

*Die Martis, 6<sup>o</sup> Aprilis 1813.*

The Earl of Buckinghamshire in the Chair.

ORDER of Adjournment read.

The Counsel are called in.

The Proceedings of this Committee Yesterday are read

The Right Honourable JOHN Lord TEIGNMOUTH is called in; and, having been sworn by the Lord Chancellor, a Chair is placed for his Lordship near the Table, and his Lordship is examined as follows:

*Lord Teignmouth*

*(By Counsel.)* Will your Lordship inform the Committee how long your Lordship was in the Service of the East India Company?—About Thirty Years, of which Period I was resident about Twenty-four in India.

In what Department of the Company's Service?—I was chiefly employed in the Revenue Department, until I was appointed a Member of the Supreme Council at Bengal.

How long was your Lordship a Member of the Supreme Council, how long was your Lordship Governor of Bengal?—Something more than Three Years a Member of the Supreme Council, and about Four and a Half Governor General.

Had your Lordship Opportunities by your Residence in Bengal to obtain an accurate Knowledge of the Character of the Natives of that Part of the Country?—I had many Opportunities of obtaining a Knowledge of the Character of the Natives of Bengal, and it was my constant Endeavour to obtain an accurate Knowledge of it.

From the Result of your Lordship's Observations upon the Character of the People of that Country, are you of opinion that they are peculiarly tenacious of their own Modes of thinking and acting, and peculiarly jealous of any Affronts that may be offered to their Habits and Prejudices?—I think them very tenacious of their peculiar Habits, Customs, and Prejudices, and that a Violation of them would be strongly felt by them.

In the Event of the Trade being opened between this Country and India, and free Permission granted to the Natives of this Country to enter and reside in the Bengal Provinces at their Pleasure, is it your Lordship's Opinion that any serious Evils are to be apprehended to the Peace and Happiness of the Natives of that Part of the Country?—An unrestrained Admission of Europeans into the Country, in the Mode in which it has been explained by the Counsel, would certainly in my Opinion be attended with very great Inconvenience and Embarrassment to the Government of the Country, and might probably be attended with mischievous and dangerous Consequences.

Does your Lordship apprehend that those Consequences would be dangerous to the Peace and Happiness of the Inhabitants of the Country?—The Admission of a Number of Europeans into the interior of Bengal, of People unacquainted with the Habits and Customs of the Natives of that Country, and many of them entertaining a Contempt for them, would probably be attended with this Inconvenience, that they would often violate the Prejudices of the Natives by their

Lord Teignmouth. Conduct, and excite a considerable Degree of Irritation in the Natives by such Conduct; but whether it would be attended with evil Consequences to the Peace of the Country generally speaking, I feel some Hesitation in giving any positive Opinion; there is another Instance in which I think the unrestrained Admission of Europeans in the Mode pointed out would also be attended with bad Consequences, that it would tend to lower the British Character in the Estimate of the Natives; and that might be deemed a dangerous Effect, when the great Disproportion between the Inhabitants of India and the Number of Europeans is taken into Consideration.

Can your Lordship form any Estimate of the Proportion of the Europeans in that Country to the Natives?—Is the Question confined to Bengal, or to all India?

It is confined to those Countries with which your Lordship is acquainted.—If the Question referred to all India, I could answer it with more certainty; and I should say then, that I considered the Proportion of Natives to Europeans to be that of about Two Millions of Natives to 1000 Europeans. I suppose the Natives subject to the British Government in India to be nearly 60 Millions, and the whole Number of Europeans in all Parts of India probably not to exceed 30,000.

Supposing that Irritation which your Lordship has supposed would take place in the Minds of the Natives, from unrestrained Intercourse with Europeans, and supposing that Degradation of the European Character in their Opinion which your Lordship has alluded to, do you not think it might ultimately affect the Stability of the British Empire in India?—A long Course of Irritation, and an increasing Sentiment of Degradation might lead to such an Effect: That Consequence would very much depend upon the Number of Europeans so admitted into India, and the Degree of Irritation which they might excite; I should suppose that much of the Evil might be corrected by the Interposition of the Governments in India.

If such Traders were restrained from proceeding into the Interior of the Country, but were permitted to resort to and reside in all the Ports of the Peninsula at Will, do you apprehend any similar Effects from that Permission?—In that Case I should think the Effects would be comparatively little.

If Englishmen were allowed by Law to pervade at Will, and reside freely at all Parts of the Bengal Provinces, is your Lordship of opinion that it would be possibly in the Power of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, to which alone at present Englishmen are criminally amenable, to prevent or to punish the Oppression of the Natives by such Persons?—The Supreme Court, I should conceive, could not act without the Assistance of the Local Governments, because the Superintendance of the Police of the Country is intrusted to Officers appointed by the Government of Bengal; and I believe that those Officers so appointed, under the Denomination of Magistrates, act also as Justices of the Peace. The Supreme Court of Judicature has no Officers of its own in the Interior, it could not therefore in the first Instance restrain the Oppressions of Europeans; if any such were practised, the Complaint of the Sufferers would probably be preferred to the European Magistrates, who have Power to apprehend them, and might send them to Calcutta for trial by the Supreme Court of Judicature, if they judged it right and expedient. I do not think that any Power would altogether restrain the Commission of Acts of Oppression; but that by Regulations adapted to the Case, they might be prevented by Punishment, as far as Punishment can prevent the Repetition of Crimes.

Is it not your Lordship's Opinion, that under the present System the Prevention of Oppression by Europeans in the Interior of the Bengal Provinces, is chiefly owing to the summary Power vested in the Local Authorities in such Cases, to restrain the Offenders, and to send them out of the Country?—I have not sufficient Recollection of the Regulations of the Bengal Government to answer that Question correctly; I should suppose that the Magistrates or Police Officers, can only act by such Regulations as are framed for their Conduct.

Is your Lordship of opinion, in the Event of a free Trade between this Country and India, a considerably increased Demand for European Articles among the Natives would be likely to take place?—I think not. *Lord Teignmouth.*

Will your Lordship state what are your Reasons for that Opinion?—That I am not aware of any Manufactures in this Country that the Natives would be likely to purchase in any considerable Degree; this Opinion is formed from my Knowledge of their Modes of living in India.

Have the general Mass of the Population in the Bengal Provinces the means of purchasing European Articles if they wished it?—I should think certainly not.

Is your Lordship of opinion, that under the present System, or any other System that might be adopted for the Government of the Indian Empire, that there is any reasonable Probability that the general Mass of the Population of India should so increase in Wealth as to be enabled to purchase European Articles to any considerable Degree?—I see no Prospect of it; but I should not rest my Answer to that Question, merely on the Increase of Wealth, but my Opinion is founded principally on the Modes of living of the Natives.

In particular, does your Lordship think that there would be any Chance of their wearing British Woollens in the rainy Season?—Some few might be induced to wear our Broad Cloths in the cold Season, but the Bulk of the People would not be able to purchase them; and with respect to the higher Ranks, I should think they would prefer the Shawls of the Country to our Broad Cloths. I should suppose that the increased Sale of Broad Cloths would be very limited.

When your Lordship states that some few might be induced to buy the Broad Cloths of this Country, does your Lordship mean that these Persons are in the higher Ranks?—No, I do not. I should rather conceive them in a Rank neither the highest nor the lowest; I would for Instance state the native Servants of Europeans; but under any Circumstances, I think very few would be likely to use them.

Your Lordship has referred for the Foundation of your Opinion to the general Situation of the Mass of the Population in that Country; will your Lordship be so good as to state the general Situation of the Mass of the Population as to their Houses, Furniture, Dress, and Food?—The general Mass of the Population of India live in Straw Huts; their Furniture consists of a few Articles of the Country, Mats, and a few earthen Pots for dressing their Victuals; their Food in general is Rice; their Dress is a very small Proportion of Cotton Cloth, the Produce of the Country.

Is your Lordship enabled to inform the Committee of what the Rate of Labour is among the Agricultural Labourers of that Country?—I do not recollect at present.

Can your Lordship inform the Committee how much per Month is necessary to maintain a Family of that Description?—I should suppose that One Rupee and a Quarter, or about Three Shillings a Month, would maintain a Native luxuriously.

And his Family?—Not his Family also.

A single Person?—A single Person.

During the Time that your Lordship resided in India, did it appear to you that the Market for European Commodities of all Kinds was adequate to the Demand for those Commodities in that Country?—Does the Question refer to the Natives?

