

EAST INDIA (RETIRED OFFICERS, &c.).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 25 March 1858;—for,

COPIES “ of the DESPATCH addressed by the Court of Directors to the Government of *India*, on the 3d day of September 1856, and of the Letter addressed to Her Majesty’s Government, regarding the Advantages held out to RETIRED OFFICERS of the INDIAN ARMIES on settling in Her Majesty’s Colonies; and of the REPLY received to it, referred to in the above-mentioned Despatch.”

“ And, of the MILITARY LETTER from the Government of *India*, dated 5th day of October 1857 (98 and 99), and its accompanying Reports from the several Local Governments, on the Project of holding out Advantages to EUROPEAN OFFICERS and SOLDIERS, Retired or Discharged, to settle in *India*.”

East India House, }
28 March 1858. }

J. D. DICKINSON,
Secretary.

MILITARY LETTER to India, dated 3 September 1856, No. 140.

1. WE forward to you copy of a communication addressed by us to Her Majesty’s Government, on the subject of the advantages held out to retired officers of the Indian armies on settling in Her Majesty’s colonies, together with the copy of a reply we have received from the Colonial Office on the subject.

2. In reference to this correspondence, we are desirous that you should take into consideration whether it may not be practicable and desirable to hold out advantages to officers and soldiers retired or discharged from the Indian armies, who from their age and circumstances may be qualified as settlers, to induce them to settle in those localities in India which may, after due inquiry, be deemed best adapted to Europeans. We desire to have your views upon this subject as soon as possible.

Sir,

East India House, 9 May 1856.

1. WITH reference to the announcement made in the despatch to the Government of India, dated the 5th December last, I have the honour to forward copy of the communication from that Government, to which the despatch above referred to replies, on the subject of retired officers of the East India Company’s service not being allowed a remission of purchase money in the purchase of Crown lands on settling in New South Wales.

No. 166, para. 4,
dated 11 August
1856.

2. The advantages enjoyed by Her Majesty’s retired officers, with respect to the purchase of Crown lands in the colonies, were offered by Her Majesty’s Government to the retired officers of the East India Company’s armies in the year 1836. The offer originated in a desire expressed by the Governor of Western Australia, that the settlement of such officers in the colony under his government should be encouraged. The boon thus offered was announced to the armies by the Government of India in general orders, and its advantages were enjoyed by the Company’s officers from this date until 1847, when they were withdrawn from them. These advantages have since been restored, so far as regards the colonies of Van Diemen’s Land and Western Australia.

3. In forwarding this communication, I am instructed by the Court of Directors to express their hope that the present may be deemed a fitting occasion for a re-consideration

of the subject by Her Majesty's Government, with the view of restoring to the officers of the Indian armies the advantages of obtaining a remission in the purchase of land, on settling in Her Majesty's colonies generally, which they enjoyed from the year 1838 to 1847, thus removing any distinction in this respect between the officers of Her Majesty, and those of the Company.

To the Secretary, India Board.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James C. Melvill*, Secretary.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 June 1856.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, with its enclosures, calling attention to the disadvantage at which retired officers of the East India Company's service are placed, as compared with those of Her Majesty's forces, in not being allowed, on becoming settlers in the colonies, similar advantages in respect of the acquisition of land.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, that Mr. Labouchere is prepared at once to extend the advantages thus enjoyed by Queen's officers to the officers of the East India Company, so far as the colonies of Western Australia and Natal are concerned, and that he will communicate with Sir Henry Ward, the Governor of Ceylon, as regards the expediency of including that colony in the arrangement.

With respect to New South Wales, to which you particularly refer, and the colonies of Victoria and New Zealand, I am to inform you that the control over the waste lands of the Crown in those colonies has been transferred by Parliament, any enactments to the local legislatures, and that the same is about to take place in South Australia; and consequently, that, although the advantages hitherto held out to officers of Her Majesty's service are still obtainable in those colonies, until the local legislatures may think fit to make other provision, the Secretary of State has no power to extend those advantages to other applicants.

The same observation applies to the Cape of Good Hope, where the control over the waste lands of the Crown has also been recently surrendered to the local Government. Mr. Labouchere will transmit to the respective Governors a copy of your letter, in order that they may take such steps as they may think advisable.

To Sir G. Clerk.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Ball*.

EXTRACT Military Letter from Bengal (No. 259), dated 5 October 1857.

Cons., 6 February 1857, Nos. 64, 65. Cons., 6 March 1857, Nos. 98. As requested in your Honourable No. 68. Cons., 17 April 1857, Nos. 116, 118. Cons., 15 May 1857, Court's letter (No. 140) dated the 3d September 1856, we have now the honour to No. 46. Cons., 4 September 1857, Nos. 295-297.

transmit the reports of the several local Governments on the project of holding out advantages to European officers and soldiers, retired or discharged, to settle in India.

99. The reports, it will be observed, are not favourable to such a project.

EXTRACT Fort William Military Consultation of 6 February 1857.

No. 64.

No. 2408.

From Captain *H. R. James*, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab, to Colonel *R. J. H. Birch*, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William.

Sir,

General.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 840) of the 30th ultimo, together with copy of one in the Military Department from the Honourable the Court of Directors (No. 140), of 3d September last, regarding the practicability of holding out advantages to retired officers and soldiers desirous of settling in suitable localities in India.

2. The Chief Commissioner desires me to state, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-general in Council, that there is no arable land available in the mountainous districts of the Punjab within British territory; indeed, there is not sufficient for the native population; and in the greater part of those

RETIRED OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN ARMIES. 2

those tracts the best land is in the valleys, where the climate is more or less insalubrious.

3. I am to add that, in the Chief Commissioner's judgment, little could be done, even by good agriculturists, without considerable capital.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. R. James,*
Officiating Secretary.

Lahore, 15 November 1856.

No. 4.

No. 65.

From Major *A. P. Phayre*, Commissioner of Pegu and Agent to the Governor-general, to Colonel *R. J. H. Birch*, c.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William.

Sir,

In answer to your letter (No. 841), dated 30th October 1856, transmitting copy of military letter (No. 140 of 1856), dated 3d September 1856, from the Honourable the Court of Directors, and requesting my opinion as to the practicability of holding out advantages to officers or soldiers retired or discharged from service to settle in Pegu, I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that though Pegu is a healthy country, waste land plentiful, and to be had on advantageous terms, yet the province cannot be expected to attract Europeans as colonists; i. e. induce them to settle down with their families, and employ themselves personally in agricultural pursuits.

Military.

2. If they are men of capital they could take grants of land, especially in the northern parts of the province; but labour is so very high, that they would certainly have to lay out very considerable sums in importing labourers.

3. On the whole, I am decidedly of opinion that, except for capitalists who can command the labour of others, there is no field for the occupation of waste land in Pegu by Europeans.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. P. Phayre,*
Commissioner of Pegu and Agent
to the Governor-general.

Pegu, Commissioner's Office, Camp Yaigoo,
9 January 1857.

EXTRACT Fort William Military Consultation of 6 March 1857.

No. 68.

No. 943 of 1857.

From *C. B. Thornhill*, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, to Colonel *R. J. H. Birch*, c.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Lieutenant-governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 222), dated the 6th February 1857, on the subject of granting lands to officers or soldiers who may retire from the service and desire to settle in India.

Revenue

2. In reply I am desired to state, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, that the reply of this Government is deferred pending the receipt of the report of the Commissioner of Kumaon, whose attention has again been called to the subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. B. Thornhill,*
Officiating Sec. to the Govt. N. W. P.

Head Quarters, Camp,
2 March 1857.

4 PAPERS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF

EXTRACT Fort William Military Consultation of 17 April 1857.

No. 116.

No. 1603 of 1857.

From *R. C. Oldfield*, Esquire, Assistant Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to Colonel *R. J. H. Birch*, c. b., Secretary to the Government of India in the Military Department.

Sir,

Revenue Department.

In continuation of Mr. Officiating Secretary Thornhill's letter, No. 943, dated 2d instant, relative to grants of lands to retired officers or soldiers, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, copy of two reports on the subject, as noted in the margin,* from the Commissioners of Meerut and Kumaon, and to state that the Lieutenant-governor concurs in the tenor of the opinion which is expressed by both these officers.

I have, &c.

Agra,
21 March 1857.

(signed) *R. C. Oldfield*,
Assistant Secy. to Govt. North-Western Provinces.

No. 117.

No. 1 of 1857.

From *H. H. Greathed*, Esquire, Commissioner of the First Meerut Division, to *O. B. Thornhill*, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra.

Sir,

Revenue Department.

In offering the opinion called for in your letter, No. 2387 A, of the 24th ultimo, on the practicability of holding out advantages to officers or soldiers, retired or discharged, to settle on localities in these provinces, I propose to confine my observations to the districts of the Meerut division.

Sabarunpore,
Moozainnuggur,
Meerut, Booland-
shahr, Ally Gurb.

2. Among the five plain districts in this jurisdiction, named in the margin, there are three integral villages and portions of nine villages in the Ally Gurb zillah, of which the proprietary title belongs to Government by right of purchase at sales for arrears of revenue. These properties are at present under lease, and on the expiry of their terms are to be either sold by auction, or made over on certain conditions in proprietary tenure to the present lessees. The remaining 8,452 estates are private property, and there are no unappropriated lands in this portion of the division, excepting the southern slopes of the Sewalick range, which are unfit for cultivation.

