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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE RIGHT HON. THE HOUSE OF LORDS

ON THE

E.I.
EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S AFFAIRS.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF LORDS,

IN THE

LORDS COMMITTEES,

APPOINTED TO

TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION SO MUCH OF THE SPEECH OF HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT AS RELATES TO THE

CHARTER OF THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

AND TO THE

Providing effectually for the future Government of the Provinces of
India; and to report to the House; and to whom were referred
the Petition of the United Company of Merchants of England
trading to the East-Indies, respecting their Charter; and also the
several Petitions presented against and in favour of the Renewal of
the said Charter.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
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1813.

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AT A
COURT OF DIRECTORS.

HELD ON
Friday, the 21st May, 1813.

*Resolved,—*That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Right Honourable the House of Lords, in the Lords Committees appointed to take into consideration so much of the Speech of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent as relates to the Charter of the East-India Company, and to the providing effectually for the future Government of the Provinces of India, be printed for the information of the Proprietors.

LIST OF EVIDENCE.

	Page
Warren Hastings, Esq.	2
William Cowper, Esq.	11
Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Malcolm	17
Right Honourable Lord Teignmouth	31
Major-General Alexander Kyd	42
Thomas Graham, Esq.	56
Lieutenant-Colonel Munro	69
William Young, Esq.	83
John Stracey, Esq.	86
Guy Lenox Prendergast, Esq.	89
David Haliburton, Esq.	96
Græme Mercer, Esq.	99
Thomas Cockburn, Esq.	105
Thomas Sydenham, Esq.	122
Robert Morris, Esq.	125
James Horsburgh, Esq.	130
Charles Buller, Esq. M. P.	134
Honourable Hugh Lindsay	136
Stephen Rumbold Lushington, Esq. M. P.	140
David Vanderheyden, Esq. M. P.	149
William Fairlie, Esq.	152
Lestock Wilson, Esq.	162, 196
William Davies, Esq.	167
John Woolmore, Esq.	170

LIST OF EVIDENCE.

	Page
William Bruce Smith, Esq.	175
Sir Charles Warre Malet, Bart.	177
Ewan Law, Esq.	188
Stanley Clarke, Esq.	189
Martin Lindsay, Esq.	193
Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart.	199
Daniel Beale, Esq.	209
Charles Cartwright, Esq.	217
Robert Brown, Esq.	221
James Cazenove, Esq.	225
William Roe, Esq.	228
Glocester Wilson, Esq.	239
Robert Nicholas, Esq.	243
John Vivian, Esq.	250

*** In referring to the Numbers of the Minutes of Evidence printed by Order of the Right Honourable the House of Lords, from which the following are reprinted, it will be necessary to notice that

No. 1, being the Minutes taken on 5th April, 1813, is contained in pages	1 to 31
2,	6th 31 — 68
3,	7th 69 — 104
4,	8th 105 — 139
5,	12th 140 — 177
6,	13th 177 — 216
7,	14th 217 — 254

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE LORDS COMMITTEES

Appointed to take into Consideration so much of the Speech of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent as relates to the CHARTER of the EAST INDIA COMPANY, and to the providing effectually for the future Government of the Provinces of India; and to report to the House; and to whom were referred the Petition of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, respecting their Charter; and also the several Petitions presented against and in favour of the Renewal of the said Charter.

Die Lunæ, 5^o Aprilis 1813.

The EARL OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE in the Chair.

ORDER of reference read.

Order read, for adding all the Lords who have been or shall be present this Session to this Committee.

Orders read, referring to this Committee the petition of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies, touching their Charter, and praying to be heard by counsel, and to adduce proofs respecting the matters in the petition mentioned; and also, the several petitions presented against and in favour of the renewal of the said Charter, with liberty for such of the said petitioners as have severally prayed to be heard by their counsel in support of their said petitions, to be heard by counsel upon the same.

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The counsel are ordered to be called in ; and Mr. Adam, Mr. Randle Jackson, Mr. Impey, and Mr. Grant, appearing as counsel on behalf of the East-India Company, the Petition of the East-India Company is read ; and Mr. Impey is heard to open the allegations of the said petition.

Then WARREN HASTINGS, Esq. is called in ; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows :

Warren Hastings, Esq.