It refers to the Natives.—I should think certainly Yes; because I am not aware what Articles of European Manufacture or Produce the Natives purchase.

Did it appear to you to be generally adequate to the Demand by all Ranks of People in that Country?—In general it certainly did.

Did

*Lord Teignmouth.* Did it happen to fall within your Lordship's Knowledge, while you were in the Supreme Council, and at the Head of the Bengal Government, that the East India Company used every Endeavour to introduce European Manufactures to all that Part of the Country within the Extent of their Charter?—I have always understood it to be their Wish and Endeavour so to do.

Is it your Lordship's Opinion that the present System of the Indian Trade is fully adequate to supply any increased Demand for European Commodities among the Natives that is likely to arise?—Upon my Estimate of the Wants of the Natives, I should certainly think it is.

*Examined by the Committee.*

During your Residence in India, had not the European Inhabitants greatly increased?—I should think they must have increased very considerably.

Have the Regulations that were in Force when your Lordship was in India, proved adequate to prevent Europeans residing in the Interior of the Country from disturbing the Peace of the Country, or oppressing the Native Inhabitants?—There were Instances when I was in India, of Acts of Oppression committed by Europeans; and whenever such occurred, and were reported to Government, it interfered and punished them. I do not think any Regulations would altogether prevent Acts of Oppression, and Acts disturbing the Peace of the Country, although the Repetition of them might be in a great Measure prevented by punishing the Offenders.

Generally speaking, were the Regulations found adequate to the Purpose?—If the Question be put more generally, as to the Power of Government, for I do not sufficiently recollect the Nature of the subsisting Regulations at that Time, I should suppose it was in a great Degree sufficient to check them.

In those Instances of Oppression to which your Lordship refers in your former Answer, had you in your Contemplation Persons actually in the Service of the East India Company, or Persons licensed to reside within the Country by their Government?—I meant principally Persons licensed by the Government to reside in the Country, as I suppose the Question alluded to them, but my Answer would equally apply to the Company's Servants.

What does your Lordship conceive to be the Population of the Town of Calcutta?—I never heard it mentioned upon any other than very vague Grounds; from my Recollection of what I have heard on this Subject, I should suppose about eight hundred thousand.

Are not European Articles of Manufacture generally in Consumption within the Town of Calcutta?—By the Europeans, and possibly some of the Portuguese who have been born in India.

But not by the Natives resident within the Town of Calcutta?—Not, I should suppose, by the Natives resident in Calcutta generally; there may be Instances of a few Natives, I will say three or four, who are in the Habit of occasionally giving Entertainments to Europeans, who may use Lustres in their Houses, but I do not recollect any other Articles of European Manufacture or Produce in general Use by the Natives of Calcutta.

Was there any considerably Trade carried on by the Americans when your Lordship was in the Government in India?—I rather think not; at that Period there was a Gentleman in Calcutta who called himself an American Consul; but I believe that the Government did not acknowledge him in that Character, although they were disposed to shew him all personal Attention. I really do not recollect what Number of American Ships came to Calcutta during the Time in which I was in the Government, but the Records of the Company I suppose will shew. I do remember some American Ships coming, but I do not recollect the Number.

You have stated that the subsisting Regulations at the Time you were Governor General of India were generally found sufficient to punish any Act of Oppression upon

upon the Natives up the Country?—I stated more broadly that the Power of Government was. *Lord Teignmouth.*

If the subsisting Regulations had not been sufficient, were not the Powers of Government large enough to render them so?—At the Time that I was in India, I think they were.

In the Event of a free Trade being opened with the principal Settlements of India, does not your Lordship conceive, that the Power of Government would be sufficient to prevent those ill Effects which your Lordship seems to have apprehended from an unrestrained Intercourse?—I do not think any Regulations of Government could altogether prevent Acts of Injustice or Oppression by Europeans in the Interior, but that Regulations might be so framed as to bring the Offender to Punishment, in which Case some of the Evils would be mitigated.

A Question was put to your Lordship by the Counsel, with respect to the Power of controuling Europeans up the Country; I think your Lordship's Attention was pointed chiefly to the Powers of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta: does not your Lordship think the Magistrates having Power to apprehend Persons offending, might send them to Calcutta to be dealt with there, by being sent to Europe as the Governor General in Council should think proper?—I do not recollect the Extent of the Power given by the Law to the Government of India in this Respect; but in any Case of Enormity, as Governor General I should have exercised such Power, taking the Responsibility upon myself. With respect to unlicensed Europeans, the Government have decidedly the Power, and in one Case I exercised it, in sending an European Person to this Country.

In the Houses of Natives of Wealth, is it not usual to floor their Rooms with Woollen Manufactures of Europe?—I know very little of the Interior of the Houses of the Natives. In some of those in which I had Access, which were those of the principal Natives only, I believe the Floor may have been covered in some Instances with Broad Cloth, but in general with White Cloths, the Produce of the Country.

There was a Question put to your Lordship by the Counsel, with respect to the Endeavours by The East India Company to introduce British Manufactures into India; is your Lordship aware that that Question extended not only to India, but to all the Countries within the Company's Charter?—My answer to it was given from a general Recollection of the Instructions received from The India Company in Bengal, and therefore I considered the Question as applying to Bengal principally, as it was usual for the Court of Directors to send Copies of their Dispatches to the other Settlements of Madras and Bombay, to the Bengal Government; the Impression which I feel on this Subject may have arisen from Letters directed also to those Presidencies.

Then the Committee are to understand that the Efforts that you conceive The East India Company to have made for the Introduction of British Manufactures are confined to the Three Presidencies of India?—To the Three Presidencies of India.

Your Lordship was several Times at Lucknow?—Twice.

Did your Lordship find that there was any Demand for British Manufactures, either by the Nabob or People of Oude?—The Nabob had amassed a very large Quantity of European Articles, in a House which was known by the Name of The Aina Couch at Lucknow; but it was considered as a kind of Museum for the Gratification of a particular Propensity of the Nabob of Oude. I do not know that his Example was imitated by any other of the People at Lucknow.

Was his Taste for British Manufactures merely confined to the Articles that were deposited in his Museum in that House?—I believe it was; the Articles there principally consisted of Watches, Clocks, and Jewellery of different Kinds.

Did he not affect the English Costume in his Dress?—No, I do not recollect that he did.

*Lord Teignmouth.* Your Lordship is of course aware that no European can proceed into the Interior of the Country without the Licence of the Local Government; do not those Persons, when they are licensed, enter into Covenants with respect to their Conduct when within the Interior of the Country?—My Recollection does not enable me to answer that Question with Precision; I rather think they do, but I am not certain; it is a Point of Fact that may be ascertained from the Records of the Company.

Does your Lordship happen to know, whether it has been usual for The East India Company to send out any Woollen Manufactures to the East Indies, fabricated particularly with a View to the Consumption of the Natives?—I do not know.

Is it your Lordship's Opinion, that the Propositions for changing The East India System tend to establish those Territories as Colonies?—That is a Question which would require more Consideration than I am enabled to give to it at present. Upon my View of the Subject I do not think it very likely to follow; because I think that the Merchants of this Country, who have entertained large Ideas of the Profits to be derived from an unrestricted Trade to India, will be disappointed in their Expectations; and, that though at first there may be many Adventurers, that the Number of them, in future, will be greatly limited by the Disappointment of their Expectations.

Does not your Lordship consider the Admission of India-built Ships upon the British Register tends to put them on the Footing of Colonies?—I have never entered at all into the Consideration of that Question.

Has it not been considered as a necessary Policy, to prevent the East India Territories from being put upon the Footing of Colonies?—I should think that the Policy that would prevent it, would be the wisest.

Has the Experiment of opening our India Trade to private Traders and friendly Nations, proved beneficial, or otherwise?—I have not sufficient Recollection of the Results of any Experiment that may have been made, to answer that Question.

Has The East India Company better Means of introducing our Manufactures in that Country, than private Merchants?—If the Trade were open, I should suppose private Merchants would have equal Means with the Company, of introducing Articles of this Country into India.

Have Artisans from Europe established any Manufactories in India?—There have been Coach-makers, Carpenters, Ship-wrights, Watchmakers, and Tailors, and perhaps other Trades; but I do not recollect any Manufactories that have been established by Artisans from this Country, excepting an Experiment for tanning Skins, the Success of which I do not recollect.

Are the Natives employed in those Manufactories?—I do not recollect any Manufactories that have been established in India, by Artisans from this Country, further than I have mentioned.

