conduct of the samindar of Nawadah (Akbal Ali Khan), has been marked by cruelty since first he rose in arms against Government. The massacre of Mr. Hotchkiss and his servants, if not immediately perpetrated by his orders, at least received his approbation, from his taking possession of his effects, and dividing them in presents among his numerous dependants. When defeated in Bihar by Captain Powel he retired into this district, which his father, Comdar Cawn, originally conquered. He presented to Adject Singh, (a rebellious Gantwar who joined him), a dress and one of Mr. Hotchkiss's horses which he captured; and as during the time when Captain Browne was stationed at Chackye he received a small donation of lands which gave him an influence in the district, he has since employed it to the introduction of disaffection among the Gantwars. These on his arrival he summoned to arm in his support; some were weak enough to obey him from inclination, others from a dread of being sacrificed to his resentment, whilst unprotected by a military force. Those who refused have felt the severest effects of his revenge. The Takoor of Dorundah has had almost every village in his country burnt

and plundered, and the inhabitants driven from thence, as I personally witnessed; on my way to this. Jaswant Deo, the renter of Satgawan, who conducted Captain Macan* to his retreats, has equally experienced the effects of his resentment. The success he met with was greatly owing to the assistance he received from Lal Mohan Mahtoo, who joined him with a body of matchlockmen, but I have the satisfaction to inform you they are both driven from the district; and as I have sent aumeens to encourage the riots to return to their lands, I have no doubt but in a few days tranquillity will be perfectly re-established, and the collections go on as heretofore.

* Captain Richard Macan, afterwards Major-General.

APPENDIX III.

JOHN SHORE'S SETTLEMENT REPORT, 1783.

To the Committee of Revenue.

Gentlemen,

The variety of objects to which I have been obliged to direct my attention since my arrival at Patna has necessarily created a delay in bringing any part of the business to a conclusion, and has prevented me laying my proceedings before you —

The principal objects of my deputation to this place were to form a new settlement and effect as far as possible the recovery of the balances. As the Settlement could not be protracted on account of the advanced state of the season without certain prejudice to the collection, I deemed it necessary to lose no time in the conclusion of it, and have now the honour to lay before you an account of the settlement and kistbundy of that part of Behar under the charge of Mr. Brooke, Mr. Bathurst, and Mr. Grand.

The principal difficulty which has occurred to me has arisen from the unfavourable state of the season. No rain has fallen for many months in any part of Behar excepting Tyrhoot; and although the lands have been perhaps better cultivated during the present than in the former years, the labours of ryots have been rendered useless from the want of rain, without which the grain could not be sown. The harvests in Behar are divided into Rabbee and Khareef. The cultivation for the former is during the month of October and to about the middle of November, and the crops are gathered in from about the 15th of March to the middle of May. The procedure of this harvest is estimated to yield about half the revenue.

The remaining half is produced from the Khureef, which is divided into two kinds, Bhadoose and Augunnee, the

former is estimated to yield 2-16ths of the Revenue and the latter the proportion of 6-16ths. The Angunnee is gathered in from November to about the 15th February.

The harvest which has principally failed from the inclemency of the season is the Angunnee; and though the want of rain has been in some measure supplied by the industry of the inhabitants in digging wells, the assistance derived from this source can only be partial.

My opinion on the state of the cultivation in this province is as much the result of my own observation as of enquiry. In common years when the seasons prove favourable the Zamindars and Farmers experience difficulty in realizing their revenues from the cheapness of grain; and this fact proves that a considerable failure may happen without materially distressing the collections; but the actual loss attending one crop of the year, with the great probability of a failure in the succeeding or Rubhee, holds out a discouragement to the Renters very unfavourable to the success of a settlement.

My time for many days after my arrival was occupied in obtaining information necessary to guide my judgment in forming the settlement; and I the more readily admitted this delay as it enabled me also to form an opinion of the seasons by which I saw that the Renters would be governed in tendering proposals for farming the Districts. I published also a general advertisement, inviting all persons to become Farmers.

Upon the proposals the settlement has been formed. Where I judged them to be advantageous to the Company and Country I did not hesitate to accept them immediately. Where they appeared otherwise, I waited for better terms, or until necessity compelled me to form a decision. Under these circumstances the settlement of the three Divisions has been made as follows:—

Rs. a. p.

Amount Settlements of the several Districts 33,34,094 10 0
 under Messrs. Brooke, Grand, and Bathurst
 for the Fusli year 1190.

	Ra. a. p.
Deduct amount struck off the settlement last year	9,578 12 0
Net Settlement of 1190	33,24,515 14 0
Settlement of 1191	31,95,513 6 15
Decrease on the settlement	1,29,002 7 5

This decrease is not merely the effect of the season but arises from other circumstances, which will be explained under their particular heads. It may be proper to remark in general that in the mehals lately held by Maha Raja Cullian Singh his excessive ill management, and the ruinous expedients he was obliged to adopt in changing his aumils several times in the course of a year for temporary considerations, which could only be recovered by severity on the ryots, has contributed to reduce the value of his mehals excessively, and to diminish the future sources of the revenues.

In those instances where I have admitted remissions in the amount of the settlement, no alternative was left but the expedient of having the lands amauny or immediately under the officers of Government. By this mode the amount of the jama would have been preserved, whilst the collection would have fallen far below it; and the ill success which has hitherto attended Amauny collections, among other reasons, influenced my determination to give the lands in farm at a reduced amount as the most advantageous to the Company.