3. I apprehend that the idea of inducing British soldiers or officers to locate themselves in the plains will not be entertained. The manual part of agricultural operations could not be carried on by Europeans in this climate, and the general character and social position of the pensioners from the ranks, who are to be found about our military cantonments, do not encourage a wish to see more of that class settled in India. In the transfer of landed property from the hands of the original proprietors that is going on throughout the country, it would be desirable to find a larger proportion passing under the proprietorship of Englishmen, but the successful management of an estate by an Englishman in India demands, besides capital, much strength of constitution and elasticity of spirit; and these qualifications are not likely to be found among officers who have passed the better part of their lives in the Indian service. Moreover, failure in management, and consequent default, would be visited by the revenue laws by transfer or sale of the property, and the defaulter, if a Government settler, would find himself deprived, by the act of Government, of the property he had been encouraged to acquire.

4. In

* From Commissioner, Meerut, No. 1, dated 10 January. From Commissioner, Kumaon, No. 45 dated 6th instant.

4. In Dehra Doon there is still a large portion of unappropriated land at the disposal of Government, and the climate is, in part of the valley, more suitable to the English constitution for out-door work. The eastern Doon, however, is so insalubrious that the idea of reclaiming it through the agency of natives of the country, except by gradual encroachments on its borders, has been abandoned. In the western Doon a colony of Portuguese and Anglo-Indians, discharged from Scindiah's military service, was planted at Herbunswala, and received much encouragement, but it languished and failed.

5. The Englishmen who took grants of lands have, with one exception, either been compelled as public servants to give up, under orders of Government, or have seceded from the speculation; and at present the only thriving property in the Doon, under English management, is the tea plantation of Colonel Elwall, a retired officer, who has rented zemindaree lands, and carried on his operations without any assistance from Government.

6. The grant terms might be altered to admit of the bestowal of the pecuniary advantage afforded to military settlers in Her Majesty's colonies, or a fee-simple title to plots of unappropriated land in the Doon, or rent-free tenure might be conferred on English settlers; but even under such conditions I do not anticipate that any real benefit would be conferred on the settlers or on the country, and I would recommend that colonization be left to private enterprise, unaided by special immunities.

7. In the mountains within our jurisdiction private proprietary rights extend over every acre, and though culturable land has been positively brought into existence, with rare exceptions, by manual labour employed in constructing terraces, and in levelling the surface.

8. There consequently appears no opening in this division for the extension of the system of encouragement to military settlers in force in the Crown colonies.

Commissioner's Office,
First or Meerut Division,
10 January 1857.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. H. Greathed,*
Commissioner.

No. 45 of 1857.

From Captain *H. Ramsay*, Commissioner of Kumaon, to *C. B. Thornhill, Esq.*,
Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2388 A, dated 24th December, with enclosures.

2. In the province of Kumaon there is no available land that could be profitably cultivated by Europeans, as in the Australian Colonies. There are no extensive unappropriated tracts; such lands as are at the disposal of Government are covered with heavy forest; and in a square mile of such forest, probably more than half of it, from the steepness of the hill or the stony nature of the ground, would be quite uncultivable. The portion that could be made use of would require to be terraced; and after much labour the average size of a field would not exceed (100) one hundred yards. All the good land of the province has come under settlement engagements. The waste land of the low valleys is unhealthy, and altogether unsuited for the residence of Europeans.

Kumaon, Commissioner's Office,
8 March 1857.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Ramsay,*
Commissioner.

(True copies).

(signed) *R. C. Oldfield,*
Assistant Secy. to Govt. North-Western Provinces.

No. 118.

No. 896.

General.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Military Department.

Sir,

No. 838, dated
30 October 1856.

THE Government of India, in the Military Department, having, in October last, called for the opinion of the Lieutenant-governor on the practicability of holding out advantages to officers and soldiers, retired or discharged from the army, to settle in localities in Bengal, the officers noted in the margin* were requested to report what localities, if any, under their respective superintendence, were, in their opinion, adapted for the purpose referred to.

2. The reports of the officers who were consulted on the subject having been received, I am now directed by the Lieutenant-governor to submit, for the information of his Lordship in Council, the following observations.

3. It appears, from the Report by Colonel Jenkins, that the only suitable localities in the North-East Frontier Agency, for European settlers, are the higher ranges of the Cossyah and Jyuteah Hills. But even these high tracts do not seem to be well adapted for European settlers who have to work in the open air; for although the temperature in the shade is said to be at all times moderate, and even positively cold, during a long portion of the year, the altitude of the hills is not sufficient to render exposure to the sun free from danger. Colonel Jenkins is, however, of opinion that, though not adapted for discharged soldiers, these ranges would afford most eligible retreats, as far as climate alone is concerned, for retired officers of moderate circumstances, who would propose to employ themselves in farming the land.

4. Mr. Allen, the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, states that there is not any locality in the division under his superintendency, adapted for the settlement of Europeans. One of the junior assistants of the division is, however, at present making personal observations on the variations of climate on the high lands of Sirgoojah, called the Mayncepat, with a view to ascertain the most suitable localities for the settlement of Europeans in that quarter. Upon the receipt of a Report on this subject, the result will be duly submitted to his Lordship in Council.

5. Captain James, the Officiating Superintendent of Darjeeling, speaks very highly of the capabilities of that locality as a place for European settlers. He states that there are many places in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling where European labour and energy might be most advantageously introduced. The climate of the Darjeeling Hills is represented as admirably suited for the European constitution. The temperature is very uniform throughout the year, varying only eight degrees in the 24 hours; and this seems to be one of the chief causes of its great salubrity.

6. One of the most remarkable features of the Darjeeling Hills, and one which would hold out to European settlers strong inducements to reside there, is the total absence of those epidemics which, in other parts of the world, commit such fearful ravages. The fact that cholera is unknown at Darjeeling and in the neighbouring villages, is one which alone proclaims the climate superior to most hill localities; and the small-pox very rarely makes its appearance; cases of measles, hooping-cough, and scarlet fever have never occurred among the European children at Darjeeling; and inflammation of the lungs, so common in other hill stations, does not prevail there more than in the plains.

7. Vegetable produce of all kinds, both European and tropical, can be cultivated at Darjeeling with every chance of success. Copper and coal are found in various parts of the hills, and their working might probably repay the European artisan and mechanic.

8. The whole area of the hilly portion of the district is stated to be 2,81,073 acres, out of which about 70,000 have been given away in grants, and are

* Governor-General's agent, North-East Frontier, Superintendent of Darjeeling, and Commissioner of Chota Nagpore.

partially under cultivation. European settlers may find occupations suited to all their tastes. Cows, sheep, goats, and pigs thrive admirably; and there would always remain a large portion of forest land, unsuited to cultivation, on which these animals might procure food in abundance.

9. Captain James concludes his Report in the following terms :

“Looking, then, to the climate, the productions, and the facility of access to a ready market from these hills, there is little doubt as to the success of an attempt to introduce European settlers; their broken health will be speedily restored; they will see their children with rosy cheeks, rivalling those of the most favoured parts of Europe; they will be able to cultivate in their gardens those plants which are associated with home in their childhood; and they will find in the abundant crops around their dwellings, ample reward for the toil expended in their cultivation.”

10. With his Report Captain James has forwarded a very interesting paper, drawn up by Mr. B. H. Hodgson, a retired civilian, whose opinions on this subject carry with them the weight of the experience of 30 years' residence in the Eastern and Western Himalayas. A transcript of this document is annexed; and I am directed to add that, so far as the Lieutenant-governor's inquiries and information extend, the Darjeeling Hills fully answer to the representations of Captain James and Mr. Hodgson, and offer great advantages for the settlement of Europeans.

Darjeeling,
25 March 1857.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. R. Young*,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

My dear Captain James,

My head is too full of ethnological details just now to enable me to turn to the interesting subject of your Report to Government on the fitness of the Himalaya for European colonization, except in a very hurried way. But I must not detain your Report, and there is the less reason why I should do so, inasmuch as you have given, I think, a very just general opinion on the subject, and have fortified it, perhaps, by a sufficiency of facts and details. It may be worth while, however, to state distinctly my own conviction on the fitness of the Himalaya generally for colonization, because I have resided some 30 years in the central and eastern parts of the range, and have also served awhile in the western, and all that time my attention has been directed to studies calculated to make my observation and experience more effective.

I say then, unhesitatingly, that the Himalaya generally is very well calculated for the settlement of Europeans; and I feel more and more convinced that the encouragement of colonization therein is one of the highest and most important duties of the Government.

In the long gradation of heights, from the plains to the snows, every variety of climate is found, with correspondent capabilities for the successful culture of various products suited to the wants of Europeans; for their own consumption, or for profitable sale. And in this extraordinary gradation of heights, the high and low are juxtaposed in a manner alike favourable to the labours of the healthful, and to the relief of the ailing.

A healthy cultivator of our race could have his dwelling at 4 to 6,000, and his farms both there and at various higher and lower elevations, yet still close to his abode, so that quasi-tropical and quasi-European products might be raised by him with the greatest facility, and in defect of health and strength the colonist, like the visitor, would enjoy the vast advantage of entirely changing his climate without cost and fatigue of journeying, besides having the additional resource of easy access to medicinal waters of universal diffusion, and of proved efficacy in many kinds of ailments. The greatest variety of climate has, of course, relation to the transverse section of the Himalaya, or that from plains to snows; but the longitudinal section, or the south-east and north-west one, likewise presents as much and the same variety of climate as is proper to the plains in Bengal, Benares, and the North-West Provinces, and it is quite a mistake to allege of the South-East Himalaya or of Bengal that their climate differs only for the worse from the drier climate of the hills or plains further west and north.