Does not your Lordship consider Coach-making and Shoe-making, and those Things Manufactures?—If they are considered Manufactures, the Natives were certainly employed by the Artisans in those Businesses.

What is the Nature of those Restrictions and Regulations which your Lordship conceives might be provided to prevent the Influx of Europeans into the Interior of India, in the Event of the Trade being opened?—I suppose that the Commanders of Vessels importing into India from this Country, would be required to go to some Port in India; that there they should be required to give an Account of their Crew, Passengers, and every European arriving in India in their Vessels, to the Government; that when they leave the Port they should be required to mention any Europeans who came out in their Ships that had been left behind; that no European should be permitted to go into the Interior without a Passport; that the Magistrates (and the Regulations might be extended to Collectors, and other Officers of the Government) be ordered to stop Europeans proceeding in the Interior without such Passports; and that further, for the Purpose of ascertaining

ascertaining whether any had obtained Access into the Interior notwithstanding these Precautions and Regulations; that every British Subject residing in the Interior should be required to give a Return of his Name, Residence, and Occupation, once or as much oftener in a Year as might be thought necessary, under a general Notice; that Europeans failing to comply with the Regulations, should be considered as forfeiting any Right they had derived from Licence or Passport, to reside in the Interior. Those are the Regulations which immediately occur to me.

*Lord Teignmouth.*

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Does your Lordship, upon the whole, conceive the Regulations your Lordship has now enumerated, would be sufficient to prevent any considerable Influx of Europeans into the Interior?—I should think in a considerable Degree, but not entirely.

During the Period of your Lordship's Acquaintance with India, were any considerable Number of Europeans, not Subjects of Great Britain, resident in the Interior of India?—I should think very few.

You confine your Answer to the Company's Possessions?—If the Question refers to the Interior of India beyond the Company's Possessions, there were many undoubtedly.

Is your Lordship aware of any considerable Inconvenience which resulted from the Intercourse which must have taken place between Persons so circumstanced, and the Natives of India?—In the Court of the Nizam very great Inconvenience arose from the Influence of the French commanding Troops in the Service of the Nizam. I think it is probable that the same Inconvenience was more or less felt wherever there were Europeans in the Employ of the Native Princes, particularly in Times of unfriendly Discussion, or Hostility between those Princes and the Company's Government.

By Inconvenience it is meant the Inconvenience arising out of an unrestrained Intercourse between Europeans and the Natives?—There were certainly Instances of such Inconvenience when I was in India.

Would the Regulations to which your Lordship has adverted as necessary, in the Event of a Free Trade taking place with India, for restraining the Intercourse of British Subjects with the Interior, be effectual for the Purpose of preventing Disturbance, unless the Subjects of other European Powers can be effectually excluded from that Intercourse?—Those Regulations were rather meant to prevent the unlicensed Influx of Europeans into the Interior of India, than to restrain them when so situated. I should think not, if the Subjects of other Powers had an unrestrained Access into the Interior of the Country; but I believe that is not the Case at present, nor has ever been allowed by the British Government, as far as it could prevent it.

Then his Lordship withdrew.

Then Major General ALEXANDER KYD is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

*Major Gen.  
Alexander Kyd.*

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(*By Counsel.*) Have you been in the Service of The East India Company?—Yes; I have been in their Service Thirty-nine Years, Thirty-three or Thirty-four of which I have been constantly resident in India.

How long have you been returned to this Country?—A little more than Two Years.

You were, I believe, in the Military Service of the Company?—I am now in the Military Service of The East India Company.

I wish to know whether you did not rise to some high Station in that Service?—I now hold the Office of Chief Engineer on the Bengal Establishment.

During

*Major Gen.  
Alexander Kyd.*

During your Continuance in the Service of the Company, had you an Opportunity of visiting various Parts of British India?—I have visited most of the Settlements and Stations in the Interior of the Country in the Company's Possessions, and on their Coasts.

Had you during that Time many Opportunities of informing yourself with respect to the Characters, Manners, and Usages of the Natives of India?—From the Line of my Service I was necessarily frequently a long Time at a Place by myself; and of course had much Communication with the Natives, and had a great Deal of Business to do with them in forming Contracts for Materials and Workmanship in the various Works I have had Occasion to carry on.

From the Experience you have had on this Subject, are you able to form a Conjecture with respect to the probable Effect of an unrestrained Intercourse between British Persons and the Native Inhabitants of India?—I think from my own Observation it would be fraught with very dangerous Consequences, more particularly, if, as it appears to me, that the Object pointed at should be attained, the Trade was open to all the Ports in India. Our Possessions along the Coasts now extend from the Gulf of Cambay to the utmost Point of the Peninsula of Malacca, a Space of between 3 and 4,000 Miles, in which there are innumerable Ports, in which small Vessels endeavouring to push a Trade might stop. I therefore conceive that if this Permission of touching at these Ports was granted to all such Vessels, the Government could not have a sufficient Authority to restrain the Evil that must attend so free a Communication as such a Class of Europeans as would be employed in navigating these Vessels would have with the Natives.

On what observed Peculiarities in the Characters or Usages of the Natives do you found that Opinion?—It is an unfortunate Circumstance, but it is certainly true, that the Character of the lower Class of Europeans is; to hold in utter Contempt, and to despise the Character of the Natives; and on all Occasions, where I have observed they have had the smallest Authority, they never fail to treat them ill. There is another Circumstance that is equally unfortunate, that almost all the lower Classes of Europeans are addicted to Spirituous Liquors when they can get them. Spirituous Liquors are to be got in every Village or Market in the Country at a trifling Price, and therefore they naturally will indulge in them, and in their Intemperance ill treat the Natives.

Do you remember having seen Instances in which this Observation was verified?—In my own Experience I had Occasion to employ a vast Number of European Overseers, which in general were taken from the Military, and were recommended to me as Men of the best Character; but in the End I found that it was impossible to delegate to them the smallest Power, and I was obliged to leave off the Employment of Europeans, from their Habit of ill-treating the Natives, and to take to Native Superintendants, in the Works I was carrying on.

In what Part of the Country did this happen?—In many Parts. I had the conducting of the whole of the Fortifications and Military Buildings at the Fort of Allahabad, in the Doob, in which I had the Employment of many Thousand People daily; I have carried on public Works at many other Parts of the Country.

Did you find that Abuses of this Kind took place more or less in all the Instances to which you have alluded?—Almost in all.

Supposing a very enlarged Degree of Intercourse to take place between British Subjects and the Natives of India, do you conceive any Regulations could be devised to check those Abuses?—If it is to be considered the vast Extent of our Possessions, I do not think it can be imagined that the Government at all the various Ports can have an Authority of sufficient Force to guard against the Disturbance that an indiscriminate Admission of Europeans must necessarily bring on.

Is it a Matter of Fact that the Magistrates employed by the British Government are at Stations very dispersed from one another?—From the great Extent of our Possessions it necessarily must be the Case.

Supposing



Supposing a great Number of Europeans to be in British India who were disposed to penetrate the Interior of the Country, would it or not be possible for them to evade Regulations that would be made to prevent them from fulfilling that Object?—If the free opening of all the Ports of India, as I said before, was admitted of, it certainly would be exceedingly difficult to form any Regulations that would prevent their penetrating into the Interior of the Country.

Supposing the Freedom of Trade to be only partially established, still would the same Evils follow in a proportionate Degree?—I think if the open Commerce from all the Ports of Great Britain was confined to certain Ports in India, to the Presidencies, to Surat, Cochin, Calicut, Tellicherry, and to some of the largest Settlements on the Coromandel and Malabar Coasts, that Regulations and Restrictions might be devised that would get the better of the Evil in a great Degree, but not entirely.

Supposing Trading Vessels to go out to that Country which should be unsuccessful in their Speculation, how far would it be possible to prevent them from stopping at various Points of the Coast, even Parts to which they were not permitted to have Access?—I think it would be quite impossible; the Navy we have in India is so small in proportion to the vast Extent of Coast that we possess, that I do not see it is possible that they could be prevented from touching where they pleased.

Do you conceive that any bad Consequences would follow from such an Event?—Most undoubtedly, from the Reasons I have given in Answer to the first Question, that the lower Classes of Europeans would be at liberty to land, and commit Disturbances among the Natives, which they always do when they are without Restraint.