(By Counsel.)—Are you enabled from your long residence in India, and your experience and observation of the manners, habits, and dispositions of the natives of that country, to give the Committee any general description of their national character as contrasted with that of the English ?—In answering to this question, it will not be easy to divest my mind of certain circumstances connected with it, which do not relevantly appertain to the question itself. Great pains have been taken to inculcate into the public mind an opinion that the native Indians are in a state of complete moral turpitude, and live in the constant and unrestrained commission of every vice and crime that can disgrace human nature. I affirm, by the oath that I have taken, that this description of them is untrue, and wholly unfounded. What I have to add must be taken as my belief, but a belief impressed by a longer and more intimate acquaintance with the people than has fallen to the lot of many of my countrymen. In speaking of the people, it is necessary to distinguish the Hindoos, who form the great portion of the population, from the Mahometans, who are intermixed with them, but generally live in separate communities ; the former are gentle, benevolent, more susceptible of gratitude for kindness shewn them, than prompted to vengeance for wrongs inflicted, and as exempt from the worst propensities of human passion as any people upon the face of the earth ; they are faithful and affectionate in service, and submissive to legal authority ; they are superstitious it is true, but they do not think ill of us for not thinking as they do. Gross as the modes of their worship are, the precepts of their religion are wonderfully fitted to promote the best ends of society, its peace and good order ; and even from their theology, arguments may be drawn to illustrate and support the most refined mysteries of our own. The intolerant and persecuting spirit of Mahometanism has spared them through a course of three centuries, and even bound them into union with its own professors, without any ill consequences that I have ever heard resulting from it. I verily believe that both classes would unite in resisting any attempts, should any be made, to subvert the religion of either. I have endeavoured, and I hope successfully, to guard my mind against any undue partiality which might arise in

it from the remembrance of the testimonials which were transmitted from both classes of the people in my favour, and certainly in your Lordship's recollection ; but I may, appearing as I do as a sworn witness, appeal for the confirmation of the truth of the evidence which I have delivered to the fact, the first perhaps in the history of the world, of a whole people offering themselves in a direct and almost personal avowal to their new and actual ruler, the voluntary advocates of a former governor, then lying and known by them to lie under a criminal prosecution before the sovereign tribunal of the parent state. This effort of theirs, how unworthy soever of it I may have been, affords as strong a proof as can be afforded, or conceived, that they themselves possess in a very high degree the principles of gratitude, affection, honour, and justice. My Lords, I cannot remember all that I wished to say upon this subject. I have omitted to speak of their faults ; faults they certainly have, they are the lot of humanity ; theirs are such only as can be supposed to subsist in the presence of so many opposite qualities, but among these I have omitted to mention one, which is not a general, but an universal trait of their character ; their temperance is demonstrated in the simplicity of their food, and their total abstinence from spirituous liquors and other substances of intoxication. I think the question required that I should speak to the character of my own countrymen, as compared, or contrasted with them ; these, my Lords, are almost in every instance the reverse of the other. It is impossible that the English character should coalesce with the natives in the same state of society. In the higher class of British subjects this effect may not be deduced ; but if Europeans are admitted generally to go into the country to mix with the inhabitants, and to form establishments amongst them, the consequence must certainly and inevitably prove the ruin of the country ; they will insult, plunder, and oppress the natives because they can do it with impunity ; no laws that can be enacted from hence can at such a distance, and under the cover of so many circumstances as will occur in that country, prevent them from committing acts of licentiousness of every kind with impunity ; the arrogance and boldness of their spirit will encourage them too far to do every thing that their own interests may prompt them to. In India, at a distance from the capital settlements, the name of an Englishman is his protection, and a sanction for many offences which he would not dare to commit at home. I must add what I have already mentioned in another place, and which perhaps may not appear to deserve the weight which I feel it possesses in my own mind ; there is a tacit idea prevails universally in the minds of all British subjects, not only in India, but I believe with a feebler or deeper impression even at home, the idea of common participation which every British subject possesses in the sovereignty of the Company :—"Since we became masters of the country."

Warren Hastings, Esq.

Warren Hastings, Esq.

"our native subjects," and other phrases of a similar import constantly occur in our books, in our writings, as well as in the language of familiar conversation. These ideas in the lower orders of British subjects rise to the height of despotism, and are liable to all the excesses of despotism, whenever the prerogatives annexed to it can be asserted with impunity; with such a disparity, the aggrieved Indian loses his confidence; he is timid by nature, and not easily provoked to resistance where danger may be apprehended; but though this is a part of their individual character, cases may be supposed in which the provocation of a general grievance may excite the whole people, or detached numbers of them, to all the ferocities of insurrection; this however is not very liable to happen, and I hope never will. Very great and almost insuperable will be the difficulties of obtaining redress should the native Indian be under a necessity of appealing for it to the courts of justice established in the country; these will always be at a great distance from the complainant, because he cannot afford the loss of a day's labour, which procures him his daily subsistence, in appealing to them. The same difficulties will occur in collecting witnesses, and procuring their attendance; and these combined will be more likely to prevent his complaining at all, than a too quick sense of injury to give occasion for his complaining without sufficient reason. I had much more to say upon this subject, but I should depart I believe from the general tenor of the question, and I should suppose that I shall be led to it in my subsequent examination.

During the time that you were in India was it found necessary to lay a very strict restraint upon the intercourse of the natives of this country with those of India, to prevent the oppression of the natives on their part?—A restraint was laid upon them, but I do not think so strict as ought to have been done; nor had the causes for it existed in the same degree that I believe have happened since, and of which there were strong symptoms at that time.