The period for which the settlement has been concluded is for five years, but the engagements entered into by the Farmers contain the clause directed by the Governor-General and Council. It would have been impossible to have let the lands at a shorter term than three, except at the expense of concessions to near a fifth of the total revenue. All the former leases were not expired, and some of them might have been continued as they were originally settled; but I deemed it more proper to extend by reducing the whole to one period. In the following years the deficiency is progressively made up by an annual increase, and at the conclusion of the general period exceeds the present amount of the settlement.

It would have been great satisfaction to me to have preserved the Jumma at its present standard without any deduction, but it was not possible. Every mode has been employed to excite competition, but the success is not proportionable. The heavy balances during the last three years far exceed remissions granted; and even if adventurers could have been produced to stake their personal responsibility for an increased Jumma, large arrears would have accumulated at the close of the season, without the possibility of recovering them. Indeed I am sorry to observe that the expectations I formed of finding many persons of property in this city has been disappointed, and that the few acknowledged to be such are chiefly engaged in pursuits distant from any concern in the revenues.

In the mokarrary leases made by the immediate sanction of the Governor General and Council, I have not made any deviation. They bear but a small proportion to the general amount of the revenues of the province at large, and as I had no reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of the persons who hold them, and as they had fulfilled the first condition of their leases, viz., a regular payment of the demands of Government, dissolution of their engagements would have discouraged any person from becoming a renter. Neither would the Government have reaped any advantage from it beyond an addition of 20,000 rupees on the settlement of the districts in this predicament; and even this advantage must have been procured at the expense and by the industry of the tenants.

That you may yourselves judge of the propriety of the measures I have adopted, I shall now submit to you a particular account of the settlement of each district, and of the motives which guided my determination in fixing it—

HAVELY-AZIMABAD ... Jumma	Rs. ... 2,20,604
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The rents of Havelly-Azimabad partly arise from land and partly from the privilege of selling particular articles, such as liquor, red lead, gold thread and the Nekoss, or duties on the purchase and sale of cattle; it contains the following pergannas and the

following mehals, the revenue of each of which is calculated to the sum total:—

	Rs.
Perganna Havelly Azimabad	54,501
" Shawpore Manner	49,001
" Phoolwary	35,001
" Kismat Manaura	5,300
" Bykuntpore	2,801
" Shawjehanpore and Beempore	2,900
Mehal Abkari or liquors	44,000
Surb or red lead	23,000
Badela or gold thread	1,800
Nekosa or duties on cattle	1,800
Total	2,20,604

The increase which has been obtained in this district is Rs. 10,000, and the whole has been let to Mir Burkut Ulla, the renter of Hajipore. The regularity with which he paid the rents of that district for the two last years, and the character of responsibility he bears determined me to accept his proposals. I endeavoured to form the settlement of the several divisions of Havelly-Azimabad separately, in hopes of obtaining a larger jama; but I found it would be impossible to keep up the amount of the settlement of last year by this mode. This year the loss on the Abkari mehal will be considerable on account of the dearness of provisions; and in Havelly-Azimabad and Phoolwary, which are under my immediate inspection, there is a prospect of a great failure in the produce. The proposals of Mir Burkat Ulla were the highest I received; and I have no doubt but he will be a loser during the first year of his lease.

	Rs.
SICCAR SHAHABAD	Jumma 9,10,208

Under this division nine pergannas are classed; and the whole is leased to Ahmedally Khan, whose responsibility, as well as ability to manage so large a farm are known and acknowledged. The amount of the jumma is equal to what it stood at last year.

The several pergunas which he holds are as follows :—

			Ra.	a.	p.
Chynepore-Sasaram	...	...	3,86,000	0	0
			Ra.	a.	d.
Shahabad containing :—					
Bojepore	...	...	1,34,226	10	0
Avrah	...	...	1,19,601	5	5
Beyhah	...	...	96,953	1	15
Denwar and Dennara	...	...	52,207	11	10
Baraganwan	...	...	17,811	6	10
Piroo and Munnore	...	...	71,000	0	0
Powarah	...	...	32,405	0	0
			<hr/>		
			5,24,208	3	0
Total	...	...	<hr/>
			9,10,208	3	0

The renter of Chynepore-Sasaram was Mustapha Cooly Khan, the son of Rajah Cooly Khan, who held the perguna in farm for many years. Mustapha Cooly succeeded to the lease on the credit of his father's management; and as this matter has on a former occasion undergone the committee's discussion, I think it my duty to particularize the reasons which induced me to discontinue the settlement in his name.

Mustapha Cooly Khan is a boy about fourteen or fifteen years old, ignorant of all business, and incapable of transacting it. After his father's death, Jumal Ulla Beg, an old servant of the family, had the management of the farms, and regularly paid the rents of Government till he was removed on the complaints of Mustapha Cooly Khan and his mother. The latter, when Mr. Charters was at Patna, declared her entire reliance on Jumal Ulla Beg as the most confidential servant of the family. He was succeeded by Balchand and his son Munoo Lall who though they paid up the rents, during the last year borrowed on the credit of Mustapha Cooly Khan from the house of Gopal Das, the sum of Rs. 60,000 to enable them to do it. Mustapha Cooly Khan is at present wholly dissatisfied with Munoo Lall, whilst his mother wishes to support him. But neither Munoo Lall or Balchand are persons of repute or responsibility.

If a settlement had been made with Mustapha Cooly Khan, it would have been difficult to have nominated any person to the

management of the lands with the joint concurrence of himself and his mother, or even to find a proper person for the business. Munoo Lal had sufficient influence over Mustapha Cooly Khan to present proposals in his name, but required at the same time terms which would have left both the mother and son at his mercy. The real responsibility would have rested with Mustapha Cooly Khan, whilst the management and profits, if any, would have fallen to the share of Munoo Lal. The interest of Government would have suffered from this complicated system of management. I deemed it an act of justice only to release Mustapha Cooly Khan from a responsibility where he could not himself act, and where the persons employed on his part had no established reputation for either property, ability or probity.