Would any bad Effects be produced with respect to the Native Commerce upon the Coast, or among the Islands of India?—Certainly, if British Ships were permitted to carry on the Coasting Trade, that is now fully occupied by vast Numbers of Native Coasting Vessels, and manned by a very industrious Class of Sailors, it would drive them out of that Trade, and would have a bad Effect upon our Revenues, and would do away a Nursery of Lascars or Native Sailors, who on Occasions may be employed in assisting to man our Navy, as on several Occasions has already happened.

You have spoken of certain Abuses which would follow from the Intercourse of British Subjects with the Natives of India; I wish to know whether any of those Abuses might be apprehended, with respect to any of the Native Vessels employed in trading in any of those Seas?—None at all; the Crews of the Native Vessels, and even of the Country Ships, (if you mean by them, the Native Vessels), are of the same Class, have the same Habits, and there would be no more Difficulty than there is in a Coasting Vessel going along the Coast of Great Britain; they are in constant Communication.

Supposing Traders to go from this Country with British Crews, would any Abuses happen with respect to the Native Vessels of which you have spoken, and of which the Crews and Captains and Owners are exclusively Natives?—Upon that Subject I own I have some Opinions that may probably appear strange; but I very much fear that several of those disappointed Traders would most likely wish to make good their Losses, and might be induced to commit Depredations upon those defenceless Vessels; and in consequence this free and open Communication of Ships of all Descriptions might frequently lead to those Depredations; I am almost certain it would do it.

Do you found that Opinion upon any historical Fact?—We know there have been Traders in former Times, who even went the Length of a regular System of Piracy.

Have you had an Opportunity of observing how far the Natives of British India shew a Disposition to use European Manufactures?—Very little indeed amongst the lower Classes; from the Smallness of their Pay, they are unable to

*Major Gen.  
Alexander Kyd*

indulge in any of our Manufactures; the superior Classes have got Luxuries and Indulgencies of their own, that generally speaking they prefer to ours: There are a few Exceptions at the Presidencies, where some Men in Imitation of their Masters indulge in small Articles of Household Furniture, Glass Ware, Lustres and Things of that Sort, but to no great Extent.

Do you conceive those Aversions or Indifference to the Use of European Manufactures on the Part of the Natives, to be founded in a National Peculiarity of Taste, or Usages, or Opinions?—Exactly; they have Habits of their own, so different from ours, that I do not think it would be ever possible to bring the whole Mass of the People to use Manufactures of ours that could in fact be of no Use to them.

Exclusive of the immediate Environs of the Presidencies, have you observed any Thing like an Assimilation, or a growing Assimilation to European Habits, or Wants?—None at all; merely, at the Presidencies.

Is it within your Knowledge that the Exports in European Manufactures to India have in fact increased?—The Export of European Manufactures certainly within these Thirty Years has very much increased; but that appears to have arisen from the very great Increase of our Army in India. Thirty Years ago there were only One or Two King's Regiments in the Service, at present there are Thirty; our own Military Establishments have at least doubled; the Civil Service upon the Three Establishments have also nearly doubled. This Increase of European Population appears to me to fully account for the Increase of the Exports during that Time; from which I conclude that the Exports have principally been for the Use of Europeans.

In what Degree does there appear to be any Thing like a growing Use of European Manufactures on the Part of the Natives at the Presidencies?—Upon my Word, it does not strike me in a very great Degree: All the Presidencies have been very rapidly increasing in point of Size and Population; of course there are a greater Number of Natives who are likely to give in to those Habits in proportion to the Increase of the Inhabitants.

Do you mean that the Increase of the Native Inhabitants has tended at all to extend their Use?—Certainly, in the same Proportion as they have increased.

Do you mean to say there takes place a Degree of Associations or Intercourse between the Natives of those Settlements, which does not take place elsewhere?—Certainly, the Communication of Natives with Europeans, is much more at the Presidencies than at any other Part, and therefore they are more likely to adopt a few of their Habits.

Supposing then, by any Arrangement the European Inhabitants of the principal Settlements were greatly increased, do you conceive the Effect of such Arrangement could be a growing Use of European Manufactures among the Natives in the Interior of the Country?—No, I do not think that the Natives, generally speaking, have a Taste for our Manners or our Manufactures; simply those that have been long established, such as Broad Cloth, a Number of the Metals, and Ornaments in Glasses, small Looking Glasses, but not to any great Extent. I imagine the Demand for all these Articles has been a long while stationary.

Supposing, for Argument sake, that the Use of European Manufactures could be greatly extended in the Interior of the Country, must we not assume it as a necessary Condition to that Effect, that there must be a very extended Intercourse between Europeans and the Natives of the Interior of the Country?—Certainly I should think that if it took place, it must be by a very intimate Connection between them; but I have my Doubts that any Connection would ever make it take place.

Supposing, for Argument sake, the Use of European Manufactures to be greatly extended in British India, must we not suppose as a Condition to that Effect so extended, an Intercourse between British Subjects and the Natives of British India, that

that would lead to all the dangerous Consequences you have before described?—  
 Certainly I think so, because I conceive the Extension of the Use of European  
 Commodities, could only be brought about by such a Communication; still I do  
 not think there is any Communication that would do it.

*Major Gen.  
 Alexander Kyd.*

Is it a Fact that many Persons in that Country who have the Means of pur-  
 chasing European Manufactures, do in fact not purchase them?—In the present  
 Mode in which the Commerce in European Manufactures is carried on to the  
 Interior of India, the Natives at almost every Point have an Opportunity of pur-  
 chasing with the utmost Facility. I have been at almost every Part in the Interior  
 of the Country, in the Seik Country very lately, where I found the same Articles  
 of European Manufacture used by Natives in the greatest Abundance; therefore  
 I do not think any Ingenuity would push it further than it is at present.

Were these Articles within Reach of Natives qualified from their Means to  
 purchase them?—Certainly they were. On this Subject I beg leave to state a Fact:  
 when the Mahratta Army joined Lord Cornwallis's Army (with which I then was),  
 on its Retreat from Cunam Bada in the Mahratta Camp, which marched across  
 the whole Decan, there was almost every European Article that was necessary for  
 our Use, which Speculators had brought for our Accommodation; this is a Proof  
 that they are generally circulated throughout India, and that Natives who choose  
 to have them might purchase with the utmost Facility.

Can you say whether Property is not very unequally distributed among the  
 Natives of that Country?—Very unequally; a great Mass of the People have only  
 enough by Labour to subsist themselves and their Families.

Do you know the Price of Labour in India?—I know the Price of Labour  
 perfectly well in most of the Parts of India: In Bengal, Bahar, and Oude, the  
 common Workmen in moving the Earth or in labouring for Europeans have Three  
 Rupees a Month, equal to 7s. 6d.; but I believe that by the Natives they are paid  
 still less.

Is that the general Scale of Payment?—That is the general Scale of Pay of  
 Labourers employed by Europeans; I dare say that the Labourers employed by  
 the Ryots and Farmers are paid considerably less than that Sum.

It is hardly necessary therefore to ask, whether it must not be an immense  
 Reduction of the Price of European Manufactures that would place them within  
 the Reach of those Persons?—The Thing appears to me perfectly impossible.

Do you ascribe this Cheapness of Labour to any Circumstances in the Climate,  
 Soil, or Nature of that Country?—The Cheapness of Labour of course follows  
 from the Cheapness of Provisions: The Soil is in general very fruitful, and where-  
 ever a Native steps he has the Produce for his Food; Garments they require but  
 little, and those are acquired also at a very cheap Rate.

What Sort of Huts do they live in?—In various Parts of the Country they differ;  
 but in general a low Hut with one Door, constructed of low Mud Walls, and  
 covered with Thatch.

Are they temperate People?—Generally speaking very temperate, especially the  
 Hindoos.

Does the Climate ever require the Use of much Fuel?—Not for warming them-  
 selves, simply for Culinary Purposes.

Are you able to say, whether Rice, which is the Food of the greater Part of  
 the People, does not go further in Point of Subsistence, than most other Produce  
 of the Ground?—I do not think that Rice as a Food goes so far as many of the  
 other Grains; I think it requires a greater Quantity of that Aliment to produce  
 the same Nourishment.

Are there not Two Crops of Rice in the Year?—Yes.

In point of Fact, does not a Piece of Ground which is employed in growing  
 Rice, support as much of human Life as it would employed in any other Way?—  
 I should

*Major Gen.  
Alexander Kyd.*

I should think so ; there is no Soil which produces a greater Quantity of Nourishment for the Support of Life, than that producing Rice.