If a free trade were authorised by law between this country and British India, and Englishmen were allowed to fix their residence in any part of our Indian possessions according to their pleasure, and without restraint, is it your opinion that any ill consequences from such permission would ensue to the tranquillity and happiness of the natives of India under the government of the Company?—I answer confidently, that it would prove ruinous to the country, and very injurious to the peace of the inhabitants.

Are you of opinion that ill consequences would follow from such permission to the stability of the British Empire in India?—I am indeed.

If

Warren Hastings, Esq.

If the free traders were only permitted to resort to the ports in India without penetrating into the country, do you think any such consequences to a considerable degree would follow, either to the peace of the natives, or the stability of the British Government in India?—To the two last questions I have answered directly, without assigning any reason. I reply in the same affirmative to this; but I must add, that this was not always my opinion; I did think, that if the residence of free traders were confined to the principal settlements or to certain boundaries around them, restrictions might be devised to prevent any ill consequences from arising from them, but this opinion was formed on the conception, that the authority of the Company underwent no change, and that all British subjects were virtually as well as legally amenable to it; but if a law were to be enacted in opposition to the sense and remonstrance of the East-India Company, permitting all British subjects indiscriminately to go to India, to carry on a trade there, though confined legally to the principal settlements, still I think the same consequences would follow; by agencies, by permission, by connivance, by some way or other, they would find their way into the country, because the permission granted to them was not a permission of the ruling power of the Company as formerly, but of a superior authority; it would render them in a degree independent, and encourage them to a resistance of the law, and to every means in their power of evading it, and many means they would possess. The Company might be allowed, I believe they are by the tenor of their present Charter, the power of sending to England persons who misbehave; but many ways might be contrived by such persons to elude the authority of the Company in this instance, by making themselves suitors or defendants, or procuring means to be summoned as witnesses, or other contrivances that should put them under the protection and authority of the Supreme Court. According to the terms of the present question it does not appear that there shall be any exception; but if licences are to be granted by the present Charter, there is no power in the Company or the Government to recall those licences, and they may appeal to them against the authority of the Government. I mean by all I have said, to impress upon your Lordships a distinction which prevails in my mind between a liberty allowed to individuals by the actual authority of the Government there, and a licence granted from a superior authority; the first may be revoked, and the Government will hold a perpetual controul over them, which they will not possess in the other case. My Lords, I am a very old servant of the Company, and may naturally be supposed to have my mind biassed by that circumstance; but I possess as strong a proof as I believe it is possible to give of the truth of the opinion which I have delivered twenty years ago: the same opinion was delivered in an address to the Chairman or Chairmen of

Warren Hastings, Esq.

of the Court of Directors, at the time when the present Charter was under deliberation, in which I attempted to impress upon the minds of the Court of Directors, for whose perusal it was ultimately intended, the necessity of guarding their interests against the practice, which was then beginning to prevail, of Europeans, licensed or unlicensed, forming establishments in the country belonging to the Company's dominion, and urging, as I recollect, the propriety and necessity of providing against such mischiefs, as I apprehended would result from them, in the Charter then under consideration. I have no copy of the letter, and can only advert with certainty to the identity of it, and to its general substance. I have reason in my recollection to believe that it was approved by the Court of Directors; that it was shewn to and approved by the gentleman who then presided over the Board of Commissioners appointed for the affairs of India; and I have a pleasure in believing, and almost knowing, that he approved it. A clause was inserted in the Act of Parliament, and in the Charter constituted under the sanction of it, by which it was enacted, that no British subjects, not being in the service of the Company, should be allowed to reside in India for the purpose of carrying on their trade there, but within the precincts of their principal settlements, except such persons as had obtained licences from the East-India Company, or from the governor-general or governor; this exception appeared to me to defeat every purpose of the prohibitory clause, since the persons so patronized would go out armed with powers that no others possessed, and which none would dare to resist, under the idea that in opposing them they opposed the will of their patrons, and that the persons so favoured would be capable of doing more mischief in the country than if all Englishmen were indiscriminately let loose upon it. I had done all that was within my slender means to prevent the evil; I waited till another occasion occurred to bring it again before the notice of the Court of Directors, as an incidental subject of another letter; this letter was dated the 12th March 1802. On the 28th of February 1812, I again indirectly addressed the Court of Directors by the like official channel of the present Chairman, in which I reiterated the subject, remonstrating particularly against the exception made from the general prohibition, and accompanied my remonstrance with a series of restrictions which I thought might prevent the occurrence of the same evils; those restrictions I have alluded to in a former part of my evidence, but repeat that I think neither they, nor any that might be added to them, would now be of any avail. I have humbly mentioned this circumstance, as a proof that this is no novel opinion of mine, nor assumed for the present occasion, but an opinion delivered through a series of attempts in the course of twenty years, in which I have uniformly held it. The evils which I portended from the licentious intercourse of British subjects

Warren Hastings, Esq.

subjects in India, were then mentioned by me as deductions in argument. Your Lordships will have opportunities of knowing from more recent evidence than mine, whether the evils which I had thus portended have actually come to pass or not; and the records of the Company will prove or disprove the same. If it shall appear from those evidences that such consequences have happened, what I had before declared can no longer be considered as argumentative, but as predictive, and will afford an irrefragable proof that such effects must follow from such premises.