The remaining pergunas which Ahmed Ali Khan holds formed originally the districts called Sircar Shahabad, and in their local situation are all connected together. I thought it proper to unite them as they originally stood, both on account of their situation, and because it would have been impossible to have obtained the same amount of rent had they been separately leased. The attempt was however made without success. Four of the districts, viz., Arrah, Burragawan, Bojepore and Beyhar were held last year amauny and the balance there amounts to Rs. 93,908. The proposals tendered to me separately were far below the present rate of assessment.

The leases of some of the remaining mehals in Sircar Shahabad were not entirely expired. These had been authorized by the Committee on the grounds of securing the Government revenue; but they were not at that time informed that these were the profitable, and those that remained unleased the losing, pergunas. By uniting them together the differences have been made up though upon the whole the farmer will probably lose by his engagements this year. It was not without much difficulty engaged Ahmed Ali Khan to be responsible for them.

		Rs.
CHEEKAWAN	.. Jama	49,001

This district was last year Amauny, and the amount collected from it was Rs. 47,864. The Nankar villages granted last year to Futtynarain Singh have been separated from the Revenue lands, and the amount, being Rs. 8,000, deducted from the rental of the province. The highest amount collected from it in any of the last eleven years does not exceed Rs. 68,000 (although the settlement has stood much higher), but the annual produce is still less. The jama of the present year, with the Rs. 8,000 added to it, is Rs. 57,000. A proposal was tendered to me for Rs. 50,000, but the superior characters of the present renters determined me to accept their offers in preference. This district, in order to avoid a decrease in the jama, I would have retained Amauny, had I seen prospect of realizing the revenue. In the year 1189 the collections were only Rs. 38,633, scarcely exceeding half the amount settlement. It was not in my power to enter into minute examination of the mofussil produce; but from the various enquiries I made, I had full reason to be satisfied that no management would have realized during the present year the amount of the Jumma of the last. Cherkawan is situated in the hilly parts of Behar, and is particularly exposed to suffer by the drought.

SIBIS CUTUMBAK—Jumma Rs. 1,50,000.

This district stands at the same rent as during the last year, and is let to Futte Ulla Beg, under the security of his father Jamal Ulla Beg. The latter is a man of character and knowledge of the revenues, and is esteemed to possess property. This district was let to Babber Ally Khan on a four years' lease, of which one only is expired; but as he did not discharge the balance due on his engagements within the time I prescribed to him, I did not think it proper to continue the lease with him. I have no doubt of the revenue being secure under the management of Jamal Ullah Beg, whose proposals were the highest tendered for this district.

SERBISSA—Jumma Rs. 79,000.

This pergunnah is also let to Futte Ullah Beg, under the security of Jamal Ullah Beg, at as high a rate as could be obtained, and at a Jumma exceeding that of the former year by Rs. 5,494.

SANDAH BELLAR—Jumma Rs. 51,001.

This pergunnah is let to the same person who held it during the last two years, and paid the rents with regularity. His lease was not expired, but in consideration of its being extended to a further period, he agreed to pay an annual increase of Rs. 2,668-14-5.

NEERHAUT SAMOY—Jumma Rs. 1,05,000.

The remissions on the amount settlement of this district are proportionally more than in any other, and the Jumma is something less than the amount of the collections last year. I did not consent to it till after every method had been tried to obtain a larger revenue from responsible people. The security is Roy Mohan Lal, who has been employed in most parts of this province without discredit to his management, and had in Bengal a very considerable charge under the Committee. After the engagement had been concluded with him, which was not till I had been here five weeks, Bunder Ally Khan, who had been invested with the charge of the district by the Chief of Patna, tendered to me proposals with an increase of Rs. 15,000 on the offers made by the present farmer; and if he would have procured a responsible security, I should not have hesitated to accept them, as Roy Mohan Lal was willing to give up his engagements. Bunder Ally Khan is not esteemed a man of property; and as I have every reason to believe that the amount of his engagements could not be realized from the produce of the district, the deficiency would have fallen upon Government. In fact, his proposals were accompanied with a request for an advance of Taccavy, which would have reduced the jumma to its present amount. This opinion was not founded upon conjecture, but upon an inspection of the mofussil accounts. According to these, the Toydad, or assets for the present year do not exceed the sum of Rs. 1,18,600, out of which, exclusive of the charges of collection, the Government are to receive Rs. 1,05,000 and Rojunadars or pensioners are entitled to established allowances of about Rs. 6,000 per annum. These accounts may be deemed inaccurate; they are, however, corroborated by others obtained from the Canungoes, and by the refusal of any person of property to engage for the rents on the same terms although I pressed to undertake it.

The decline of the pergunnah is to be dated from the disturbances committed in it by Akbal Ally Khan in 1189, many of the ryots having in consequence deserted it, and never returned. From its situation and the nature of its soil, it is particularly exposed to suffer from the inclemency of the season.

The NUZZERANA HOLLONDIZE is still retained as an article in the jumma, though at present merely nominal. This was paid by the Dutch, whilst they were in possession of a factory here; but since that has been taken possession of by the English, the collections have no longer existed. I think it would be proper to strike the amount from the jumma.

SUNNOTE—Jumma Rs. 3,40,000.