Is the Committee to understand, therefore, that the Necessaries of Life are far cheaper in that Country than in this?—Oh, far cheaper, beyond all Comparison.

Does not that arise in a great Measure from Circumstances which you have already described?—Undoubtedly.

Would many of those Articles which are considered as Comforts by the lower Orders here, be considered as such by the Natives of British India?—I should like to have the Articles specified.

Articles of Clothing for Instance?—The Natives of Hindostan have a Dress of Cloth round their Middle, with a small Turban, and a Blanket to sleep in ; that is their whole Dress.

Do you mean to imply therefore, that the low Price of Labour in India has its Origin in fixed Circumstances?—I should think so.

Then on a rough Calculation between the Price of Labour in that Country, and the Price of Labour in the Countries of Europe, do you conceive that the Countries of Europe can ever supply with Manufactures to any great Extent the Countries comprised within British India?—Certainly not, from these Causes, the Cheapness of Food and the Cheapness of Labour.

Is it therefore likely, in your Opinion, that under any Circumstances or any System whatever, the Manufactures of this Country can obtain a very increased Sale among the great Mass of the Indian Population?—In considering that Question, I have been long of Opinion, that it is not possible to increase the Consumption of European Articles to a much greater Degree than it is at present among the Natives ; but it will go on progressively with our Success in India, and with the Increase of Europeans, and their Children (Half Casts), whose Manners and Habits are the same, and therefore use the same Articles as their Fathers.

Confining yourself at present to the Natives, do you conceive that their Means of Purchase are under any Circumstances likely so to extend as to enable them to command European Manufactures?—I do not see how it is possible that their Means of Purchase could be increased.

Supposing, that from any Cause Europeans going into that Country, and wishing to employ the Labour of the Natives, should by a Competition among themselves for Persons to labour, raise the Price of Labour, do you conceive that that Advancement in the Price of Labour would be likely to be permanent?—It would depend upon the Continuance of that Competition, I think.

As you have explained that Subsistence is so much cheaper in that Country than in Europe, supposing an increased Price of Labour to facilitate their Means of Subsistence, would not it increase the Number of Marriages, and increase the Number of labouring Classes?—Yes, and I think would increase the Price of Provisions in a proportionate Degree.

To what Circumstances do you conceive it to be owing, that the Manufacturers of India can ever enter into Competition in Europe with the Manufactures of Countries which are much nearer to the Market, it being supposed they are Manufactures of the same Kind?—From the extreme Lowness of Labour.

It being assumed then that the Price of Labour is a necessary Ingredient in the Price of every Commodity brought to the Market, do not you conceive that an Increase in the Price of Labour would throw great Difficulties in the Way of bringing Indian Commodities into the Markets of Europe?—It would certainly increase the Price of those Commodities, but whether to such a Degree as to render it unprofitable to bring them to Europe I do not know.

Would it not, in point of fact, increase the Difficulties considerably?—It would certainly in proportion to the Increase of Price.

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Alexander K. J.*

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To what Circumstances do you conceive it to be owing, that the Manufacturers of India can ever enter into Competition in Europe with the Manufactures of Countries which are much nearer to the Market, it being supposed they are Manufactures of the same Kind?—From the extreme Lowness of Labour.

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Do you therefore conceive that the same Circumstances, namely, an Advance in the Price of Labour, which should increase the Means of Purchase of European Commodities on the part of the Natives of India, would diminish the Facilities of an Export Trade from India to Europe?—I do not think that any Advance in Price of Labour, from any Circumstance that is probable, would enable the Natives of India to use European Articles more than they now do.

Do you conceive that the present System does or does not sufficiently provide for any such Increase of Demand as seems probable?—I am perfectly convinced it does to the utmost Degree; and, from my own Experience, I am certain that for a long Time past almost every Article that has been carried out to India, One Half of it has been destroyed by the Climate: for these Twenty Years past, there has been constantly a Glut of European Articles in all the Markets, and I believe very little Profit; indeed I should suppose on a general Average a Loss.

Supposing Colonization to take place in British India, do you conceive that Event would be favourable to the Happiness of the Natives of British India?—If by Colonization is meant, that the Europeans should become Farmers and Labourers of the Land, I do not think the Thing is possible; the Climate is so ill suited for Europeans labouring out of Doors, that I do not see it could be carried on; if they are to be simply the Farmers and Employers of Labourers, I hardly call that Colonization.

Supposing that to take place which you have excepted in your Answer to the Question, that they should not be employed in the manual Offices or as Labourers, but as Employers; supposing the British Population and the mixed Hindoo British Population to increase, under such Circumstances, do you conceive that that Event would be favourable or not to the Happiness of the Natives?—I decidedly think it would not be for the Happiness of the Natives.

Do you think it would be favourable to the Stability of the British Government in that Quarter?—I do not think it would.

*Examined by the Committee.*

Are there any Number of Europeans residing in the Seiks Country?—At this Period I should suppose none at all, but at the Port that has lately been established there on the Banks of the Sutledge at Ludiana.

In whose Hands did you find those Articles you have mentioned?—In the common Bazars, or many of the great Towns in the Seik Country.

If the Trade were opened from the Out Ports of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Import Trade confined to the Port of London, do you conceive any additional Dangers would arise in India, from opening the Trade from thence to some of the Out Ports, as well as to the Port of London?—No Danger to India at all; I do not see how by this Communication Danger could arise.

You have stated, that in the public Works carried on under your Direction in India, you latterly preferred the Employment of Natives, as Superintendants, to Europeans; what Opinion has that enabled you to form respecting the Capacity of the Natives when so instructed and employed?—The Capacity of the Natives respecting carrying on all Works of Ingenuity, is beyond what People in general can conceive: I have executed with Natives alone, Buildings of all Descriptions, made up Furniture of every Kind, in short directed them to cast Cannon; there is nothing that I understood myself, but what I could get the Native Artificers to execute, and in a very superior manner; they are a very ingenious and a very intelligent People.

Have you observed in the Persons you so employed, and whose Condition has been bettered in consequence, any general Improvements in their Character and Habits of Life?—Of course, as they got higher Pay, and were enabled to live in a better Manner, they improved in Intelligence and Civility.

Do you therefore conceive that the same Circumstances, namely, an Advance in the Price of Labour, which should increase the Means of Purchase of European Commodities on the part of the Natives of India, would diminish the Facilities of an Export Trade from India to Europe?—I do not think that any Advance in Price of Labour, from any Circumstance that is probable, would enable the Natives of India to use European Articles more than they now do.

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*Major Gen.  
Alexander Kyd.*

Did it lead them to assimilate in a greater Degree to the Manners and Habits of Europeans?—Not at all; only to indulge more freely in their own Luxuries and Accommodations.

Have you observed any material Difference in the Price of Labour, and the Condition of the Labourers, in the different Districts with which you have been acquainted; or does the Statement you have made on that Subject, apply equally to all the Parts of India you are acquainted with?—Not exactly to all the Parts of India: in Bengal, the Price of Labour is rather lower in the lower Parts, and increases as you go to the Northward and Westward; at Madras and at Bombay, where Grain is considerably dearer than it is in Bengal, the Price of Labour is considerably higher.

So that Difference does not indicate any Difference in the Comfort or Condition of the Labourer?—No, not at all; it is totally regulated by the Price of Provisions.

Can you state whether, during the long Period of your Residence in India, the Number of Half Cast has increased, and in what Degree?—To a very great Degree indeed; so much so, that there are now in Calcutta established, a vast Number of Seminaries for the Education of both Males and Females; I should think they have increased within these Thirty Years Ten-fold.

Have you formed any Opinion of the actual Amount of the Half Cast?—I cannot make a Calculation of it at all.

You mentioned having been employed at the Works at Allahabad; were you ever further to the North than Allahabad?—A great deal further North than that; I was employed by Government about Four Years ago to put down a Detachment on the Banks of the Sutledge at Ludiana.

What is the Nature of the Climate?—It is exceedingly cold for Four or Five Months in the Year; the hot Season extremely hot, with hot Winds; the Rains are abundant; the Three Seasons are the same as in other Parts of the Country, but probably Two of them (the hot and cold) are more severe.

During the colder Season is it not your Opinion that the coarser Manufacture of Woollens might be introduced amongst the Natives?—By no manner of Means; they have a Mode of quilting Cotton in cheap Calicoes, that makes a Garment equally warm with any Thing of Woollen, and much cheaper, in which they are universally dressed in the cold Season.