Undoubtedly the South-East Himalaya has much less sun and much more moisture than the North-West Himalaya, but those Europeans who have experienced the effects of the climate of both, frequently prefer that of the former; and it is quite certain that, in the past 20 years, the South-East Himalaya has suffered much less from epidemics, and has also enjoyed a complete exemption from those severe dysenteries and fevers which have afflicted the denizens of the North-West Himalaya. It is as certain that the obscured sun of the South-East Himalaya is the cause of the difference, and that, though our clouds and mists may hurt our popular reputation with strangers, they are welcome to ourselves from their experience and admitted beneficialness.

That the Himalaya, generally speaking, is a region eminently healthful can be doubted by no competent judge, and is demonstrable at once and readily by pointing to the finely developed muscles, pure skins, cheerful countenances, and universally well-formed, strong-boned bodies of the native inhabitants, whose health and strength, and capacity of enduring toil and carrying heavy burdens, are as notorious as are their exemption from bodily malformations, and from most of the direct diseases to which flesh is heir, as well in the tropics as in the high latitudes of Europe, results owing to the pre-eminent equability and temperateness of the climate, added to simple active habits.

The fearful epidemics of the plains seldom penetrate the Himalayas, which, moreover, seem to have a positive exemption from epidemic diseases, or those proper to any given country. For 40 years cholera has ravaged the plains continually almost; but in all that period Nipal has been visited only twice, and Darjeeling scarcely at all. In the same 40 years, at Kathmundu only two deaths* have occurred among Europeans, and both those were occasioned by diseases wholly apart from local influences; and in the escort of the Resident the salubrity, in my time, was so great, that promotion came hardly to be calculated on at all, and a sipahee would be a sipahee still after 15 to 20 years' service. The civil medical statistics of Nipal, as of Darjeeling, have always told the same story; and if the military statistics of the latter place have been till lately less favourable, the reasons for this had nothing to do with the hill climate, but resulted wholly from the senseless selection of cases sent up; the absurd neglect of seasons in the sending up and taking down of the invalids; and lastly, the shameful abandonment of all care and supervision of the men on the way up and down.† The appearance of the European children at Darjeeling might alone suffice to prove the suitability of the climate of the Himalaya, at 6-8,000 feet for European colonization, confirmed as such evidence is by that of the aspect and health of such adult Europeans as come here with uninjured constitutions, and have led an active life since their arrival. Finer specimens of manly vigour the world could not show, and though none of the individuals I allude to have lately toiled all day in the open air at agricultural labours, yet I am credibly informed that some of them did so for several years after their arrival here, and with perfect impunity, their agricultural pursuits having been abandoned for reasons quite apart from either injured health or inability to support themselves and families comfortably by such labour.

That Europeans would sustain injury from exposure during agricultural labours at any period‡ of the year seems therefore refuted by fact; and when it is remembered that such persons would be working here as at home, amid an indigenous arboreal vegetation of oaks, chestnuts, hornbeams, birches, alders, willows, and more westerly pines, such a fact derives from such an analogy double strength; and the attempted inference from both is further justified by the healthful growth in the Himalaya of such of our own cereals and vegetables and fruits as we have thus far tried to introduce, with the sole exception of delicate and soft-pulped fruits, not of an early or spring-maturing kind, such as peaches, grapes, and the like: these rot instead of ripening in the central region of the Himalaya, owing to the tropical rains. But such soft fruits as become mature before the rains set in, as strawberries, come to perfection, as do all hard fruits, such as apples. There is, in fact, no end of the mineral and vegetable wealth of the Himalaya; and if the absence of flat ground, with the severity of the

* Mr. Stuart and
Lieutenant Young.

† I have more than once myself seen the road from Sillgori to Titalyah strewn with drunken soldiers.

‡ Agriculture does not require much exposure at the hottest season, when the crops are growing.

the tropical monsoon rainy season, presents considerable drawbacks to agricultural success; on the other hand, the endless inequalities of surface offer a variety of temperature and of exposure, together with signal modifications even of the element of moisture and rain, all highly conducive to the advantageous cultivation of numerous and diverse products proper to the soil, or imported from elsewhere.

Temperature changes regularly in the ratio of 3° diminution of heat for every 1,000 feet of height gained, and every large ridge crossing the course of the monsoon modifies almost as remarkably the amount of rain in the several tracts covered by such ridges.

The fertility of the soil is demonstrated by the luxuriance of the arboreal and shrub vegetation, a luxuriance as great in degree as universal in prevalence. True, this luxuriance has its evils, and in its present unpruned state may be one great cause why the feeding of flocks and herds is scantily pursued by the people, and without much success, speaking generally; for there are exceptions even now, and European energy would soon multiply these exceptions, besides grappling successfully with the presumed source of the evil, or too much rank vegetation. Not to add that, in the districts next the snows and Tibet, that hyperluxuriance ceases, and herds and flocks abound, and the latter yield fleeces admirable for either fineness or length of fibre.* The soil consists of a deep bed of very rich vegetable mould, from two to five feet deep, to preserve which from being carried away by the tropical rains after the removal of its natural cover of forest and undergrowth by terracing and other known expedients, must be the colonist's first care, for the underlying earth is almost always a hungry red clay; but, happily, one whose tenacity and poverty are much qualified by better ingredients derived from the debris of the gneisses and schists that constitute the almost sole rock. The argillaceous constituents of the soil are perhaps in good proportion; the siliceous, perhaps, rather too abundant; the calcareous deficient. Heretofore the superficial mould has been the sole stay of the agriculturist and floriculturist. How far that would continue to be the case under abler culture I know not; but so long as it did continue, the caution above given would demand the most vigilant and incessant attention.

The common European cereals, or wheat, barley, rye, and oats, are little heeded in the Himalaya, where I never saw crops equal those grown in various parts of the plains. But I have no doubt this is owing to the preference for rices, maizes, sorghums, and panicums, or millets, on the part of the people, whose cultivation of even wheat is most careless, without manure even in double cropped and old lands: and the plant allowed to be overrun whilst growing by wild hemp or artimesia, or other weed of most frequent occurrence in Himalaya. As already said, the infinite variety of elevation and of exposure, both as to heat and moisture, together with the indefinite richness of the soil, as proved by the indigenous tree and shrub and other vegetation, are premises one can hardly fail to rest soundly upon in prognosticating the high success of European culture of the Himalaya slopes, notwithstanding the drawbacks I have enumerated. There need hardly be any end to the variety of the products, and good success must attend the cultivation of many of them after a little experience shall have taught the specialities of the soil and climate, so that the subject should be incessantly agitated till the Government and the public are made fully aware of its merits. How much iteration is needed may be illustrated by the simple mention of the fact that the fitness of the Himalaya for tea-growing was fully ascertained 25 years ago, in the valley of Nipal, a normal characteristic region, as well in regard to position as to elevation.† Tea seeds and plants were procured from China through the Cashmere merchants, then located at Kathmandu. They were sown and planted in the Residency garden, where they flourished greatly, flowering and seeding as usual, and moreover, grafts *ad libitum* were multiplied by means of the nearly allied camellia tersi, which, in the valley of Nipal, as elsewhere throughout the Himalaya, is an indigenous and most abundant species. These favourable results were duly announced at the time to Dr. Abel, physician to the Governor-General; an accomplished person, with

* The samples I sent to Europe of the wool of the sheep and goats of the northern region of Himalaya and of Tibet were valued at 7 d. to 9 d. per pound.

† It is equidistant from snows and plains, and has a mean elevation of 4,000 feet.

with special qualifications for their just appreciation. And yet, in spite of all this, 20 years were suffered to elapse before any effective notice of so important an experiment could be obtained.

I trust, therefore, that the general subject of the high capabilities of the climate and soil of the Himalayas, and their eminent fitness for European colonization, having once been taken up, will never be dropped till colonization is a *fait accompli*, and that the accomplishment of this greatest, surest, soundest, and simplest of all political measures for the stabilisation of the British power in India may adorn the annals of Lord Canning's administration.

But, observe, I do not mean wholesale and instantaneous colonization, for any such I regard as simply impossible; nor, were it possible, would I advocate it. The distance and unpopularity of India, however, would preclude all rational anticipation of any such colonization, whatever might be the wish to effect it. What I mean is, looking to these very obstacles and drawbacks, seeming and real, that some systematic means should be used to reduce their apparent and real dimensions; to make familiarly and generally known the cheapest methods and actual cost of reaching India; to afford discriminating aid, in some cases, towards reaching it, and to show that in regard to the Himalaya the vulgar dread of Indian diseases is wholly baseless; to show also that its infinite variety of juxtaposed elevations, with correspondent differences of climate, both as to heat and moisture, and the unbounded richness of its soil at all elevations, offer peculiar and almost unique advantages (not a fiftieth part of the surface being now occupied) to the colonist, as well on the score of health as on that of opportunity, to cultivate a wonderful variety of products ranging from the tropical nearly to the European.