Are you then of opinion, that in the event of a free trade, if laws or regulations were made in this country to confine the residence of the free traders or their agents to our principal settlements, it would be extremely difficult practically to enforce such regulations, if not impossible?—I think difficult, and I believe impossible; my reasons will appear, I believe, in the answer which I gave to the former question.

If there were any considerable increase in the intercourse of Englishmen with the natives of India, are you of opinion that it would have an ill effect upon the opinions of the natives of India relative to the character of Englishmen?—Most undoubtedly they would naturally draw their opinion of the character of the country from the conduct of those with whom they were immediately conversant, and every act of injustice, for which they could receive no redress, would dwell upon their minds, with a strong prejudice against the government itself, supposing it to permit them.

Are you of opinion that such an idea so generated in the minds of the natives might eventually be prejudicial to the stability of the British Government in India?—A strong armed force may be sufficient to suppress, and keep down any spirit of revolt arising in the minds of the people. We must always keep up a strong standing force in that country; but so much depends for the peace of the country and the stability of the Government upon the attachment of the people, that it would be very unsafe and impolitic to trust to that security only. Our Government is not to expect that it shall always remain in a state of peace with its neighbours; I am not sure that we should wish to remain so: but in a general disaffection of the people, a state of external warfare would be liable to internal danger; in short, I do not believe that any nation upon earth is safe from the worst effects which may follow from a general discontent of its people.

In the event of a free trade, if any acts of violence were committed against the persons or families of the natives, either by the free traders, their agents, or their ships' crews, at any great distance from the presidencies

Warren Hastings, Esq.

dencies, does it not appear to you extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the natives to obtain justice against those violences?—I believe I have said so; if I did, I repeat it.

Are you of opinion that in the event of a free trade between this country and British India, the demand for British manufactures would be increased in any material degree in that country?—I believe not, I do not know why it should; it may cause a greater influx of British goods into that country, but it cannot increase the wants of the people to possess them.

Are the mass of the population in that country in any condition, if they wished it, to purchase British manufactures?—British manufactures, like all other articles of commerce, must be such, as will minister either to the wants or to the luxuries of the people:—I must confine my observations to the countries that are immediately under the dominion of the Company, and which I best know. The poor of India, who are the people, have no wants; unless the scanty rags of cloth which they wear, their huts, and simple food, may be considered as such, and those they have upon the ground which they tread upon. The next class above the poor, are the wealthy Hindoos, occupying the rank of zemindars, and the officers of the collections: those men are as simple in their habits almost as the poor; they want nothing that our ships can furnish them. That class of the inhabitants who formerly might have been the purchasers of European merchandize, such as articles of show, furniture, and dress, have now scarcely any existence, I mean the Mahometans; few now remain besides the pensioners that were left upon the bounty of the government; few of whom I should suppose now survive. What articles of ours could find their way to the courts that are independent of our authority, I know not; the knowledge of those will depend upon more recent information than mine.

When you were in India, did the more opulent people in that country seem to acquire any taste for European habits, or manufactures, by intercourse with Europeans?—Certainly, some did: this effect too, I must confine to the Mussulmen, and chiefly to the Mussulmen at the courts of the different princes in the country; I wish to be understood to mean the articles themselves, and not the modes of using them, except the articles of furniture, or trinkets of different kinds.

Do the domestics of Englishmen in India appear to acquire any of the habits or manners of their masters?—By domestics, I suppose to be meant

Warren Hastings, Esq.

meant the native domestics; they remain the same in all the habits of life as they were before they entered into the English service. The domestics in India are not inmates of the same family with their masters as in England; they reside at home in their own families, and only attend in the day time, or occasionally when they are required to attend, but are still attached to their own homes.

During the time that you were in India, did the market for European commodities appear to you to be generally adequate to the demand for those commodities in India?—I have always considered them to be so.

Upon the whole, are you of opinion that any considerable increase in any way of the intercourse between the natives of this country and the natives of British India might be dangerous both to the inhabitants there, and to the government there?—I believe so, I feel an assured belief that it would be so.

(Examined by the Committee.)

In the answers you have given to the question with respect to the demand for British and European articles by the natives of India, did you intend to confine yourself strictly to British India, or to India Proper?—I believe I have spoken specifically to both.