This district has been let to Cullub Ally Beg. He is not esteemed to possess considerable property; but on a reference to the public records, I found that he had been employed, both as Farmer and Sezawal, in many parts of Behar, particularly in the districts he now holds, and had constantly fulfilled his engagements. His general character as an Aumil is that of being indulgent to all the inferior renters and ryots, but strict with the zamindars; and this account of him determined me to accept his proposals rather than those of others whose characters were less established.

The deduction which has taken place in the jumma of this District is small, being only Rs. 11,681; and the present amount which Cullub Ally Beg has agreed to pay is in my opinion as much as the district will yield during the present year, and greatly exceeds the amount ever collected from it during the last twelve years. In 1187 Fussily the amount of the settlement was Rs. 2,75,681, and an increase of 76,000 was at once put upon it by Cullyan Singh; and this circumstance involved the zamindar Meterjeet Singh in those losses which he sustained, and which are particularized in the Committee's proceedings.

Meterjeet Singh was willing to have undertaken the management of his own pergunnah, on the same terms he before failed to perform. He did not, however, appear to me more capable of the business at present than he was at a more favourable period. His private circumstances are also much involved, and there is

probability that the rents of Government would have been applied by him to satisfy the demands of his private creditors, if they had been entrusted to his management.

PBLITCH AND BEHAR—Jumma Rs. 1,08,000.

These are two of the districts which have suffered by the mismanagement of Raja Cullyan Singh. The aumils which he nominated to the charge of them were successively changed four or five times in the course of the year, by which the cultivation of the country was entirely neglected, and the Ryots induced to desert it. It was many weeks before I could engage any person to agree for the rents of it; and even at a more favourable period Mr. Bathurst could obtain no proposals beyond the present amount Joysing Roy, who is the security of the Farmer, and the person with whom the real responsibility rests, has been often employed as an aumil, and has discharged the trust reposed in him with credit.

GUYASPORE—Jumma Rs. 65,001.

This pergunnah is let to Shere Afgan Khan at a decrease of Rs. 2,190. His proposals were the highest tendered to me; and as I had reason from enquiry to believe him a man of responsibility, I did not hesitate to enter into engagements with him.

ARWAL MUSSORAH—Jumma Rs. 82,000.

The renter of this district is Ahmudally Khan. He was invested with the charge of it before my arrival; but the engagements he made were conditional only, being subject to the approbation of the Committee. The Deduction on the settlement is Rs. 8,001, but the produce of the country is so unequal to the discharge of the jumma as it now stands that Ahmudally Khan wished to relinquish it. I would have complied with his request if any responsible person would have engaged for the Farm at the same rate, but this could not be effected. I therefore confirmed the engagements he had concluded with Mr. Bathurst. The same remarks apply to pergunnah Ekyll, held by Mahomed Ruffee in the name of Emdad Ally. The remission on this is more considerable, being Rs. 17,001 on a jumma of Rs. 67,001, but from every enquiry into the produce and state of the district, it appears that

no sum beyond the present jumma could be realized by any alteration in the mode of the settlement.

RUTTY GUESUND—Jumma Rs. 52,179.

This jumma is the highest in any of many proposals tendered to me for this pergunnah. The deduction is Rs. 3,179, and is made up in the two subsequent years. The renters are men of ability and have been employed with credit before.

MALDA ZILLA KOOSRAH—Jumma Rs. 13,001.

This is the same amount as in the settlement of the preceding year; no Jumma could be obtained; the renter Gourpersaud is a man of property.

SHERGOTTY—Jumma Rs. 53,001.

The deduction upon the preceding jumma is 11,001 rupees and it was with difficulty I prevailed upon the zamindar to accede to pay the above amount. The settlement made in the pergunnah exceeds that fixed by me by a sum scarce equal to the expense of the collections, in which appointment of a sezawal is included.

Shergotty is situated amongst the hills; and the zamindar as well as the ryots in general, are of the Patan tribe. His influence over them is extensive, and would probably operate to the prejudice of any Farmer to whom the district should be given in charge. It has at the same time been found necessary to place a Sezawal over the zamindar, to check and control him and prevent any embezzlement of the collections.

SIROAB TERHOOT—Jumma Rs. 2,90,181-14-0.

The settlement of Terhoot was made with the zamindar for the period of five years, of which only two have expired. His balance having been adjusted, as I shall explain you hereafter, I have continued him in charge of the collections at the same rate for the present year, and a future increase for the remaining period of his lease.

HAZREPORE—Jumma Rs. 11,55,517.

This district contains the Pergunas :—

				Rs.
Hazrepore	...	...	...	61,234
Tappa Murwa	...	...	...	32,001
Balagatch	...	...	...	22,282

The whole was formerly given to Sadooram on a Mokeraree tenure which was made over by him to Meer Burkut Ullah. This transaction took place with the concurrence of the former Chief of Patna, Mr. Maxwell, and obtained his sanction, which he gave on a sunnud dated July 10th, 1781. I did not deem this transaction valid in itself, as it does not appear to have been confirmed, and received proposals for the Farm of this district. Some of these offered an increase of three thousand rupees beyond the amount offered by Burkut Ullah; but as he had paid his rents regularly and the country had been improved by him, I deemed it more for the interest of Government to confirm Burkut Ullah in possession of the district. His former punctuality in completing his engagements may be deemed a fair argument in proof of his responsibility.

BISSARAH AND KUSHMAR—Jumma Rs. 2,17,001.

These districts were let last year to Akbul Ally Khan. As there was a balance upon his engagements, which he was not ready to pay, I did not think it proper to continue him in possession thereof, but accepted the proposals made me by Kirparam an old inhabitant of Tirhoot.