Located himself at any elevation he might find most conducive to his health, the colonist might, on the very verge of the lower region (*see* Essay on Phy. Geogr. of Himalaya, J. A. S. B. for 1847), effectually command the greatest resources for traffic in timber, drugs, dyes, hides,* horns, ghee, and textile materials, not excluding silk, which that region affords; whilst, if he chose to locate himself further from the plains, and devote himself to agriculture and sheep-breeding, he might make his election among endless sites, in the central and higher regions (*see* Paper above referred to) of Himalaya, of a place where these or those sorts of cereal flourished best, and where cattle and sheep could be reared under circumstances of surface, vegetation, and temperature as various as the imagination can depict, but all more or less propitious; the sheep-slopes and abundant vegetation (rank, but nutritious) of the central region giving place in the higher region to a drier air, a more level surface, and a scunter and highly aromatic vegetation, peculiarly suited to sheep and goats, whose fleeces in that region would well repay the cost of transport to the most distant markets.

Not that I would in general hold out to the colonist the prospect of growing rich by the utmost use of the above-indicated resource for the accumulation of wealth, to which might, and certainly in due course would, be added those of trans-Himalaya commerce,† but would rather fix his attention, primarily at least, upon the certain prospect of comfort, of a full belly, a warm back, and a decent domicile; or, in other words, of food, clothes, and shelter for himself, his wife, and children, unailing with the most ordinary prudence and toil, and such, as to quantity and quality, as would be a perfect godsend to the starving peasantry of Ireland and of the Scotch Highlands. These are the settlers I would, but discouraging the others, primarily encourage by free grants for the first five years,

* Countless herds of cattle are driven for pasturage annually during the hot months from the open plains into the Tarni and Blaver, and of the thousands that die there, the hides and horns are left to rot for want of systematic purchase, and this whilst the demand is so urgent that cattle-killing has become a trade in order to meet it.

† In 1832 I furnished to Government a statement of the amount of this commerce, as then conducted through the channel of Nijal Proper. The exports and imports reached 30 lakhs, and this under circumstances as little encouraging to commercial enterprise as can well be imagined; for monopolies were the order of the day, and men in power were often the holders of these monopolies, as I believe is still the case in Nipal, and also in Cashmere. In the paper adverted to I also pointed out by comparative statements how successfully Britain could compete with Russia in regard to this commerce. The subject is one well deserving of the attention of Government at all times, and more especially at the present juncture.

years, and by a very light rent upon long and fixed leases; then, after looking to compensation in the general prestige* of their known forthcomingness on the spot, and assured that, with the actual backing upon occasions of political stress and difficulty of some 60,000 to 100,000 loyal hearts and stalwart bodies of Saxon mould, our empire in India might safely defy the world in arms against it.

Darjeeling, 20 December 1856.

I am, &c.
(signed) B. H. Hodgson.

(True copy.)

(signed) A. R. Young,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

EXTRACT Fort William Military Consultation of the 4th September 1857.

No. 2715.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-governor to acknowledge the receipt of Captain Atkinson's letter (No. 456), dated the 13th instant, and to state in reply that no further report has been received from the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore regarding the high lands of Sirgoojah as a settlement for retired and discharged officers and soldiers. It was proposed by the Officiating Commissioner that the junior assistant at Karuda should remain at Mainepot, which is the name of the locality referred to, till the commencement of the approaching rainy season; and it is probable that a further report, which has this day been called for, will now soon be received. In the meanwhile, I am directed to lay before the Governor-General in Council the extracts of letters noted in the margin,† which contain all the information possessed by this Government on the subject, and it is possible that this information may be sufficient for the purpose in view.

I have, &c.

(signed) A. R. Young,

Darjeeling, 28 May 1857.

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

EXTRACT from Para. 25 of a Report (No. 69); dated 18 November 1840, from the Governor-General's Agent, South West Frontier, to the Secretary to the Government of India.

THE Myneput lying on the line, I took advantage of it to have some shooting, and got some gour elks and deer, &c. The scenery is beautiful beyond description on the table land, which must be 5,000 feet above the sea; so cold, that in March and April the sun is rather pleasant than disagreeable, even at mid-day. The land is undulating, covered at all seasons with green grass, flowering shrubs, and plants innumerable, small streams flowing in every direction. The extent of the table land is conjectured to be 25 or 30 miles wide north and south, and 40 or 50 west and east. Within four or five miles of the foot of the western ghat I ascended is the Rehar river, running to the north. All other rivers had taken a western and southern course. In the Rehar is coal; I brought away some very good specimens of it.

* We are, it should never be forgotten, *viri nantes in gurgite vasti*, occupying a position quite analogous to that of the Romans, when one of their ablest statesmen exclaimed, "*Quantum nobis periculum si servi nostri numerari nos cepissent.*" We cannot, for financial reasons of an enduring kind, create an adequate guard against the perils of such a position, nor materially alter it for the better, *quoad* physical security, save by having such a body of our countrymen as above contemplated within call. (signed) B. H. Hodgson.

† Extract, para. 25, of a report, No. 69, dated 18 November 1840. Extract, para. 14, of a report, No. 25, dated 15 May 1847. Extract, para. 2, from a report by Mr. W. J. Allen, Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated 22 January 1857.

EXTRACT from Para. 14 of a Report (No. 25), dated 15 May 1847, from the Governor-General's Agent, South West Frontier, to the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

THE highest part of the Myneput is not above 3,700 feet above the sea by measurement, but the air and scenery totally different from the plains below. There are 17 inhabited villages on the Myneput, but traces of extensive cultivation remain. I have been unable to find remains of brick or stone buildings of any kind. In December and January I saw ice of considerable thickness, that, exposed to the action of the sun, did not dissolve before mid-day.

EXTRACT, Para. 2, from a Report by Mr. *W. J. Allen*, Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated 22 January 1857.

THE high lands of Sirgoojah will be found, I think, well adapted to the cultivation of coffee, and perhaps of tea; but there is a great deal of jungle, and that part of the country is not reputed to be salubrious. When the jungle is cleared, the climate no doubt will improve; but the hot winds prevail there, I believe, during the months of April, May, and June, and the locality is not suitable to field labour by Europeans.

(True extracts.)

(signed) *A. R. Young*,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 296.

No. 776.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

Sir,

General.

IN continuation of my letter, No. 2715, dated the 28th May last, I am directed to submit the following further observations of the Lieutenant-Governor on the suitability of the highlands of Sirgoojah for the settlement of retired European officers and soldiers.

2. From a report furnished by the Assistant Commissioner Captain Birch, who was residing for some time on the Myneput, it appears that there are two tracts of table land, one called the Maymepat, about 28 miles in length, and having an average breadth of eight to ten miles, and another called the Jameerapat, of the same breadth, and comprising about 45 square miles. The height of these table lands is about 3,500 feet above the level of the sea.

3. Captain Birch found the ascent to Myneput very steep, and he considers that the nature of the soil presents many difficulties against making a tolerable road between the table land and the plains. Provisions are not easily obtained on the Maymepat, and there are no means of communication with the nearest marts below; water appeared to be abundant on the Maymepat, though not so on the Jameerapat; and the general soil of the former Captain Birch thinks to be well adapted to supplying good pasturage, and for the growth of cereals, but too stiff for the cultivation of various kinds of pulses grown all over India.

4. With regard to climate and temperature, showers are frequent throughout the year, and the average range of the thermometer during the hot months is from about 61 to 94, but the variations are very sudden, and frequently occasion attacks of fever. The slight elevation of these hills above the surrounding country is not sufficient to make any sensible difference in the power of the sun; and Captain Birch notices, "that even during the cold season the solar rays seem to strike with an increased intensity on these hills, and the natives complain of this apparent increase in their power very much." Under these circumstances, the Lieutenant-governor fully concurs with the Officiating Commissioner of Chota

Chota Nagpore, who in forwarding Captain Birch's letter remarks, that neither the Maymepat or the Jameeraput appear to be superior in salubrity to Hazareebagh, or other more accessible localities in that part of India, and that the shattered constitutions of retired Europeans require a more bracing climate than is to be found in that latitude at an elevation of only 3,500 feet.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. R. Young,*
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Fort William, 7 July 1857.

EXTRACT Military Letter from Fort St. George, dated 6th July 1857, No. 70.

Para. 1. WITH reference to your Honourable Court's despatch of 3d September 1856, No. 94, on the practicability of holding out advantages to officers and soldiers retired or discharged from the army, to settle in localities at Madras, we have the honour to forward copy of a communication from the Board of Revenue, and of one from the Adjutant-general of the army, with abstracts of reports from officers commanding divisions and forces, &c., containing observations on the subject.

Dy. Cons., 20 Jan.
1857, Nos. 53 & 54.
Dy. Cons., 2d June
1857, No. 60 to 63.

Fort Saint George, Military Consultation of 20 January 1857.

No. 53.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department,
under date 13 January 1857, No. 53.

READ the following extract from the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th January 1857, No. 44.

Read extract Minutes Consultation, dated 2nd December 1856, Revenue Department.

(Here enter No. 1271.)

In the above extract Minutes Consultation the Board are requested to offer any observations they may wish to make on the suggestion of the Home authorities that encouragement should be held out to the European officers and soldiers of the Honourable Company's army to settle on the hill tracts of this Presidency.