In speaking of the probability of a demand for British and European articles in India, did you mean to state that no countries adjoining India are likely to make any further demands for British and European articles?—No; it was always my wish, and as far as my power extended, it was my endeavour, to explore the possibilities of extending our commercial intercourse with other countries, both bordering upon India, and remote from it, but within our commercial reach for that purpose. I at a very early period seized an incidental occasion which was offered to me, of introducing a communication with the countries of Bootan and Thibet, and had at one time succeeded, or thought I had succeeded, so far as to afford an opening to a remote intercourse with China; the death of the Lama of Thibet, whom I had found means to employ as an agent of this design, with other circumstances not necessary to be mentioned here, defeated that purpose, and all my hopes connected with it: I made a similar attempt to establish a commercial intercourse with Egypt, and another with Cochin China; all proved abortive. I think that a more effective government than that which I possessed, might in this way open

Warren Hastings, Esq.

new channels of trade, to the great benefit of the Company and of the British nation; but it is only by the authority of the Company through their established agents, that these ends could be accomplished.

Do you consider the supreme authority now vested in the Company, and that of the courts of law now established in India, to be insufficient, if duly administered, to secure redress for the natives from any injuries to which they may be subjected in their intercourse with Europeans of any description, even if such Europeans should happen not to be servants of the Company?—I am afraid they are not sufficient.

Are you of opinion that no extension of the present system of the administration of justice in India could be made equal to that purpose?—I am not sure whether it is my opinion that any addition to the powers, which the supreme court of justice at present possess, would be either adequate to the intended purposes, or would not rather prove more injurious than the present state of it: I should fear to assert an opinion that may not be supported by other witnesses before your Lordships; but with all the veneration which I feel for the laws of this country, I do not think them a blessing for those we possess abroad. I think every instance of counteraction between the two powers more hurtful to the government than conducive to the ends of justice. I think that the powers of our government are not sufficiently strong, nor sufficiently independent.

In what year did you leave India?—I left India the second of February 1785.

Would the introduction of a church establishment into the British territories in the East-Indies, probably be attended with any consequences which would be injurious to the stability of the government of India?—I have understood that a great fermentation has arisen in the minds of the natives of India who are subject to the authority of the British government, and that not partial, but extending to all our possessions, arising from a belief, however propagated, that there was an intention in this government to encroach on the religious rights of the people. From the information of persons who have recently come from the different establishments of India, your Lordships will easily know whether such apprehensions still subsisted when they left it, or whether the report of them is groundless; but if such apprehensions do exist, every thing that the irritable minds of the people can connect with that will make an impression upon them, which they will adopt as certain assurances of it.

So

Warren Hastings, Esq.

So far only, considering the question as a political one, I may venture to express my apprehension of the consequences of such an establishment at this particular season; in no other light am I permitted to view it: but I can conceive that in a proper time and season it would be advantageous to the interests of religion, and highly creditable to the Company and to the nation, if the ecclesiastical establishment in India were rendered complete in all its branches.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then WILLIAM COWPER, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.)—State to their Lordships how long you were in the service of the East-India Company?—About two and thirty years.

Wm. Cowper, Esq.

Did you reside during that time in the British dominions in the east?—In the province of Bengal wholly.

Was it in any particular part of that province, or in several parts of that province?—In the several parts or divisions; I was also for a short time in the province of Oude, at the court of the Nabob Vizier.

Did you, during that residence, hold any high official situations in the service of the East-India Company?—During five years I held the office of president of the board of revenue; and I was, during the whole of the last ten years, a member of the supreme council.

Had you, during that time, great opportunities of studying the manners, and habits of the natives of British India?—I endeavoured to make myself acquainted with them as far as opportunities occurred to me.

Were the opportunities you have enjoyed, in fact, great or not?—They were great.

Had you great opportunities of ascertaining what would be the effect of an increased facility of intercourse between British subjects and the native inhabitants of British India?—I apprehend that the effect of such increased intercourse would be to disturb the peace of the country; it would assuredly have the effect of embarrassing and perplexing the local government and the public functionaries.

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Wm. Coeper,
Esq.

Do you conceive that those effects, which you apprehend, would have their origin in the peculiarities of the native character and habits?—I do: the first probable effect of this novelty would be to excite general alarm among the natives wherever these new adventurers, or as they would probably deem them new settlers, should arrive. Uninformed as the European must be of every thing that it was important to him to know of the habits, the customs, the prejudices, the peculiarities, the laws, and the religion, both of the Mahomedan and Hindoo inhabitants, he would ignorantly in a thousand ways be exposed to violate some and give offence in others; it cannot be supposed that some violences would not be committed by the European: this would tend to exasperate both the Hindoo and Mussulman population, and, supposing that those adventurers were multiplied to the extent that the question I imagine intends, would lead to universal disorder, anarchy, and confusion in the interior, infallibly as I should think.