I advertised to receive proposals for these two pergunnahs separately but no person would agree to pay the present amount of the revenues of Bissarah, which is unable to yield the amount assessed upon it. By joining them together the deficiency of one district is made up by the profits of another. With respect to Kirparam, I thought it necessary to apply to Mr. Grand for his character, who acquainted me in answer that Kirparam had been employed as Naib to his father during five years he had charge of his district of Bissarah, and that from the personal knowledge he had of his character, ability, and experience, he would readily pledge himself that the annual revenue will be realized. This information induced me to accept the proposals tendered by him.

The following districts are held upon MOKARARI tenures, in which, for the reasons I have already assigned, I made no alteration :—

				Rs.
Tilhera	...	...	...	75,001
Talook of Davy Singh	...	...	...	21,231
Havily Rotas	...	...	...	12,613
Guidore	...	...	...	3,940
Rajageer	...	...	...	26,002
Mulka Baleah	...	...	...	66,000
Bessowak	...	...	...	28,001
				<hr/>
			Total	2,32,788
				<hr/>

The following mehals stand from year to year at the same amount of rent :—Dehut Serhekun, Lesleegunge, and Bakergunge, and the Jagheer of Ismail Kooly Khan.

The Settlement of the Districts under Mr. Graeme is not yet completed, but will, I hope, in a few days.

With respect to the recovery of the balances, I shall soon lay a statement of them before you, and address you particularly on the subject, as well as upon other matters relating to the province in general. Though the settlement has principally engaged my attention, I have not lost sight of the other objects of my deputation.

I shall be very happy to find that my proceedings here meet with your approbation. I have only to assure you nothing has been left unattempted by me to promote and secure the Company's interest in this province.

I have the honour, etc.

JOHN SHORE.

PATNA :

December 5th, 1783.

APPENDIX IV.

THOMAS LAW'S MUKARRARI PLAN OF SETTLEMENT.

From THOMAS LAW, Collector of Bihar, to the Board of Revenue,
Calcutta.

(i)

JANUARY 17TH, 1788.

By the enclosed copy of my addresses to the President, it appears that the Patna Council first gave an established value to the semindari tenure in Bihar, which being previous thereto indefinite under a Despotie Government, we have in vain laboured and tried to ascertain.*

It now behoves me to submit my sentiments upon the best mode of raising a Land Revenue.

With the experience of other nations and the remarks of former Legislators, the present Government are free to select the simplest and securest system.

In Great Britain the Land Tax was a voluntary assessment, and many subsequent plans have been in vain suggested to equalize it. Montesquien and the wisest politicians have evinced that while Government varies its demand in proportion to the improvement or decay of different districts, industry is damped and land loses its value.

Upon the present farming system Government's Land Tax is exposed to fluctuation and diminution, as it entirely relies upon the management of the Collectors and Farmers, and the knowledge of human nature will dictate the probable chances in favour or against Government :—

First.

If Abilities and Integrity are
combined with indolence.

The country suffers and
the revenue falls.

Secondly.

If Integrity is accompanied ...
with Inability.

Ditto.

* Law here refers to the proceedings of November 5th, 1770 ; see page 11 above.

Thirdly,

If Abilities are ill-directed

The Country suffers and
Revenue falls.*Fourthly.*If Abilities, Integrity, and
Activity unite.Success must be the con-
sequence.

This calculation which experience extorts from me will not, I trust, risque an ungenerous imputation, since the History of every Nation will confirm it.

Pursuant to your Directions under date the 20th February, I am with all possible punctuality preparing the account required of the numerous transfers in landed property since the acquisition of the Company's Dewanny; but the possessors varying even whilst recording, little can be expected from an Investigation so complex and extensive.

The great object is to secure property and to create confidence, as far as human nature will admit; for after indulging the most benevolent speculations, inevitable casualties will require temporary extraordinary assessments. These however when impartially levied are easily defrayed by an improved country.

Permit me first to solicit your perusal of the accompanying statement of Pergunnah Coosra rented last year at 13,000 rupees; and if properly drawn out, I will obtain a similar one for each Pergunnah.

I recommend that each village be distinctly assessed, some now too heavily to be lightened, and others equitably increased. From my knowledge of this Pergunnah and the improvements by my saxawal I am of opinion that Coosra may always easily pay 25,000 rupees per annum.

With your sanction I will allot it out, and where waste lands cannot be properly taxed these shall remain as Crown Lands, till increased wealth and population create proposals for their quit-rent.

Where Zemindars hold their own village all is plain; but where they refuse the quit-rent allotment, they will receive their 1—10th malikana, which is an indulgent and permanent compensation.

When Government thus fix and publish the Land Tax of each village the Canongoes are rendered useless. That and the Chowdry's Office originated in suspicion, for where demands are *ad libitum* numerous checks must be provided against the Collectors which by burthening the cultivators with expense, diminishes their payments of Revenue.

The farming system has been the ruin of this country. One man alone can be aggrandized in each Pergunnah; but too frequently by endeavouring to obtain the Zemindari rights and seavelling under-rents he ruins himself and injures the Revenue, alienates land, and involves in labored ambiguity the 'moffussil' collections. Whereas if Government determining the Rights of Zemindars from the year 1771 without further retrospection resolved upon a fixed rent Roll of each Pergunnah all would be plain and sure. The Collectors could not exact more, and as the Land would be answerable the Revenue would be certain.

The wealthy and creditable would become competitors for Moccurrey Tenures and by emulous improvement from self-interest encourage the Ryots.