Does that Manufacture extend to the Northward of Oude, as well as to the Seik Country?—It is a Garment composed of the common coarse Cotton Cloth doubled, with Cotton quilted between; in all the Districts in the North of India, this coarse Cloth is manufactured at an astonishing cheap Rate. I would wish to state the Cheapness of Cloth; One hundred Yards of coarse Cloth is very frequently bought for about Five Rupees, that is about Eight or Nine Shillings.

Are you acquainted with the Mode in which the Commerce of the Country is conducted in the Interior of India?—Not much; I have not paid much Attention to it.

Do not you know that the Company have Establishments of Commercial Residents?—They have in all the Provinces for making up their own Goods.

Do not you know that for a great Length of Time, those have not only purchased for the Company, but for themselves?—I have always understood that the Commercial Residents purchased for the Company Cloths of a superior Kind; that the inferior Cloths that were unfit for the Company's Use, they were permitted to purchase on their own Account.

Do you mean that the Commercial Resident, provided he supplied the Company with what it wished, was limited in his Purchase to any particular Species of Manufacture?—After having completed the Company's Investments of Cloths, I imagine they were permitted to purchase whatever they pleased of any kind.



From your Observation in India of the Respect in which those Commercial Residents are held by the Natives, do you believe that any free Trader could purchase, till they had purchased on their Account what they chose to have?—I do not think they could, till the Company's Investments were completed: if I understand the matter right, the Company's Agents at the Factories make Advances and Engagements to the Manufacturers, I believe very liberal ones; and until these Engagements were fulfilled, of course they could supply no one else.

But is not the Commercial Resident regarded with such Awe by the Natives, that it is impossible for any free Trader resorting to that Country to acquire a Commodity, as long as the Commercial Resident wishes himself to purchase it?—I think he has an Advantage over every other Trader, from the Influence he necessarily must have; but I do not believe that other Traders are prevented from making Purchases.

From your Observation of the Character of the Native, supposing there is a free Trade to British Subjects to India; supposing there is even free Access to British Subjects to every Part of India; do you think that if the Commercial Resident chooses to say, I must have such a Quantity of such a Commodity beyond what is necessary for the Company, that any free Trader would be able to be supplied with any Commodity till he is satisfied?—I have before said that the Commercial Resident has certainly an Advantage; but I do not think in general it has been used, or ever will be used to keep the free Trader out of the Market.

Do you know no Instance in India of Traders being disappointed in the Acquisition of Commodities, till the Commercial Resident was satisfied?—I dare say it was only till the Manufacturers had made good their Engagements to him, and to the Company.

But do not you know that from the Awe in which the Natives stand of the Commercial Resident, that there are Instances where the Price of a Commodity even has been dictated by the Commercial Resident?—No, I am not acquainted with it; I think on the contrary, that from all I have observed or have heard, the Company's Civil Servants are most lenient and indulgent in the Treatment of the Manufacturers; such is their universal Character.

Have you not often heard it stated by Persons in India, by Persons conversant with the Subject, that the Native Weavers, for instance, if they had it in their Power, would rather treat with the free Traders than with the Company?—The low Manufacturers there, are like the Generality of the lower Orders of People; they are very apt to take Advances from one Party, and then wish to sell their Goods to another; that I believe is the Character of the lower Class of Manufacturers every where.

For the mode in which the Company's Business in the Interior is conducted, the Resident makes Advances?—Yes.

Has that always been the Case?—I believe it has always been the Case; but I beg Leave to say, this is a Subject I really am but little acquainted with, it is entirely out of my Line.

When did you leave India?—I left India a little more than Three Years; I have been here near Three Years.

You perhaps know whether the Americans did not carry on a considerable Trade at Calcutta while you were there?—They did, principally in Calcutta.

Do you know whether they sent into the Country for the Purchase of the Articles that they exported, or whether they bought them at Calcutta?—No, I believe they principally bought them at Calcutta; they had Native Agents in Calcutta that bought for them.

And they found there a Sufficiency of the Articles they wanted, without resorting to the Interior of the Country?—Abundance, I believe.

Do

*Major Gen.  
Alexander Kyd.*

Do you happen to recollect whether there was any Complaint of their making any Disturbances when they were there?—Not of the Captains; I have heard the common Complaints against Sailors when on Shore, getting drunk and making Disturbances, as every other Sailor will do; but the Police of Calcutta is very strict, and no Evil can arise there from such Occurrences of Europeans.

Would not a Trade with the Port of London only, have the Powers of Check and Regulation more perfect by being immediately under the Eye of Government, and of the Company, than in the Case of the Trade being opened to the Out Ports?—I should think certainly it would be regulated with more ease.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

*Tha. Graham Esq.* Then THOMAS GRAHAM Esquire is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(*By Counsel.*) How long have you been in the Service of The East India Company?—From the Year 1769 to the Year 1808, in India.

In what Part of that Country has your Residence been?—Principally in Bengal.

What Stations have you filled?—I have filled all the successive Stations in the Service.

How long were you Member of Council?—I was Member of Council for Eight Months during the Government of Lord Cornwallis, and Eight Months during the Government of Lord Wellesley,

Have you had ample Opportunities of studying the Character of the Native Indians?—I certainly have.

Are their Habits, generally speaking, of a fixed and unchangeable Nature?—They certainly are.

Are their Prejudices so likewise?—Equally so.

Are they Persons of quick Sensibility?—Very quick Sensibility in all Matters concerning their Religion.

Are they Persons who are quick and jealous of Affront with respect to their Women?—Certainly they are, very much so.

Is the Company very strict and peremptory in its Injunctions, with regard to the Respect which should be paid by their Servants to those Habits and Prejudices to which you allude?—They are particularly so.

Generally speaking, is the Company's Authority of so strict a Nature as to preserve them from such Affront with regard to those Prejudices which you have been speaking of?—With the Servants of the Company it is considered as a Duty to be careful not to offend their religious Prejudices.

Generally speaking, is there so general Attention paid to their Habits and Feelings as not to wound the one or affront the other?—Certainly.

The Company's Servants generally enter their Service at a very early Period of Life?—They do generally.

Do they in general very soon obtain a Knowledge of the Language of the Inhabitants sufficient for all the Purposes of Communication?—Their Duties render it indispensably necessary that they should acquire that Knowledge, in order to render them competent to a due Discharge of their official Employment.

Do they, generally speaking, soon obtain a due Proficiency for all Purposes in that Language?—No Doubt they do.

Does this Knowledge of their Language enable them more successfully to consult the Feelings and Prejudices and Habits of the Natives?—It affords them an Opportunity

Opportunity of learning it even from the Natives themselves, and induces a Caution *Tho. Graham Esq.* of offending against them.

Are Offences sometimes otherwise committed through Ignorance?—Yes, very often; very important Offences are committed through Ignorance.

The Company's Servants by being thus taught, are so much better qualified to guard against that Species of ignorant Offence?—I have no Doubt of it.

Supposing a considerable and indiscriminate Influx of Europeans, in consequence of an open Trade from every Port in the United Kingdom, to every Port within the Limits of the Company's Charter, what Political or other Consequences would you apprehend from such increased and indiscriminate Influx?—I do not conceive that it would be practicable for the Regulators of the Government there to restrain them from those Communications which might lead to Commotion.

Will you describe the Kinds of Communication which you apprehend might lead to such Commotion?—The Trespasses which they might commit upon their religious Prejudices.

Are there not many Ports on either Coast of the Peninsula at a great Distance from the principal Seats of Government?—I believe there are many.

At about what Distance do you suppose some of them?—Some Hundreds of Miles no Doubt.

Would it be necessary in your Opinion, for the new Adventurers to settle themselves or their Agents in Houses and Factories, for the Purposes of carrying on the Trade to which they would thus be allowed Access?—It would be indispensably necessary, in case they did not employ the Agency of those who are already settled there.

Under the strict Authority which is at present observed, is it more usual to employ such resident Agents, than for Persons to be their own Factors and Agents?—At present it certainly is.

If any material Influx were to take place, regarding the Licence which has been described of their visiting every Port upon either Coast of the Peninsula, do you apprehend it would be probable or even possible to keep such Persons in a State of such strict Control and Coercion, as to prevent them from going to the Interior if such be their Object?—I do not think that it would be practicable.

Supposing them to make their Way into the Interior, what Consequences do you apprehend from that Description of Migration?—The Conduct they are likely to observe, might be offensive to the Natives, and excite Animosity which might end in Commotion.