You have spoken to the effect of an unrestrained intercourse between British subjects and natives throughout the provinces of British India?—I beg I may be understood as confining myself strictly in any evidence I may give before the right honourable Committee, to the kingdom of Bengal; I know nothing personally of any other part of the dominions of the East-India Company in India; I never was employed any where but in the kingdom of Bengal.

Are the Committee to understand, that, under the name of Bengal, you include all the provinces included under the government of Bengal?—It is divided into the provinces of Bengal Proper, the province of Bahar, and the province of Orissa. I have already had the honour to state, that I was also for a short time employed at the court of Oude, as an assistant to the resident there, as he was then called.

You have described the probable effect of an unrestrained intercourse between British subjects and natives through all the provinces of Bengal; do you apprehend that the same effect would in any degree follow from a considerable relaxation of those restraints under which the intercourse now subsists between the two races, even supposing that intercourse not to be completely restrained?—Proportionably, all these evils I apprehend would arise from such relaxation of those regulations.

Are there any ports in the provinces of Bengal, to which Europeans could have commercial intercourse, except the port of Calcutta?—I do not recollect any other; there are inlets into the provinces along the coast to

to the eastward, between that and Chittagong, but no ports that I know of, except the port of Calcutta.

Wm. Coeper,
Esq.

Supposing British subjects to be allowed a free access to the port of Calcutta, but to be confined within certain limits of that port, do you apprehend that such an intercourse between British subjects and the natives would lead to any evil effects?—I apprehend very little; they could have no intercourse, under those circumstances, but with the town of Calcutta.

Are you of opinion, that, in the event of a free trade being established between the two countries, it would be possible to confine Europeans within those narrow limits described in the last question?—I do not exactly understand what is meant by the expression a free trade.

By a free trade is meant an open trade between all the ports of this country and all the ports of British India?—I should think it would certainly be possible to do so, but very difficult, and in proportion as the influx of Europeans should be great.

Are the Committee to understand, that if the influx of Europeans into that country were considerably increased, it would be difficult for the local government there to confine their residence to narrow limits?—I think it would be; that it might be done by a very vigilant police, I cannot have a doubt, always meaning to speak of the port of Calcutta.

Are you enabled to state from your own experience, whether there appears any great, or any increasing disposition in the native inhabitants of British India to use the commodities of Europe?—I think not; I can speak only to the period when I myself resided there: I must beg leave to state to the right honourable Committee, that it is now more than twelve years since I left that country; of course I wish to be understood to speak merely from report, as to every thing which has occurred since.

Is your opinion with respect to the improbability of an extended use of European commodities by the natives of that country, founded upon any peculiarity in the character of that population?—Undoubtedly all their habits and prejudices go to prevent them from taking off such commodities in any quantities: a large proportion of those commodities they might be led to reject from their habits and prejudices; even their religion: for instance, the whole Mussulman population would never touch any thing that was made of hair, from the apprehension that it might have proceeded

Wm. Cowper,
Esq.

ceeded from the hog or swine, and would be induced to reject every commodity of that kind, unless they could have the most perfect assurance that there was no such danger to be apprehended, and so of other fabrics: but I should apprehend that the greatest obstacle to the purchase of European commodities by the natives of India, would proceed from their poverty, which utterly puts it out of their power to indulge themselves in any such luxuries; the vast mass of population of India are extremely poor; and the wages of labour very low.

Do you mean that remark to include Hindoos as well as Mahometans?
—Certainly.

Can you state from your experience, whether the manners and habits of that people are capricious or constant?—They are constant, as far as I have had any opportunity to observe them; I might almost say unalterable; unaltered they certainly have remained for a very long period of years; for ages.

Is the Committee to understand from you, that the improbability of which you have spoken, of an extended use of European commodities in that country, is rooted in the manners and habits of the native population?—Undoubtedly in their manners and habits, and the inadequacy of their means to indulge themselves even if their manners and habits did not oppose any bar to the purchase of such commodities.

Supposing, for argument sake, that the use of European commodities in that country is greatly extended, do you suppose that this effect is possible without a very extensive intercourse between British subjects and the native population?—Undoubtedly not: I have no reason to believe that there is any want, or that there ever was any want during my residence in India, of a sufficient supply of European commodities to answer all the purposes of the English population; and I believe during that period very little, or none indeed, was ever purchased by the native inhabitants. In Calcutta, and some few of the larger cities, a few articles might be taken off by the natives; in Calcutta, by the Hindoos chiefly, they were in the use of decorating their houses and their temples during their festivals with mirrors and lustres of European manufacture: some few close carriages also are used by the natives in Calcutta. I cannot specify any other articles from memory.