2. The Board are fully sensible of the advantages which would result from the permanent location of such parties in this country. They fear, however, that in regard to officers at least there is some misapprehension both as to the extent of land available for their occupation and the other considerations which induce such persons to emigrate to the colonies of England. The localities suited for this purpose are the Neilgherries, the Pulneys, the Shervaroys, and portions of the hill ranges in Canara, Malabar and Tinnevely. A great portion of these, however, except the first, are within fever range, and this consideration alone would, the Board fear, prevent their being generally selected for permanent residence by this class of persons. Of the area available on the Neilgherries the Board have no exact knowledge, but they apprehend it is not sufficient for settlement on any large scale, particularly as many portions are unfit for culture, and the native inhabitants have rights of occupancy and pasturage over others.

3. In the other inducements which have so great weight with settlers of this class, such as the facility of educating and providing for a family, this Presidency is greatly wanting at present, and these are the considerations which, next to that of climate, most influence such persons in the selection of a permanent place of settlement on withdrawing from a career of active service in this country.

4. At present the rule in granting land for other than building purposes on the hill tracts is to sell it at (usually) not less than eight years' assessment, subject moreover to its annual assessment, and a number of minor reservations and restrictions. The whole or a portion of the former may be remitted, and the

annual assessment might be reduced. This latter measure, however, is attended with this difficulty, that it would probably be necessary to attach conditions as to occupancy and cultivation, and to restrict the proprietors' power of alienation to parties possessing similar claims on Government. Such terms, however, would tend to discourage permanent improvements, and greatly lessen the value of such grants. Besides a remission of the purchase money, the Board consider that it would also be necessary either to give the fee-simple of the land, or at least to grant long leases. At present, leases cannot be granted for more than 30 years ordinarily; at the end of that period the land is liable to re-assessment, and waste portions of lands leased cannot be alienated by the lessees.

See C. O. B., Vol. 1,
page 586.

5. As regards European soldiers the case is somewhat different, and they are a class who possess strong claims on the Government. Such parties would not require large holdings, and a sufficiently extensive area could, perhaps, be secured to give the experiment a fair trial. It would be desirable generally to locate such settlers in the neighbourhood of places like Ootacamund, Coonoor, &c., where they would find a ready market for their agricultural produce, medical aid, and an opportunity of engaging in any trade or profession to which they may have been accustomed in early life, or for which they may possess aptitude. In such situations, moreover, they would enjoy facilities for educating and providing for their families, and the society of others would exercise a beneficial influence on their habits and conduct.

6. In proposing that a sufficient area should be secured for such settlers, the Board do not intend that they should be debarred from selecting their place of residence, or be located in townships by themselves; any attempt to isolate them in this manner would, the Board think, lead to failure; all the Board propose is to secure what appear eligible sites at once, for such land, on the Neilgherries in particular, is now much sought after.

7. The encouragement held out would necessarily be of the same nature as suggested in the case of officers in para. 4.

8. There are other places, such as Palmanair, Ramanully, &c., where a limited number of such settlers could be located, and in these as well as, if necessary, on the Neilgherries, Sbervarovs, Palneys, &c., Government could extend additional encouragement, by affording medical aid, and contributing towards religious and educational objects.

9. It will of course rest with the military authorities to determine the class of persons and the other conditions on which grants such as those contemplated shall be made.

10. The Board resolve to circulate these proceedings and the extract Minutes Consultation under acknowledgment to the several collectors, with a view of ascertaining what localities in their districts are suitable for such purposes, and what extent of land is known or believed to be available. They will also be glad to receive any suggestion the Collectors may wish to offer on the subject.

11. The Collectors of Coimbatore and Salem will be requested to furnish a return of the lands occupied by settlers (other than natives) for agricultural purposes, and the terms in regard to payments, length of lease, &c.

Ordered also, that a copy be submitted for the information of Government, and to the Collectors noted in the margin,* for their information, and any observations they may wish to offer.

(True extract.)

(signed) *J. D. Sim*, Acting Secretary.

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Department, with reference to an extract from the Minutes of Consultation in that department dated 28th October 1856, No. 2770.

(signed) *J. D. Bourdillon*,
Secretary to Government.

* Cuddapah, Bellary, North Arcot, Salem, Madura, Tinnevely, Malabar, Canara.

No. 54.

Order, No. 179, 15 January 1857.

Communicated to the Commander-in-chief with reference to M. C. 28th October 1856, No. 2770.

Fort St. George, Military Consultation of 2 June 1857.

No. 60.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 13 May 1857, No. 455, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I AM instructed to advert to an unanswered communication from this department, No. 836, dated 30 October 1856, calling for the opinion of the Government of Madras on the practicability of holding out advantages to officers and soldiers retired or discharged from the army to settle in localities of that Presidency.

No. 61.

The Adjutant-General of the Army, 20 May 1857, No. 519, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

IN acknowledging the receipt of extract from Minutes of Consultation,* dated 18 November last, No. 3028, I have the honour, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for submission to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, the accompanying abstract of reports from officers commanding divisions and forces, &c., respecting the localities that are best suited, in the Madras Presidency, for the settlement of officers and soldiers retired or discharged from the army.

2. I am directed by Lieutenant-general Sir P. Grant to state that his Excellency feels persuaded, from former experience, that it will be found quite impossible to induce European pensioners to abandon their present localities in the plains to become settlers in the hills or other places where the climate may be considered better adapted to the European constitution.

3. His Excellency is aware that every effort was made, and strong inducements were held out some years ago to the pensioners at Chunar (the very hottest and most uncongenial station in the Bengal Presidency) to remove to the hills, and in every instance without success.

ABSTRACT OF REPORTS from Officers commanding Divisions and Forces, &c., reporting what Localities are best suited in the Madras Presidency for the Settlement of Officers and Soldiers retired or discharged from the Army.

* *Major-General D. Macleod, commanding Ceded Districts*,—States that he is acquainted with no place within the Ceded Districts suited to the purposes of colonization. The tops of the ranges known and found to possess climates suited to the European constitution present so restricted an area that one good-sized farm would be more than sufficient to occupy the whole space. In most cases, if not all, water has to be brought from a distance, there being no springs on the tops, added to which, the depth of the soil is generally most superficial.

Conceives, if none of these objections existed, Europeans can never succeed as colonists in India, it being impossible for them to compete with the natives, the expense of whose domestic establishment is as the shadow to the substance when compared

* Communicating a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 30 October 1856, No. 886, annexing copy of a despatch from the Court of Directors, and requesting the opinion of the Madras Government on the practicability of holding out advantages to officers and soldiers retired or discharged from the army to settle in localities at Madras, which may, after due inquiry, be deemed best adapted to Europeans.

compared with that of Europeans. The former would also have a very decided advantage over the latter in the labour market.

Major-General J. W. Cleveland, commanding Southern Division,—Is of opinion that the advantages held out would be considered a boon to officers and soldiers, and that various localities in the Southern Division are most desirable for agricultural purposes, and where Europeans would enjoy a congenial climate, such as the Neilgherries, the Pullaney, the Sillimally and Shevroy Hills.

Speaks more particularly of his own knowledge regarding the Neilgherries. Coffee plantations there (some of the property of retired and invalid officers in the Honourable Company's service), where not too high, thrive well, and are on the increase; many steady old European soldiers might find employment on them as overseers and labourers, as well as on other ranges of hills where coffee is cultivated, and it is evident that the more industrious, well-behaved Europeans there are, in all the mountainous regions of India, the more is agriculture and other work generally likely to thrive and increase; the advantages of obtaining remission of the purchase-money of land would be great, and especially to those officers who are now settlers, and already encouraged in agricultural pursuits. States that many old officers, with large families, cannot afford to live in Europe, and would be glad to spend the remainder of their lives on the hills, and any advantages offered would certainly tend to increase the number.

Major-General M. Beresford, commanding Mysore Division,—Observes, that the entire of the Mysore Division, saving the areas of the cantonment occupied by troops, is nominally the territory of the Rajah of Mysore; any project of encouraging military settlers therein while the land they would have to occupy is admitted to belong to this native prince would be seriously complicated by such sovereignty, however nominal it may be considered. Feels that Lieutenant-general Sir M. Cubbon, the enlightened and experienced Commissioner of Mysore, can give far more useful information than he can. Solicits his Excellency's permission to defer replying to this subject for a short time longer; at the same time, if an immediate reply is desired, he will be prepared, on being so informed, to give one.

States, that the climate of Mysore is far cooler than most other divisions in this Presidency, but that there are very few Europeans who can with impunity expose themselves constantly to the sun, and that the strongest and healthiest suffer from even a frequency of such exposure, and believes that none can do so constantly without danger in the lands upon the general level. Even if this most serious obstacle did not exist, no European could compete with the native agriculturist, who, with his whole family, brings his own manual labour and endurance of climate in aid of his farming, working and living frugally upon the produce of his own labour, and without any other wants; does not therefore think that either officer, or his inferior in rank the non-commissioned officer, or private soldier of European race, could gain a livelihood, or keep their health, upon the plains of Mysore as working military settlers.

States, that he was informed, while ascending the Baba Boodun hills, by intelligent persons, that the cultivator of coffee had not succeeded there; the plant thrives fairly, but coolie labour was next to impossible to procure; there are no natives of these hills, and all reasonable sacrifice to induce the low-country labourer to settle there seems to fail: many agree, obtain all they can from the employer, and abscond suddenly, by which far more loss than the profit will cover is incurred. This difficulty of procuring labour appears far less in the approaches to and actual gorge of the Munggerabad Ghaut. The outlay in coffee cultivation is not large, either at first or yearly, though the return produce does not commence for four or five years. Coffee plantations there become very remunerative.