Supposing the Native now to be treated with Violence or Oppression by an European, can he prosecute such an European but in One of the Three Courts of Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay?—He certainly cannot, and they are the only Courts in which he could obtain Redress for any Acts of Violence committed by an European, meaning British Subjects.

At present, are not a vast Proportion of the Natives situated at the Distance of even some Hundred Miles from either of those Courts?—Some under the Government of the Company at present, as far as a Thousand Miles.

Speaking of the Mass of the Population of the Natives, about how much are they capable of earning per Week or Month?—Their Wages in general are very low, and for Labour alone; it differs in different Parts of the Country, but the common Standard in those Parts where I have been is about Two Rupees a Month or Five Shillings.

Do you apprehend then it would be possible, however great might be the Degree of Violence or Oppression, for a Native to follow up the Prosecution of a British Subject in either of those Courts?—He has not any means, and the only mode to which he could resort for Assistance would be to the Government itself.

*Tho. Graham Esq.* Supposing that Europeans in consequence of the suggested opening of the Trade should become subject to the Native or Provincial Courts, what Effect do you suppose that that Sort of Subjection might have upon the Opinion of the Natives, with regard to British Superiority?—For the better understanding of the Question, it must be previously understood that none of the Native Courts exist in any other Form than under Servants of the Company.

But the Persons composing those Courts are Natives, are they not?—The Law Officers are properly the Officers of the Court, the rest are Subsidiary Establishments for keeping the Records of the Court.

Are foreign European Subjects liable to those Courts?—They are liable to be tried by the Laws of the Country.

As these Courts are now constituted, could it be practicable to try a British Subject; except by the Laws of the Country?—A British Subject is not amenable to those Courts further than in Civil Suits with the Natives, and that under a Penalty bound to abide the Decision of the Court as far as 500 Rupees, which they enter into, upon Permission to go into the Interior of the Country, and it is recorded in the Supreme Court of Calcutta I believe for the purpose of enabling the Company to recover the Penalty.

Are you to be understood, that in Cases of personal Injury, the British European Subject is only amenable to one of the Three Courts?—Only amenable to one of those Three Courts, liable to be apprehended by a Justice of the Peace where the Offences are committed, and all the Company's Servants acting as Magistrates, are under an Oath as Justices of the Peace, taken at the Supreme Courts of Judicature, to qualify themselves to exercise the Duties of a Justice of the Peace.

Generally speaking, would the Native have it in his Power to attend those Courts for the Purpose of prosecuting the Party?—From any means which he himself possesses, I can decidedly say that he could not in general, for those Offences generally happen among the inferior Orders of the Natives.

Supposing a material encrease of Europeans, and that from want of Capacity the Natives should be thus disappointed in obtaining legal Redress, what do you apprehend might be the Consequence?—That they would redress themselves upon the offending Party.

Supposing legal Redress to be practicable, and the Punishment of the European a Consequence, what do you apprehend with regard to the European Character, should such Punishments become frequent?—Every Occurrence which might render such Punishments necessary, would tend greatly to degrade the Character of the Europeans, and the Respect of which it has hitherto been held.

Do you apprehend the Maintenance of that Character and that Opinion essential to the Maintenance of the British Authority in India?—I think most important to the Permanency of our Possessions in India.

If any material Number of these new Adventurers or Settlers were to misconduct themselves, would it be conveniently practicable to the Government, regarding the Line of Coast to which they would have Access, to send them back to England, and is not that a Punishment now only resorted to in extreme Cases?—I believe the Government of India have had that Power given to them, and the Exercise of it is often rendered exceedingly difficult, by the means which the offending Party may have adopted of resorting to the Courts of Judicature, to prevent their being sent to England.

I ask therefore in the case of increased Instances of Misconduct, would that be a Measure which the Government could conveniently resort to?—Certainly not.

Looking to the Nature of either Coast, and to the Ports to which they will now have Access, do you think the British Subjects, if they were so disposed, could find their Way to the Courts of the Native Princes?—I think they might.

Do

Do you think in that case they might receive open or secret Encouragement from the Native Chiefs?—I am not aware that any previous Encouragement would be given to them by the Native Chiefs; but I have no Doubt, after their Arrival under their Protection, that they might intrigue to the Prejudice of our Interests in India. *Tho. Graham Esq.*

Concluding upon the Trade to India being opened from every Port in the United Kingdom to every Port within the Limits of the Company's Charter, and looking to all the Circumstances respecting the Natives, which you are able to judge of from your Experience, do you think that so opening the Trade is consistent with the Safety of the British Empire in India?—I do conceive that the promiscuous Intercourse which such an unrestrained Introduction of Europeans to India would occasion, would be attended with the most dangerous Consequences to the Safety of our Possessions in India.

Looking to the general Habits of the Natives, as well as to the Degree of Export that has for many Years past existed, and now exists, do you think that thus opening the Trade to India would increase the Consumption of European Articles among the Natives of India?—I have no Idea that it would; their Habits are so different from the use of any Articles of that Description, that I think it almost impossible that it should.

Have the Natives at present a Power of purchasing European Articles were they so disposed?—They certainly have, and have long had at the principal Settlements of the Company.

Generally speaking, is it in their Power from the Wages they derive to purchase Articles of that Description?—I do not think that it is; what is required for their own Wants is so limited, and procured at so easy a Price, that they neither could nor would purchase European Articles such as they might use, being much dearer.

In cases where the Natives possess the means, does their Inclination or Practice lead them to the Purchase of European Articles?—Very few indeed, principally confined to the most opulent, at the principal Settlements of the Company.

In cases of Opulence, where unconnected with the European Government, is it their Practice to indulge in European Articles?—By no means.

Speaking of the Natives in general, at present can you state about the Expence of their Dress?—Speaking of the large Population of India, I do not suppose that the Expence of Dress for a whole Year could exceed Two Shillings or Two and Sixpence.

About what Proportion do you think those who can afford to purchase European Dress, if so disposed, bear to the general Population?—I suppose not One in Five thousand, excepting at the principal Settlements of the Company.

At the principal Settlements is there any actual Number that direct their superfluous Property towards the Purchase of European Articles?—Very few indeed.

Is it not your Belief, from their general Nature and Habits, that should even their means increase, they would so direct their Expenditure?—I do not think they would.

The Committee have spoken of the Articles of Dress; have they Wants with respect to Furniture, or any other domestic Articles, that you suppose they would indulge towards European Articles, supposing it to be in their Power?—I do not think they would to any Extent.

Do you know whether the Export Trade from this Country to India through the Medium of the Captains and Officers together, Privileged or Private Trade, has been upon the whole for some Years past a profitable or a losing Concern?—At least for the last Ten Years of my Residence in India, it had been a very unproductive one.

Have

*Tho. Graham Esq.* Have not those who carry on what is called the Privileged Trade, namely, the Captains and Officers, a very great Advantage, by being allowed to carry Freight free, and from acting as their own Supercargo?—They no doubt have.

Is the Saving hereby effected a considerable Proportion, or otherwise, of the whole of the Commodity?—That will depend upon the Value of the Privilege which they enjoy; but it is consistent with my own Knowledge, that for many Years they have been obliged to resort to public Auction for the Purpose of disposing of their Goods, so as to make them some Return, instead of leaving them to decay in Cellars.

Have European Articles within your Observation for some Years past been in a State of Glut at the Indian Markets, or otherwise?—Certainly, far beyond the Demand for European Consumption.

Can you contemplate any possible Increase of Demand for European Articles which might not be amply supplied by the present System, and as cheaply as in the nature of Things such Commodities would admit of being sold?—If the Bulk of the present Supplies selling in general under Prime Cost is any Evidence, the Price would rather diminish than increase were the Supplies increased.

During your Residence in the Service of the Company, and in the high Stations which you have described, have you had an Opportunity of knowing whether The East India Company have or have not used its utmost Exertions to increase the Purchase of British Manufactures in India?—As far as facilitating the Mission of it to India in their own Shipping, so far they certainly have given every Encouragement.

Are you acquainted with the Fact, that such Articles as themselves are Exporters of, they have exported at a known Loss, in order to assist the Manufacturer here, in the Hope of ultimately establishing the Article there?—Every Facility is given for the Purchase of the Manufactures which the Company are obliged to export under the Act of Parliament to Traders in India, inasmuch as they are sold at public Auction, and at such Prices as the State of the Market may give; but in general the Prices have been so inadequate, that I have known the Sales of the Company put off on account of their being so much below the Prices which they cost, and evidently shewing there is no great Demand for the Consumption of these Things.