Supposing, therefore, for argument's sake, that any extended use of European commodities in that country is likely, do you imagine it would take

Wm. Cowper,
Esq.

take place without involving all those hazards which you have described as likely to arise from an unrestrained intercourse between the native subjects and Europeans?—Undoubtedly not. A traffic with the natives to the extent which the question supposes, must necessarily include the distribution of European adventurers over the whole face of the country, as I know not how otherwise they could possibly find a mart for their commodities; and even then, I think, I am warranted in saying, that not one in two thousand, upon the aggregate of two-and-thirty millions, which may be possibly the population of Bengal and its dependencies, would be found to take off a single article of the description mentioned in the question.

In the event therefore of a free trade between the ports of this country and the ports of British India, do you conceive there is much prospect of an extended use of British manufactures or commodities in that country?—I certainly do not think there is any probability of such an extension.

Do you suppose that the demand for European commodities in that country, on the part of the native population, is chiefly confined to a demand for luxuries?—I do; I have already stated what kind of commodities the natives (as far as they do purchase such commodities) are in the habit of purchasing, chiefly articles of European furniture.

Do you conceive the experiment of an open trade between this country and that, would be tried with the remotest chance of success, without supposing a considerably increased intercourse between British subjects and the natives of British India?—I should think not.

Do you suppose therefore that any advantages could possibly result from the experiment of an open trade, which would not be much more than counterbalanced by the dangers you state yourself to apprehend from that intercourse?—I think the advantages would be more than counterbalanced by the dangers.

While you resided in India, was the demand for European commodities completely supplied by the markets?—During the greater part of the time I resided in India, there was generally a glut of European commodities; very many adventurers were totally ruined by the impossibility of disposing of the commodities which they imported to Calcutta.

Did the demand for European commodities increase while you were in India on the part of the natives?—Not that I know of; it was in the state I have already represented to their Lordships.

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Wm. Cowper,
Esq.

While you resided in India, did the use of European commodities, and the demand for them, on the part of the native population, in your apprehension, increase?—Not on the part of the native population. Certainly it increased so far as the settlement was increased; when I left that settlement in 1801, Calcutta was six times the size it was in the year 1769, when I arrived there.

Are the committee to understand that this increase of demand from the increase of the settlement, arose from the increase of the European part of the settlement?—Certainly; in proportion as the European part of the settlement enlarged, the rich natives resorted to Calcutta, and of course the European commodities which they were used to take off would be proportionably increased; but always limiting this to a very few of the richer inhabitants of Calcutta, chiefly Hindoos, who were in the habit of receiving the European gentlemen and entertaining them at their houses, at particular occasions, and at the seasons of their festivals.

Is there any probability of any such increase of demand for European commodities among the natives of the East as, in your apprehension, the present system will not sufficiently supply?—Certainly not, as far as my knowledge goes; I must always be understood to confine myself to the period at which I left Bengal.

(Examined by the Committee.)

During the time that you resided in India, did not the number of European inhabitants greatly increase?—It did very greatly.

Did any inconvenience in your knowledge arise from that increase of European inhabitants?—Very little in Calcutta. I should imagine the Europeans in Calcutta, of course, were subject to, and kept in order by, the Supreme Court at that presidency.

Were there not regulations and restraints under which the Europeans not in the service of the Company resided in the interior?—There were such restraints and regulations.

Were they found effectual for preventing any serious inconvenience?—They certainly were; now and then of course mischievous spirits were found there, and then it became necessary for the government to exert the power which was given them by act of Parliament to remove such persons.

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Was the existing authority of the government sufficient for that purpose?—It certainly was; though of course, being rather an invidious power, it was (at least while I had the honour to have a seat at the Supreme Government) very reluctantly exercised, and always with great caution.

Did any inconvenience arise at Calcutta from the intercourse the Americans had for the purposes of trade there?—Not that I ever heard of; they always comported themselves, as I have understood, speaking generally, with great decency and propriety.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then Lieutenant Colonel Sir JOHN MALCOLM is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) How long have you been in the military service of the East India Company?—I went to India in 1783.

Are you still in the service of the East India Company?—I am still.

Acquaint the Committee whether you have not also been employed in several diplomatic missions and civil offices?—The last fourteen years that I was in India, I was employed upon thirteen distinct political missions, and during that time I was also secretary to the Governor General of India during two years.

State what those diplomatic missions or civil offices were?—I was employed upon three missions to Persia; I was employed in the Decan with Lord Wellington upon a mission to the court of Dowlat Row Scindia; on a mission to Hindostan, to negotiate with the Marhatta Chiefs, Scindia, and Holkar; on one to Bombay, on the occurrence of the death of the Persian Ambassador; and on several other missions of lesser importance. I was also with Lord Lake during the last campaign in Hindostan.

Have those several missions enabled you to observe the characters and habits of the natives of Hindostan, not only in the Company's settlements, but in almost every part of the Peninsula of India?—Having travelled over almost all India, and having either aided in or conducted negotiations with every principal court of India, and resided not only at the chief settlements, but almost in every different province of India, I no doubt

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Lieut. Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm. had the opportunity of making observations that enable me in a great degree to answer that question, regarding the manners of the natives.