To an officer with even small yearly income, a grant of land about this ghaut would be an advantage which men of energy retiring from the service ought to avail themselves of. The carriage down this ghaut to the western coast is easy and quick, and shipment thence obtainable; the same may be said of all Coorg, with a superior climate, and the further and very important advantage of being under the Government of India, without the unfortunate intervention of the rule of a native prince, as is Mysore.

States inability to suggest any locality or occupation which with any encouragement would be available for a military settler of an inferior grade; does not

not think the abilities and conduct of these men are sufficiently availed of in the public works; observes that if small patches of ground were granted to several pensioners, now existing in poverty and apathy in the small cottages they generally inhabit in Bangalore, they would soon make them profitable as gardens.

The Secretary to the Medical Board,—Observes that the lands in this Presidency most suitable for the purposes of colonization would appear to be the Neilgherries, the Puloney, and Shevroy Hills, all in the Southern Division; the extent of ground available in each of these localities the Board have no means of ascertaining, but it is very considerable. The climate of the Neilgherries has long been known to be highly salubrious, and peculiarly adapted to the European. The Puloney Hills are not so well known, but it is believed that the summit level, nearly 6,000 feet, has offered a most healthy place of retreat for the American missionaries located for a long series of years, during which time these hills have been found equally salubrious. The Shevroy Hills have been much frequented by Europeans, and by people of mixed blood from the Presidency, for a long series of years for a period of 30 years up to 1854; these hills continued remarkably healthy, but at that time epidemic disease, in the form of fever of a severe type, broke out, and prevailed more or less extensively on them as well as over the greater part of the Salem district; at the same time a peculiar and fatal form of fever broke out in certain parts of the Neilgherry Hills; in fact epidemic disease was unusually prevalent in that year over the greater part of Mysore, and Malabar, and Canara.

Mentions Coorg and several parts of the Western Ghauts as localities healthy and eligible for the purpose.

Major-General J. Bell, Commanding Pegu Division,—Encloses letter from Major Phayre, Commissioner of Pegu, and states that the opinion which he had previously formed of the utter unsuitableness of Burmah in its present state for the settlement of Europeans has been fully confirmed by the opinion which the Commissioner has expressed, and which, from his long experience and intimate knowledge of its localities, may be looked upon as conclusive.

Major Phayre, Commissioner of Pegu, &c.,—Is certainly of opinion that there is no place within the limits of the province where Europeans could settle as working agriculturists. At some future time healthy spots may be found on the range of hills to the eastward of Tonghoo where Europeans might live; but in the present state of information with regard to that country, it is not known whether any produce could be raised for their support, and it is not probable that they would be able there to labour for their own livelihood.

Brigadier P. Thomson, Commanding Malabar and Canara,—Is of opinion that there is no place within the limits of his command where it would be desirable for Europeans to settle, excepting Manantoddy and its neighbourhood, and at a few stations north of Canuanore, on the line of the Western Ghauts; and even there the offspring of Europeans would sadly degenerate.

Is of opinion that the climate of the Malabar coast is not suited for Europeans; it might agree with some old hardy weather-beaten soldiers of sober habits, but doubts if they even could labour out of doors during the greater part of the day; certainly their children, if Europeans, never could be expected to do so.

The only tracts of land which such settlers could get would be pieces of jungle land, and the clearing it away would require more money, skill, and patience than old European soldiers are in the habit of possessing before they could even commence operations. The simple fact of all those Europeans who began their labours with the view of settling in the country betwixt the ghauts and the sea, having left the localities they at first fixed upon, and located themselves at Manantoddy and its neighbourhood, where they find the climate agree with them, and realize a good return for their labour, points out very clearly and unmistakably that no place within the limits of his command, excepting Manantoddy and the top of the range of the Western Ghauts, would be suitable for European officers or soldiers as settlers.

Major-General A. Tulloch, Commanding Northern Division,—States that it is the concurrent opinion of the Collectors of the several districts in the division whom he has consulted, that there are insuperable objections to retired officers and

soldiers holding land or settling in it; because, in the first place, the heat of the plains is very great, and the climate of the hills most insalubrious; the want of medical aid too, and schools for the education and religious instruction of their children, are obstacles which could not be well overcome.

In the Vizagapatam District the land belongs generally to the native villagers, and cannot be bought; the Collector of Ganjam is of opinion that an officer with some capital might make a profitable investment in the cultivation of sugar cane and arrowroot, and there is a good opening for one or two steady men at or near the different ports along the coast, which are now being most frequented for the cultivation of vegetables and the supply of live stock, &c.; but these are exceptional and doubtful cases.

The Collector of Rajahmundry is of opinion that in many parts of the delta of the Godavery, with a little capital to start with, the cultivation of sugar cane, and perhaps indigo, might be embarked in with every prospect of advantage; but the tracts in this division above the level of the plains are so detrimental to the European constitution, that they could not with safety be located in any of the more elevated sites among the hills, where the climate, though agreeable, is most noxious to health.

The only places within the limits of this Presidency most suited for the location of retired officers or soldiers are the Neilgherries and Shevroy Hills; the Palney Hills, near Madura; Coortallum, in the Tinnevely District, and the hills adjacent; where coffee and indigo, &c. might be extensively cultivated with every prospect of success.

The land in the Madras Presidency is the property of the ryot, and it would be difficult to purchase or acquire it on a freehold tenure; and this of itself would operate as a discouragement to capital being applied by European settlers for the improvement of land in India to any great extent. In the case of the soldiery, supposes Government would allot land to them on the principle of Enam grants, or on long low leases renewable at will; but old worn-out soldiers would, from their habits, turn out but indifferent settlers as cultivators of the soil, and the scheme of colonizing them to any extent in this country would prove but a hopeless experiment, and end in disappointment.

Major-General P. E. Craigie, Commanding Centre Division,—Is of opinion that the only locality in his division decidedly favourable for the settlement of Europeans is the high land about Palmanair; the temperature and climate of which is suited to the European constitution, and is generally very healthy, and the soil well adapted for cultivation.

The Yailagherry Hills, situated about 40 miles to the south of Vellore, were reported on by Captain Best of the Engineers (vide "Gazette," pages 682 and 692 of 1857,) favourably; but that officer died a few years after from a fever contracted thereon. The table land to the south-west of Vellore, distant about 10 miles, is from the soil, very favourable to the cultivation of vegetables, and a garden was established there by the officers of the 62d Regiment, N. I., but it was found feverish; the same with the Naggerry Hills: but doubtless on being cleared to some extent they would prove more salubrious.

Near Guntoor there is some table land, but of very limited extent—at Con-davee, where the thermometer ranges a few degrees lower than in the plains; and near it, ground, well adapted for the cultivation of tobacco and other products, is obtainable. Also along the coast, which has the advantage of the sea breeze, and so cooler than further inland, ground for the cultivation of indigo can be found in abundance, as also for the palmyra, from which sugar is manufactured. There is also a good cloth trade along there; but the advantages of climate are not of a decided character. He has, however, considered it advisable to bring them, such as they are, to notice; but he is of opinion that, excepting Palmanair, there is no locality in the Centre Division sufficiently salubrious to hold out inducement to Europeans generally to settle on.

(signed) *W. G. Woods*, Lieut.-Colonel,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

Adjutant-General's Office, Fort St. George,
29 May 1857.

No. 62.

ORDER, No. 1788, 30 May 1857.

ORDERED, that the Adjutant-general's letter be communicated to the Honourable the Court of Directors and to the Government of India.

No. 63.

From the Secretary to Government, Military Department, 30 May 1857, 1789, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

IN reply to your letters dated 30th October 1856, No. 836, and 13th May 1857, No. 455, on the practicability of holding out advantages to officers and soldiers, retired or discharged from the army, to settle in localities at Madras, I am directed to forward, for submission to the Government of India, copy of a communication from the * Board of Revenue, and of one from the † Adjutant-general of the Army, with abstracts of reports from officers commanding divisions and forces, &c., containing observations on the subject.

(True copies.)

(signed) *J. D. Marshall*, Lieut.-Colonel,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 55 of 1857, Military Department.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the East India Company, London.

Honourable Sirs,

WE have the honour to acknowledge your Honourable Court's despatch, No. 71, of the 3d September last, on the subject of advantages held out to retired officers in Her Majesty's colonies, and of the possible benefit to be derived from the similar offer of advantages to induce officers and soldiers retired or discharged to settle in certain localities in India.

2. In considering this question, we have regarded it from two points of view, first, as a question of general policy, and secondly, as a question of military policy.

3. Upon the first point we beg to attach a series of correspondence in the Revenue Department, and to express our opinion that there are no tracts suitable for colonization by Europeans under this Presidency, and that the expediency of encouraging Europeans to occupy land as cultivating colonists is very doubtful; but at the same time we consider that European capitalists, or houses of agency scattered through the Presidency, would tend greatly to ameliorate the condition of the country by becoming purchasers of agricultural produce, and giving the cultivators the advantage of a more equitable system of dealing than they can now command from native capitalists.

5. Upon the military part of the question we beg to refer to the Adjutant-general's letter of the 25th March, conveying the sentiments of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief; and we have only to add our unanimous opinion that no advantage is to be expected from European colonies in this Presidency.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Elphinstone.*
J. G. Lumsden.
A. Malet.

Bombay Castle, 23 May 1857.