From the Nature of the Intercourse in India, have the Natives in the Interior at present an Opportunity of purchasing European Articles were they so disposed?—They have, no Doubt; for, from every Part of the Country, there are Agents on their Parts at the principal Settlements, who may buy them for them in the manner before described, and send them to them in the Interior.

Assuming that the Exports from this Country to India have increased during some Years past, how do you account for the Consumption of those Exports, unless the Consumption is increased among the Natives?—I do not apprehend that the increased Export has been the Occasion of there being any Demand with the Natives; such Part as may not have obtained a Sale, is generally left in Warehouses, and often disposed of, for I may say Fifty per Cent. under the Prime Cost in this Country.

Do you mean that as to the Use or Consumption of them, that that has been by the increased Number of European Residents?—Any Increase that might take place, of course would be occasioned from that Cause.

Do you or not impute any increased Consumption to the Natives?—I certainly do not.

*Examined by the Committee.*

During the Time, and particularly during the latter Part of the Time you were resident in India, had not the American Trade very much increased at Calcutta?—

No

No doubt they have come in greater Numbers to Calcutta than formerly; they always brought their Specie to pay for Goods which they were in the Habits of procuring from the British Agents settled in Calcutta and their Agents. *Tho. Graham Esq.*

They have no Intercourse with the Interior for the purpose of carrying on that Trade?—They have no Intercourse with the Interior for the purpose of carrying on that Trade.

Did they always bring Specie or Produce?—They could bring no other Articles that would command a Sale.

Were not they frequently supplied with the Goods they wanted for their Investments from the Native Merchants?—Certainly, several of the Native Merchants have turned their Views to such Demands; but they are not in the Habits of keeping any in Warehouses, with any distant View of Speculation.

Can you state any Reason why a British Merchant permitted to trade to Calcutta might not carry on his Commerce in the same Way?—They could not obtain Goods without having previously instructed Agents there to provide them from the Interior of the Country.

Did the Americans previously instruct Agents?—They had some Agents there of their own, independent of employing British Agents resident at the Stations.

Were their Agents resident at Calcutta?—They were resident at Calcutta.

If the Trade was opened from the Out Ports of Great Britain and Ireland to India, and the Import confined to the Port of London, do you conceive that any additional Danger would arise in India from opening the Trade from thence to some of the Out Ports, as well as to the Port of London?—I do not conceive that any additional Danger would be occasioned in India by such Permission.

Do you think that the opening the Export Trade from the Out Ports of the United Kingdom, will be exempt from Inconvenience and even Danger to the Government in India?—I think in my preceding Answers to Questions of similar Import I have already said, that Danger would arise; I conceive that both Danger and Inconvenience would arise, in as far as it would facilitate a promiscuous Intercourse of Europeans with the Native Subjects in India.

Supposing the Trade opened from this Country to India, with the principal Settlements, and principal Ports, do you not conceive that the existing Powers of Government are sufficient to prevent an improper Influx of Europeans into the Interior?—Provided they are under the same Restrictions as at present are exercised over the Residents now at the principal Settlements in India, I conceive they would.

Are not those Powers sufficient to control the Behaviour of any of the Europeans that should be suffered to go into the Interior of the Country?—Certainly, as they exist beyond the Limits of the Supreme Court of Judicature, they would not be sufficient.

Persons are licensed at present to go up the Country, are they not?—They are.

Are the existing Powers of Government sufficient to control their Behaviour so as to prevent any evil Effects arising to the Permanency of the British Empire in India?—I do not conceive that the Powers which the Government can now exercise in the Interior, are equal to prevent bad Consequences arising from any numerous Body of Europeans settling beyond the Limits of the Supreme Courts of Judicature.

Are not the Powers of Government already existing, sufficient to devise other Regulations as may be requisite for this Purpose?—I am afraid not over the British Subject, who will always consider himself entitled to the Government by the Laws as he enjoys them in this Country.

Persons going up the Country are either Company's Servants or licensed or unlicensed Persons, have not the Company complete Control through their Local

Tho. Graham Esq. Governments over the First?—They certainly have over the Servants of the Company, because they may recal them from their Station, and they may suspend them from their Service, and send them Home to Europe for any improper Conduct.

With respect to the licensed Residents, have not the Local Governments the Power of withdrawing such Licences?—The withdrawing such Licences would be alone insufficient; the only Means by which they could render their Authority sufficient, would be by calling the Persons, or forcing the Persons down from the Settlements to Calcutta.

Do they not at present possess that Power?—Not a discretionary Power, inasmuch as they could not seize the Person of the European, and send him down to Calcutta, unless he had been guilty of some Offence.

But being guilty of such Offence, the Local Governments possess such a Power?—He then is apprehended and sent down to Calcutta, for the Purpose of being prosecuted in the Supreme Court.

With respect to the unlicensed Persons residing in the Interior, do they not possess the same Power with respect to them?—As far as the Interdiction goes against Persons proceeding into the Interior without Permission, they are liable to be apprehended, but no Punishment can be inflicted upon them in the Interior of the Country.

The Governor in Council however has the Power of sending those Parties to Europe, has he not?—At present, I believe, the Government have that Power; but the Consequence in all Probability would be ruinous to the Individual, and he would feel himself entitled to claim Redress after Arrival in this Country.

But the Governor, in sending him Home, would be exercising an Authority which is considered to be in his Hands?—The Individual might conceive the Law had been transgressed in his Case, and certainly would feel himself at Liberty to have Recourse to the Courts of Judicature here for Redress.

When you were in the Supreme Council at Bengal, would not it have been considered, that a Magistrate in the Interior of the Country would have been guilty of a Neglect of his Duty, if upon a well-founded Complaint against a European, on the Part of a Native, for Oppression or ill Usage, he had not sent that Man down to Calcutta, or reported him to the Presidency?—He certainly would, as a Magistrate, have considered it his Duty to inquire into the Nature and Extent of the Complaint; and if it was of such a Nature, as that it was not in his Power by any Direction to refrain from such Offences in future, to grant Redress, he would be under the Necessity of sending him down to Calcutta, to be prosecuted in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

What is the Nature of the Danger, which you apprehend would arise in India from an unrestrained Intercourse of Trade with this Country?—What I should most apprehend from the promiscuous Intercourse, would be, trespassing upon the religious Prejudices; which of all others the Natives are most tenacious of.

If the Export Trade of this Country should be opened to India, comprehending Three or Four Thousand Miles of Coast, with innumerable Ports or Creeks where Vessels might trade, will it be possible to regulate that Trade?—I am afraid, without the Persons were laid under some Restrictions previously to their leaving this Country, it would be altogether impossible to regulate their Conduct, inasmuch as that the Courts of Judicature are so remote from any of the Ports into which they would import, that the Danger might have arisen previous to the Case being even known to those Authorities.

Does it appear to you that any possible Laws could pass in this Country that could regulate all that Coast, or keep them under any Restraint?—I am not sufficiently conversant with the Nature of the Restrictions which it might be necessary to impose upon British Subjects, previous to leaving this Country, to be able to state what they ought to be.



Is it your Opinion that many of the Vessels going irregularly to that Coast, would be disappointed of regular Commercial Advantages?—I have no Doubt of their whole Speculation.

Is it your Opinion that under these desperate Circumstances, it might not lead to their being piratical?—Men who are destitute of the means of Subsistence, which they might be in the Case supposed, might resort to illegal means, in order to maintain themselves.

You have stated you apprehend much Inconvenience upon the point of Religion; do you apprehend no other Inconvenience, from Drunkenness or Intercourse with Women, for Instance?—I have already said they are extremely jealous of any Thing being offered towards their Women, the Hindoos in particular.

In case of an unrestricted Intercourse of Trade, what political Danger do you apprehend?—I apprehend that if Danger arises in the one Case, it would lead to Consequences destructive of the Permanency of the British Empire in India.

In what Way?—By those Offences exciting general Commotion, and from the immense Disproportion between the Governors and governed, placing them in a manner beyond Controul.

Have not we now either Residents or Agents at all the Native Courts?—I believe we have.

Do not you know that those Native Courts have by Treaty stipulated not to allow any Europeans to remain there without the Permission of our Government?—I have no Recollection of the Provisions in the Treaties, but I think it would be a very politic Measure to prevent it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee till To-morrow;

The same is agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

Die Martis, 6<sup>o</sup> Aprilis 1813.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE  
ON THE AFFAIRS OF  
THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

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