How many men in neighbouring countries exposed to the ravages of war and oppression would bring their Capital into these Provinces to purchase the Moccurrey of those whom folly or extravagance obliged to sell.

Where large Zemindars are at present Renters, I would avoid minute investigation, and only cause them to apportion the groes, Jumma upon their several villages, which might be privately disposed of by themselves or publicly sold for arrears, liable to the specified Rent. If great families fall, and others rise on their ruin in the natural Revolutions of time and chance; it will not affect either the Credit or Revenue of our Government.

Landed property will become more equally divided; Individuals will vie in Buildings, Dress, etc.; Manufactures will revive;

The dangerous influence of feudal Rajas and Nawabs will be dispersed;

All Ranks will cheerfully acquiesce in any temporary Tax for defending their valuable possessions.

Fearful to be too prolix, though conciseness on so enlarged a Topic might have occasioned obscurity, I shall deem myself flattered if required to explain.

(ii)

OCTOBER 4TH, 1788.

I had the honour to address you under date the 17th January 1788, submitting a succinct account of my mukarrari plan. With the flattering sanction of your authority I have adopted it in the parganas Nurhut-Samoy, Pilich, Behar, Malda, and Coosera, where the farmers had failed.

In allotting the portion of the gross Jumma or Revenue upon the several villages, I experienced a facility beyond my expectations, from the ready proposals of every class of natives; the zamindars reviving at the hope of emancipation from vexatious temporary farmers, and men of property rejoicing at the idea of extrication from distressful fluctuating uncertainty: for by the former system, the rights of inferior landholders were left insecure and confusion occasioned; which, while it harassed the honest, creditable and prudent, promoted the knavish, indigent and desperate.

To elucidate the arguments in favour of the mokarrari system, I have contrasted the result of the two modes of farming and mokarrari under their respective heads.

Farming.

Mokarrari or

Hereditary Estates with fixed rents.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. The first and most immediate consideration of Government rests on individuals, and at present none of property remain; consequently losses must occur by deaths, embezzlement, and mismanagement.</p> | <p>The security of Government is in land, and therefore can never fail.</p> |
| <p>2. The second and most material consideration is the future effect towards improvement; and it is evident that every year diminishes confidence, the lease verging to a conclusion.</p> | <p>Every year increases confidence by length of possession.</p> |

Farming.

Mokarrari or
Hereditary Estates with fixed rents.

3. No man can build, dig wells, plant trees, etc., or improve a village, lest the Amils should proportionably assess him. If a scarcity happens, farmers avariciously aggravate it into a famine, their interest being in the crop only. . . .
4. Farmers entice foreigners, who come with property, to rent, that they may obtain it, and thus others are deterred from coming. Unless by renting, how are they to support themselves, commerce having been hitherto monopolised ?
5. Amils and farmers alienate lands under various denominations, either from bribery or charity. Perhaps they are furtively secreted from a subsequent negligent amil : but when an abler one succeeds they are resumed. To avoid this, subadars have taxed the revenue with establishments and pensions.
6. A farmer takes a whole or several parganas, including marked duties, etc., without any specification of the villages. Government therefore is totally prevented from interior arrangements during the lease.
- Every man will lay out money in permanent structures, as such works enhance the value of his estate, and promise future benefit. If a scarcity happens, the landholders will forego demands and encourage cultivation to preserve their tenants, who become a part of their necessary property.
- A foreigner can come and purchase villages with a certainty of the profit above the fixed rent. If he knows a manufacture, he may establish it on his own estate, or increase his ground rent by encouraging manufacturers to build their works, previously settling for a determined sum.
- Under the feudal Mogul Government, lands allotted to religious edifices and colleges were deemed sacred, and the rulers supported them by donations. Under our Government, both these sources are stopped and they have consequently decayed. Upon a mokarrari system the proprietors may endow these estates by bequest, without any loss of revenue to Government, the villages being liable to the fixed rent, and the surplus produce only transferred.
- By this system each village and the number of bighas are ascertained ; all illegal alienations are easily discovered, and will become an addition to the present revenue. As the wealth of a nation arises from commerce, which depends upon the

Farming.**Mokarrari or**

Hereditary Estates with fixed rent.

proper modification of the gunge!

I have therefore excluded them from the mokarraris for any future reform.

When a zamindar farms his own country, if he falls in arrears he must either be ousted in toto or a portion of his zamindari sold; but no rent is ascertained. Indeed purchasers cannot be found to buy land which can only be valuable by calculating the certain expenses and probable profits.

By this plan, village by village may be sold to liquidate a balance, and there will be competitors for the purchase; for the fixed revenue being published, and the extent of bighas known, the active and industrious will rely upon profit from surplus collections.

8. If a farmer absconds or is imprisoned, should he not have liquidated malikana, Government are bound in justice to the landholders to defray the arrears from the Treasury, the farmer being only a delegate. Thus in addition to balances, sums must be refunded.

The zamindar will never fail to receive his malikana, the estate being answerable.

9. A farmer is harassed by claims and the zemindars distressed by necessary suits, the malikana varying with the produce after deducting expenses; both which are ample subjects of dispute, and difficulty of proof.

The malikana being calculated upon Government jama can never vary, and in time either the zamindar will purchase the mokarrari or the mokarraridar will purchase the malikana.

10. The Dewani Adalat is at present distinct from the Nizamat, because the strict administration of justice would injure Government's revenue, and such is the complication of the latter system, that a separate Code is formed, and all the unceasing exertions of a separate Board, with the vigilant superintendence of the

The revenue Adalat will be useless, one indiscriminate Court of justice will decide impartially every question by one rule of right, without any nice distinctions of revenue and private property, or complaints that the justice of Civil Courts is ruinous to the collections. The Hon'ble Governor-General in Council will be enabled also to direct the helm of

Farming.