* 5 January 1857, No. 44, recorded in Mins. of Cons., 15 January 1857, No. 179.
† 20 May 1857, No. 519.

No. 1244 of 1837.

Transfer from the Revenue to the Military Department.

No. 430 of 1856.

From Lieutenant-Colonel *J. Jacob*, c. b., Acting Commissioner in Sind, to the Right Honourable Lord *Elphinstone*, a. c. h., Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

ADVERTING to Mr. Officiating Chief Secretary Young's endorsement marginally cited,* I have the honour to state for the information of your Lordship in Council, that I am of opinion that there are no districts in the province of Sind in which military European retired officers and pensioners might advantageously settle. The climate is so hostile to the European physical constitution as to preclude the possibility of many successive generations of Europeans dwelling permanently in Sind without wholly degenerating; and, in brief, I am of opinion that, as a general assertion, no European would select this province for his permanent habitation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Jacob*, Lieutenant-Colonel,

Commissioner's Office, Acting Commissioner in Sind,
Camp Buchance, Kurrachee Collectorate,
9 November 1856.

No. 238 of 1857.—Territorial Department, Revenue.

From *E. G. Fawcett*, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, to
H. Young, Esq., Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

In reply to your memorandum, No. 4246, dated 28th October 1856, I have the honour to inform you that the Collectors of the northern division have reported that there are no tracts of country within their respective jurisdictions suitable for colonisation by Europeans.

2. Mr. Inverarity, the late Collector of Broach, observes that "where the physical character of the country should render such a course practicable or desirable, it ought not on any account to be admitted unless the settlers are made amenable to the same jurisdiction as the natives in all civil and criminal matters, and this question it appears to me should be well considered before the home Government promulgate any general rules on the subject."

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. G. Fawcett*,
Revenue Commissioner, N. D.
Khandeish Districts,
Revenue Commissioner's Office,
Camp Arvee, 30 January 1857.

No. 512 of 1857.—Territorial Department, Revenue.

From *H. W. Reeve*, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, to
W. Young, Esq., Officiating Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the memorandum, dated 28th October, No. 4247, in which I was requested to state whether there are in this Presidency any districts in which military retired officers and pensioners
of

* No. 4242, dated 28 October 1856. Forwarding copies of correspondence for report as to whether there are any districts in this Presidency in which military retired officers and pensioners might advantageously settle.

of European birth might advantageously settle, and whether the country would be benefited by its being so colonised by military settlers.

2. As cultivators, men of European birth would settle only on or in the neighbourhood of the Ghauts, or on mountains which are off-shoots from the Ghauts, climate being the first requisite; I therefore referred the questions to the Collectors of Belgaum, Sattara, Ahmednuggur, and Poona, and I forward a letter,* from Mr. Seton Karr, which is perhaps the fullest of the replies which have been sent me. Mr. Tytler writes much to the same purpose as Mr. Seton Karr, adding that it is as purchasers of produce, rather than as producers, that settlers would succeed; "as merchants rather than as farmers." He thinks our railways and good roads, when they are made, will bring European purchasers into the interior, who by improving the demand will improve the supply; and he would rather look to this than to any example of superior farming, for which there is little room.

* No. 1826 of 7
November 1856.

3. Mr. Tytler very justly remarks that the benefit or otherwise to the country would depend very much on the character of the settlers. Colonists able and anxious to benefit the ignorant masses around them would gain much influence, and act most beneficially on the people. Others of a different stamp would have a most baneful effect on the country, and evil is so easily disseminated, that the injury done by such characters would perhaps outweigh the good to be expected from the better colonists.

4. I have not much of my own to add to what these gentlemen advance. That the country would be benefited by the settlement of European officers and pensioners of really respectable character, and possessed of capital, is of course beyond question. But in the first place, the climate is prejudicial to the European constitution; and in the next place, colonists of bad character are far more numerous than those of good; I should expect as the first fruits of European colonization, a great amount of evil to the natives from the vicious example and tyranny of the settlers; we should also have European pauperism to contend with; our criminal and civil business would increase.

5. I do not think there is any necessity for increasing the facilities which European settlers at present enjoy; men of small income of all classes go and live at the Neilgherries or on the Hymalayah mountains comfortably enough, I believe. They cannot do so continuously at Mahableswar, because during four months in the year the rain is incessant; but there are Englishmen possessing houses there who do live eight months and a half on the hills, and three and a half at Sattara, and are getting on well.

6. At Belgaum and at Poona there are a good many pensioners engaged in trade, many of whom are thriving.

7. On the whole I am disposed to think that there is no evident call for interference, and no prospect of good result from it; at the same time I am an advocate for giving the natives fair play. India is their own country, and in it they should be as little interfered with as possible; whatever Government do for them, let it be of such a character that it can be pronounced to be on the whole good. Now the natives appear to me very much awake to their own interests. Cultivation is everywhere extending, even over the tops of the mountains, and capital is accumulating. Irrigation must increase greatly, so soon as Government multiply the number of roads throughout the country to the requisite extent. It is better that the natives should possess the land than Europeans, who will succeed better and effect more good to the country as purchasers and merchants than as producers. Colonization in India needs not to be artificially stimulated; it should be left to itself, for it will thus be far more likely to answer a good purpose. Men of respectability and substance will come to the country, or will remain in it, and occupy themselves in every possible manner, and while things take their natural course we shall ensure to India as much of the good, and as little as possible of the bad, leaven of British manners and customs.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. W. Reeves,*
Revenue Commissioner, S. D.

Revenue Commissioner's
Camp, Ahmednuggur,
20 February 1857.

No. 1826 of 1856.

From *G. B. Seton Karr*, Esquire, Collector of Belgaum, to *H. W. Reeves*, Esquire, Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to receive your communication, No. 3280, dated the 31st ultimo, requesting my opinion on the points mentioned by Government in Mr. Chief Secretary Young's memorandum, No. 4247 of the 28th idem, viz., whether there are in this collectorate any districts in which military European retired officers and pensioners might advantageously settle, and whether the country would be benefited by being colonized by military settlers.

2. With regard to the first point, I have the honour to observe that the attractions which would chiefly influence European gentlemen would, in addition to grants of land, be doubtless those of climate and means of education; married men with families being generally those who colonize. A sufficiency of good waste land is the first requisite. Now, in this collectorate the whole of the best, even the second-best land is already appropriated; and this fact would seem of itself to dispose of the question. But I may also mention that I am not aware of any locality here in which gentlemen would, of their own choice, elect to bring up their families.

3. With regard to pensioners, the same want of unoccupied land would militate against the plan; and although persons in humble circumstances have not so great a latitude of choice as those who are better off, I doubt whether, in regard also to climate, &c., there is any place in this collectorate that would prove attractive to European settlers of any class. The western parts of Podshapur and Beree are far too poor, and also too wild, and the fall of rain is too great, to admit of any hope that pensioners would settle there. The other districts are, in climate, &c., not much dissimilar from other parts of the Deccan plateau.

4. What I have above stated makes it unnecessary for me to discuss the question of whether the country would be benefited by the colonization of military settlers; but I may say generally that I believe the country would derive a good deal more advantage than the colonists.

Belgaum Collector's Office, (signed) *G. B. Seton Karr*,
Sowunduttee, 7 November 1856. Collector.

No. 1243 of 1857.—Territorial Department, Revenue,

To the Revenue Commissioner, S. D.; the Revenue Commissioner, N. D.;
and the Acting Commissioner in Sind.

Copy of the Resolution passed by Government on the Papers noted in the margin.*

THESE reports to be communicated to the Honourable Court, with reference to their despatch in the Military Department, No. 71 of the 3d September 1856.

2. It may at the same time be stated that this Government concur in the general opinion expressed by their officers as to the absence, under this Presidency, of any tracts suitable for colonization by Europeans, and more especially in the observations made by the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, as regards the doubtful expediency of encouraging Europeans to occupy land as cultivating colonists.

3. European capitalists, on the other hand, would, if scattered through the Presidency, tend greatly to ameliorate the condition of the country by becoming purchasers

* Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind, No. 430, dated 9 November 1856. Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, N. D., No. 238, dated 30 January 1857. Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, S. D., No. 512, dated 20 February 1857, with enclosure.

purchasers of agricultural produce, and giving the cultivators the advantage of a more equitable system of dealing than they can now command from native capitalists.

Bombay Castle,
14 March 1857.

(signed) *H. Young*,
Officiating Chief Secretary to Government.

RESOLUTION, 14th March 1857.

. ORDERED that copy of the above Resolution, and of the Papers on which it has been passed, be transferred to the Military Department, in order that the necessary Report may thence be made to the Honourable Court.

(signed) *H. Young*,
Officiating Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 2217.

From the Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary to Government,
Military Department, Bombay.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour of submitting to the Commander-in-Chief your letter, No. 3250, dated the 24th October last, with annexments (to the address of the Quartermaster-general, transferred to this department), on the subject of holding out encouragements to officers and soldiers to retire and settle in the country, and, in reply, am directed to communicate for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council the following observations of his Excellency thereupon.

2. The inducements for settling in India are not defined in Sir George Clerk's letter to the address of Sir J. C. Melvill, dated the 4th July last.