Hon'ble Governor-General in Council are requisite to keep the machine in motion.

11. Sales of zamindaris unless by permission from the Board are prohibited, lest farmers should be collusively defrauded of their revenue by zamindars alienating their property. Thus the estates are clogged and rendered of little value by the difficulty of raising money upon them.
12. Native officers are forbidden to have any concern in farms from the opportunities afforded by farming to defraud Government, and the necessity of the times will not admit of adequate allowance.
13. Farmers to prevent embezzlements of revenue make the instalments of under-renters heavy at the beginning of the year, and are rigid in exacting payment.
14. The farmer in under-renting adds his expenses, establishment, probable losses, if not immoderate gains, to Government's revenue, and forms his settlement thereby, and not upon the assets of the pargana; where persons refuse to accept his demands for a village, he deputed a Sazawal or Overseer with harcara etc., to collect his portion of the crop from every raiyat, and spares not even garden fruits.
15. The number of officers to watch the farmer, and to keep the par-

Mokarrari or Hereditary Estates with fixed rent.

administration unperplexed by interior detail.

Government may safely authorize zamindars to dispose of their estates. No loss can accrue; the estate being answerable for the instalments, changes can only be beneficial: for the ignorant, extravagant, or indigent will sell to the able, prudent, or wealthy who will improve the lands and add to the stock of labour.

Mokarrari estates will only render the officers more trustworthy; and as the country becomes flourishing, offices under Government will be solicited more for the honor than salary.

Government having the land for security, may allow equal instalments, and thus enable the proprietors to sell their grain &c., advantageously.

The Collector forms his settlement by the preceding one of the farmer, but upon a mukarrari system he may subtract the Amil's expenses, probable losses and estimated gains. I calculate that the pargana charges upon revenue amount to about twenty-five per cent.; and how much easier and simpler is it to apportion each village with revenue after a saving of at least half the above charges.

Upon a mukarrari system the rent roll may be printed; thus each man knows

Farming.

gana accounts are excessive; these are however useless. For instance Kanungoes have sold, mortgaged, and divided their allowance, consequently they are a burthen without service.

16. The farming at first view is simple, yet subsequent intricacies are innumerable. If the farmer dies, falls in arrear etc., a new Aumil must be appointed, and the former one's accounts must be taken; with every Aumil therefore the Collector has to take the confused pargana accounts, and to adjust questions of peculiar difficulty; for instance, whether the engagements of the former Aumil are to be annulled. If answered in the affirmative the new renter is to alter and infringe every agreement; if in the negative, the new renter is liable to the frauds of former servants, forgery of leases, etc.; in either way Government ultimately suffers.

7. The farmers by over taxing the most valuable articles:—cotton, sugarcane, opium & c., which pay in coin so much per bigha, have lessened that cultivation; and the raiyats prefer planting rice which is deliverable in kind, for if the farmer demands more than his proportion, the raiyats refuse to cut it down, and steal enough for subsistence, leaving the remainder to rot on the ground.

Mokarrari or
Hereditary Estates with fixed rent.

the exact sum he has to pay, and no additional officers are required to keep these records.

The mokarrari system may seem difficult, yet the minutiae are plain and easy, and no future trouble can occur, more particularly in large zamin-daris, the proprietor only having to allot the gross jama of Government upon his villages. Where large estates prevail a settlement may at once be formed without any change or difficulty; the gross kistebandi of each pargana will be monthly transmitted as at present, without the rent roll subdivisions, which form the Collectors' detail.

The mokarraridars having small estates the raiyats can readily remove from one to another; thus oppression will be prevented. Moreover self-interest will promote emulative encouragement by lowering the high rates of the finest produce, and this country may annually export an increasing quantity of rich commodities to bring back specie, of which it has been so long drained. In Nurhut Samoy, under a Sazawal in one year I have increased sugar-cane from

Farming.

Mokarrari of

Hereditary Estates with fixed rent.

one hundred to one thousand bighas, and in Coosera from ten to two hundred; circumstances which being liable to the remark of self praise, I should have omitted, were they not so forcibly convincing.

18. If an enemy invades the country farmers uniformly with hold their revenue, which creates manifold inconveniences. Perhaps too, some will clandestinely assist the enemy, as for instance they joined the Company's arms, and caused an easy acquisition of our present territory. Having nothing to lose, the farmer must often be induced at the trepidation of a critical balance to rebel first, with a view to embezzlement under the existing Government, and, secondly of exalting himself with the successful revolutionists.

The landholders will fear for their estates, assist with Loans, and cordially co-operate to expel the enemy. Self interest is the vital principle of all well-regulated states, and those subjects are most solicitous for its preservation who have most to lose.

19. Lastly the farming system occasions future inconveniences, anarchy, and deceleration of millions of native subjects, and precariousness of possession to our Government.

The mokarrari system founds, on a permanent basis, the future security, prosperity and happiness of the natives and ensures stability.

Fearful of prolixity I have omitted minuter differences, if not weighty considerations, for amongst so many objects which crowd upon the view, the judgement is embarrassed to select the essential. The same cause has deterred me from quotations from the ablest Authors to corroborate my sentiments. Turkey is a shocking example of the farming system, and Great Britain a happy contradistinction; Scotland which has flourished since the union by annihilation of the feudal tenures, vassalage, etc., has improved rapidly; and that country has lately afforded a striking proof of

the opposite effects of the two plans. The hereditary estates were flourishing, whilst, as Mr. Dundas observed, the Crown forfeitures under factors were everywhere distinguishable by their desolation and sterility; and this argument caused their restoration to their ancient holders.

Should my superiors approve of my settlement of these parganas with a view to disseminate confidence, and expedite a similar one universally, corrected pattas might be printed in Calcutta, the vacancies for names and sums filled up from the Collector's rent-roll, and the deed signed and sealed by the Hon'ble Governor General in Council. Such a form would prevent forgeries and give a value to the tenure; for this purpose I have the honour to enclose a copy of the pattas granted by me this year.

A few subsidiary rules will be requisite to perfect the system but I forbear to obtrude them, till the truth or fallacy of its principle is ascertained; indeed I feel it more incumbent on me to vindicate my present presumption, than further to abuse your patience.

A long and painful observation of the farming evils, which have gradually dwindled great families into the commonalty, diminished rich cultivation, and exhausted the country; and a subsequent war which has not only drained the resources of public credit, but the hoards of individuals, induced me to reflect upon the subject.

Within these five years of peace and economy the burthens of Government are but little alleviated, and the country scarce perceptibly improved. From whence are future armaments to be supplied unless by the riches of native subjects? Should a drought happen, where are the stores of grain for their subsistence? Neither will sheds be raised to shelter cattle, or barns built to preserve corn, whilst possession is precarious.

May the calamities of war and famine be long averted; but as they must occur in the course of events, some a meliorated system is necessary to provide against them.

Encouraged by the energy of the present administration, and impressed with a full conviction of British interests depending upon the adoption of best measures, it were culpable to have suppressed my sentiments at this crisis.

ANNEXURE.

I,, take lease (thika), of, mauza #..... of which the area is bighas, for rupees sikka with effect from the 1196 Fasli, excluding sayer and gunj duties. I promise to pay the revenue of the said mauza, year by year, according to the kistbandi.

If any persons establish their claim to the milkiat of the said village I will yearly pay malikana of ten per cent. of the *jama* to them and to their heirs according to their respective shares.

If in any year expenses are incurred by Government for protection of the country or other causes, I agree to pay an additional tax, raised in proportion to my *jama*, to meet the expenditure.

If there be any dispute regarding the boundary of the said *auza* and its area be decreased, I will claim no deduction from Government.

If there be any civil commotion, or I incur expenses in consequence of any civil suit, or if there be any natural calamities, it will not in any way concern Government, nor is Government concerned in the expenses of cultivation.

The fixed land revenue specified in this covenant is recoverable from me, or my heirs, or by sale of the village.

If there be any engagements in money or kind with the raiyats I will collect no *abwab* beyond the amount fixed in the patta; if any person absconds or dies without heirs, his property will vest in Government, not in me.

I shall be liable to pay without excuses for raising embankments or cutting water-courses in my village, and bear a share proportionate to my *jama* where they jointly benefit my own and other villages.

I agree that this settlement be permanent, if the Gentlemen of the Honourable East India Company consent to it; otherwise this covenant is for one year only and is liable to be cancelled at the end of it.

(iii)

OCTOBER 24TH, 1783.

I was duly honored with your instructions under date the 19th August last for the settlement of 1196 Fasli and conformably thereto have continued all the renters who had liquidated their Revenue punctually and given security.

Their leases being only for one year I adopted your recommended forbearance in not requiring an increase, for that would have only alarmed them against the proposed ten years farm, and

offered a plea for injuring the parganas at the end of this year. Indeed Government could expect no less, for men so forewarned would naturally make the most of the last year and, doubtful of the future, endeavour to leave their deposit less tempting for other bidders. I was however particularly influenced by the present deficiency of rain, added to a general loss of one-half of the ploughing cattle in this district.

The Nekhcss and surb mahals are suspended, pursuant to your orders. Both were monopolies; and the abolition of these injurious mahals were a politic and humane measure.

Lesliegunj being alienated from Bakergunj occasions a deduction of 1,500 rupees.

In the abkarry or wine monopoly I have been obliged to allow a deduction of 10,000 rupees, as the late arrangement of Collectorships has transferred the residence of many inhabitants from the city to the districts.

Nurhut Samoy, Pelich, Maldah, Behar and Coosra I have stated at the settlement of last year, being amani, and the surplus collections shall be brought to credit at the end of the year. The present unfavourable season prevented a greater increase; when however the balances of 1194 in these parganas are adverted to I trust gentlemen, that you will rather be surprised that the settlement is so much than that it is no more.

If the mokarraries are confirmed there cannot be an anna balance and the natives will enrich the country by their exertions. "A farmer", say they, "will not extend his length of lease to us, but grant a shorter one and subsequently raise demands upon us in proportion to our improvement, which if we refuse he devotes to a desperate high-bidder or a merciless servant the fruits of our industry. We can now borrow money, cattle, and seed of bankers, having landed security to offer, and who will be backward to labour when the profit is their own? The soil will return twenty grains for one, who will not lend at such interest? Should Government hesitate to grant us sanads, we shall nevertheless be grateful for the removal of intermediate farmers, and though the suspense prohibits building, yet confiding

in a humane administration we will by increased cultivation endeavour to obtain the reward of confirmation, and evince by exertion that we are not undeserving of kindness. ”

I could not have expected a more flattering effect of my plan than the foregoing promises from the mokarraridars ; but ere the paragraph was copied, many actually put profession in practice, by granting their raiyats an addition of one-eighth on division of crop, or a deduction of two annas per rupee upon their pattahs, and several much more. I have therefore the pleasure to conclude a letter commenced in the Diffidence of Theory with the Confidence of Proof.

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