3. If it be expected that worn-out officers and soldiers may be transformed into successful agriculturists, the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion the expectation will be disappointed; all experience and, his Excellency believes, all reason is against it. Discharged soldiers may thrive in a mixed community, where at stations such as Belgaum, Poona, and Ahmednuggur, by following the trades of carpenters, shoemakers, and in handicraft generally, they amass a little money and become proprietors of one or more small houses, and apparently thrive; but a community of discharged or pensioned soldiers, whether in the vigour of health or otherwise, would, in his Excellency's opinion, become one of paupers.

4. Delusion to an unfortunate extent prevails amongst soldiers and sailors of every grade, that anybody is competent to farm, and often as this confidence has been rebuked by failure, it still prevails; farming, like every other profession or trade, is learned only by an apprenticeship, which few of the soldiers, while none of the officers, have served, and, therefore, few amongst them are qualified for the undertaking.

5. The hill stations of India, the Commander-in-Chief believes, would meet the wishes of those discharged officers and soldiers who would be satisfied to dream away their days in mere existence, without interest or aim, but his Excellency entertains the strongest doubts if colonization from such a source would succeed from a class not sufficiently industrial or energetic, and whose previous habits and thoughts unfit them for the occupation of farmers.

6. The suggestions, emanating from authority so high as Sir George Clerk, whose acquaintance with the countries referred to renders him able to speak of their fertility and salubrity, and of the advantages they hold out to European soldiers, is deserving the attention of officers; and some there are, no doubt, who would be found ready to adopt it on liberal terms; but as respects the settlement of pensioned soldiers, his Excellency believes that, however liberal the terms, and great the advantages, the scheme, whether adopted by officers or soldiers, would in the end be a failure. Emigration was at one time

very popular with the European soldiery, many of whom took their discharge and proceeded to Australia; but his Excellency believes the measure to have been unattended by any beneficial result, and that the soldiery was hired there, not from the desire to follow agricultural pursuits, but from the delusive hope of amassing wealth from the gold diggings; and that while none, it is believed, became landowners, most of them returned to England, some to India, where they re-enlisted, and the few that remained were mere agricultural labourers, or worked at the trades or handicraft to which in their youth they had been brought up.

7. Emigration to Australia, whose climate is more congenial to the constitutions of Europeans than that of India, having proved a failure, and labour, while compared with the prices of the necessaries of life, being now as valuable in England as in the colonies, the Commander-in-Chief entertains the strongest conviction that the same system and failure would prevail were the hilly parts of India thrown open to the European officers or soldiers.

Head Quarters, Bombay,
25 March 1857.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. Green*,
Colonel, Adjutant-general.

Military Department.

MEMORANDUM by the Secretary to Government.

THE question proposed by the Honourable Court is this: whether it may not be practicable and desirable to hold out advantages to officers and soldiers retired or discharged from the Indian armies, who from their age and circumstances may be qualified as settlers, to induce them to settle in those localities in India which may, after due inquiry, be deemed best adapted to Europeans.

The nature and object of the inquiry are further explained in the letter from Sir G. Clerk to Sir James Melvill; the localities are there indicated to be "the various mountainous tracts in Madras and Central India, and also in the whole range of the Himalaya mountains, from Cashmere to Sikhim." The system is contemplated as applicable to "soldiers of certified good character, as well as officers;" the benefit to be derived is from the occupation of land, whereby "cultivation and civilization may be encouraged in various parts of India, hitherto unfrequented by Europeans."

The localities to be thrown open for colonization by settlers from the army are not situated within the territories of the Bombay Presidency, and therefore that part of the question which refers to the benefit to be derived by the country from such a system of colonization can be treated only in general terms. The only class that can effect successful colonization in wide tracts of waste land is the agricultural; the manufacturing may be mingled, but in a small proportion; the farming must constitute the bulk. In the army there are many skilful artisans, men who have been brought up to trades of all kinds, and who have been able, whilst performing their military service, to keep up their skill and knowledge of their early handicraft; such men frequently take their discharge, and establish themselves in the cities and towns of India, and sometimes maintain for a while a thriving business. But it is vain to seek in the ranks of the army for agriculturists. Even supposing a certain proportion of the recruits to be drawn from the farming class, there is no opportunity for them to practise agriculture whilst serving as soldiers, and whatever they may have known or acquired in their youth, they must have lost long before the time comes when they can take their discharge. If colonization is to be attempted from this source, alone and by itself, the plan presents no valid hope of success.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has justly observed in the Adjutant-general's letter of the 25th March, that if it be expected that worn-out officers and soldiers may be transformed into successful agriculturists, the expectation will be disappointed. The fact seems to be, that although a few discharged soldiers may thrive in a mixed community by the exercise of trades and the accumulation of a little property invested in small houses or garden grounds, as is the case at present at several of the army stations, yet it is to be apprehended that a society of such individuals would very soon become unmanageable and sink into a community of pauperism and vice.

The advantages offered to settlers in the Crown colonies made emigration popular for a period with the European soldiery in India. But his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that the many who have taken their discharge and proceeded to Australia have been lured there, not by the desire to follow agricultural pursuits, from which alone the colony could benefit from their residence, but by a delusive hope of amassing wealth from the gold diggings; and that while none have become landed proprietors, many have found their way to England, or back to India (where they have re-enlisted), and the few that have remained are, it is said, mere agricultural labourers, or workers at trades to which they have been brought up in their youth.

If encouragement to colonise presented a certain promise of benefit to the country as well as to the settlers themselves, it would perhaps not be necessary to go further, and to consider what the effect of such a system would be upon the army itself. But as this promise is something more than doubtful, it must be added as an argument against the proposition, that it would unquestionably be very prejudicial to the interests of every regiment to have temptations freely offered to the best men serving in its ranks to take their discharge and leave it. This was experienced when the desire to emigrate to Australia was ripe among the men; an unsettled spirit was excited among the soldiery, who are always fond of change, and the loss of numbers of excellent men was seriously felt. The difficulty of getting to Australia, the long voyage intervening, and the ties of family operated as a check; but if a settlement were open close at hand, with the prospect of a life of ease, and possibly idleness on the one hand, and the continuance of military duty on the other, the ranks would soon be thinned; it would be scarcely possible to restrain discharges within safe or reasonable limits, and very grave injury both to the discipline and efficiency of all European regiments in India would, it is greatly to be feared, be the inevitable result.

With respect to officers, it is difficult to understand what advantages could be held out to encourage them to remain and spend the latter part of their lives in India. Military men have no superior qualifications for becoming useful members of colonial settlement; on the contrary, their qualifications are in general inferior for such a purpose to those of civilians; and if inducements to the Indian services to settle in India be offered, they should not be confined to the army. If a system of colonization by Europeans in India is to be established, it will require to be placed on a larger basis than the present proposition. Were colonies established, discharged soldiers and their officers might be induced to join and assist such colonies, but the initiative should be taken by the civilian rather than by the military classes.

(signed) P. M. Melvill, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor.

I do not agree in all the remarks contained in this memorandum; for instance, that, as a general rule, military men have no qualifications for becoming useful members of a colonial society; but I think that there are few places in India which are at all adapted for European colonization, and none in this Presidency.

Whether it is desirable to attempt to form a colony of discharged soldiers in the Deyra Doon, or in some other places in the North-west, I am unable to say; but I doubt extremely whether a colony could be formed on the Nilgherries with much prospect of advantage. Perhaps a few settlers might do very well. Coffee cultivation, rearing silkworms, and breeding cattle, might afford the means of living to a few; but, in my humble opinion, there is not room for anything worthy of being called colonization. I agree so far with the memorandum, that a few settlers may for a time be able to carry on a thriving business in towns, and, I will add, in particular localities; but as a general scheme, European colonization would not succeed in India.

(signed) Elphinstone.

13 April 1857.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Lumsden*.

ANY systematic attempt to promote colonization will fail in India, I firmly believe, because the climate is against it. A colony confined to the hill ranges would prosper no better, I think, in the long run, than if it had been established on the plains. The confinement and seclusion implied by such a plan would hardly be tolerated by Europeans or their descendants. As respects military settlers, the remarks in the memorandum appear to me to be generally very just; but if the Honourable Court desire to see if such an experiment would succeed, they need do no more than hold out the inducements of granting tracts of hill land to officers applying for such grants who have resigned the service, whether military or civil, and to privates who have taken their discharge. I do not think that, in the long run, much inconvenience would result from such a temptation.

(signed) *J. G. Lumsden*.

14 April 1857.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Malet*.

I AGREE very much with the views in the memorandum. As far as this Presidency is concerned, I have no hope of any benefit from the mode of colonization proposed, nor in more favourable localities of anything beyond a very inconsiderable and temporary success.

(signed) *A. Malet*.

15 April 1857.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, subscribed by
the Board.

I THINK we are all agreed that no advantage is to be expected from European colonies in this Presidency.

(signed) *Elphinstone*.

21 April 1857.

(True copies.)

P. M. Melvill, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

(True copies and extracts.)

Philip Melvill,
Secretary, Military Department.

East India House,
28 March 1858.

EAST INDIA (RETIRED OFFICERS, &c.)

COPIES of the DESPATCH addressed by the Court of Directors to the Government of *India*, on 3 December 1856, and of the LETTER addressed to Her Majesty's Government, regarding the Advantages held out to RETIRED OFFICERS of the INDIAN ARMIES on settling in Her Majesty's Colonies; and of the REPLY referred to in the Despatch; also, of the MILITARY LETTER from the Government of *India*, dated 6 October 1857, with Reports from Local Governments, on the same Subject.

(*Colonel Sykes.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
13 April 1858.

180.

Under 4 os.