Are not the native inhabitants of Hindostan peculiarly tenacious of their principles, practices, and fashions?—To a degree that can hardly be imagined by an European who has not been in India.

Have you had opportunities of observing the general effect where there has been an intercourse in any degree unrestrained between the natives of this country and the natives of India?—If by that question an unrestrained intercourse is meant, I cannot say that I have ever known Europeans to have an unrestrained intercourse: all I have seen in India have been, either officers of the army, who are under military law, or officers in the civil service, who are under a very strict civil discipline; or persons either licensed by the Company under certain penalties and restrictions which expose them to be sent out of India upon misbehaviour, or persons unlicensed, who were always liable to be sent away the moment they were noticed; those were the only Europeans I have ever seen in India: therefore I have never been able from observation to draw any conclusion with respect to what the result would be of an unrestrained intercourse.

Is it your opinion from your observation of the natives of India and the Englishmen in that country, that it is necessary to impose a very strict restraint upon the conduct of the Europeans in their intercourse with the natives, for the protection of the natives of that country?—Most undoubtedly, the restrictions now imposed upon every branch of Europeans in that country, are, in my opinion, far from being too severe or too strict.

How long were you resident at Mysore?—I held the appointment of resident of Mysore for nearly nine years; but from the various extra missions on which I was sent, my actual residence there was not altogether above fifteen or sixteen months.

Were there not at that time Englishmen at Mysore under your controul?—The only persons at Mysore, during that period, were either English officers or civil servants of the Company; but none, except those who were in my own family, were under my direct controul: but though the officers were not under me as resident, yet disputes they had with the natives were generally referred to the resident, who exercised a considerable degree of interference in all points connected with the respectability of the

the Mysore government, and with the protection of the natives who were subject to that state.

Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm.

Did you find at that time that there were frequent quarrels between the few Europeans at Mysore and the natives of the country?—There were, very frequent; these were chiefly with young officers who were detached, or travelling through the country.

As those quarrels were generally referred to you, did you usually find they arose from the misconduct of the Europeans?—Almost invariably, I cannot call to my recollection any exception; they arose from violence and intemperance on the part of the Europeans, and often from ignorance of the languages or customs of the natives.

Is it your opinion that Englishmen in that country who are not in the East India Company's service, and therefore unacquainted with the manners and habits of the natives, are likely to offend them from ignorance of their prejudices and habits?—There are many Englishmen in the country, who have resided long in it, who are not in the service of the Company, and among that class there are many acquainted with the language and manners of the natives; generally speaking, persons who are new to India, and unacquainted with their habits and manners, do not treat the natives well; a circumstance which usually arises in persons who arrive in that country, and enter the military and civil service, from their youth and violence, but which generally terminates early with them, as they acquire a knowledge of the language and manners of the natives; and it is a remarkable fact, that I can hardly call to my recollection, during a residence of nearly thirty years in India, one instance where a person, who was acquainted with the manners and language of the natives, abused them or treated them harshly. Persons who arrive in India at a more advanced period of life are not so quick in learning the language; and if they have any transactions on their immediately coming to India, they put themselves (I speak generally) in the hands of a native, who understands a little English; and this class of men, who are I think without exception among the most fraudulent and worst part of the community, gain a livelihood by cheating both the European and the native with whom he deals: the European, sufficiently disposed to rage from a sense of his own incompetency, has his passion directed by the fraudulent intermediate agent against the unoffending native, so that what with a total ignorance of their manners, and a natural inclination to consider every thing not consonant with his own habits very absurd, on the part of the European,

Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm. and the alarm of the native, disputes are more frequent with persons of that kind than with others.

Is it your opinion that much less danger is likely to arise to the peace and happiness of the inhabitants of British India from intercourse with Englishmen, who, from their long residence in that country, are acquainted with their manners and prejudices, than with persons coming from this country unacquainted with any of their manners and prejudices, and therefore from ignorance likely to offend them?—No doubt.

Can you give the Committee some idea of the extent of the British territories under the dominions of the East India Company; can you, for instance, state within a few hundred miles, the distance between Bombay and Cuttack, which is across the Peninsula?—Not without a reference to the map, though I have travelled it seven or eight times.

From Calcutta to the northern extremity of the Company's territories near Delhi is upwards of 1000 miles, is it not?—Yes it is.

From Cuttack to Chittagong is from 5 to 600 miles?—Yes, I should suppose so.

In all that extent of country, do you know that there is only one court of criminal jurisdiction, videlicet, at Calcutta, in which any Englishman can be tried?—There is only one court of criminal jurisdiction in the whole Bengal establishment, namely, at Calcutta.

In case then any act of violence should be committed by any free trader or his agent, at the distance of several hundred miles from Calcutta, do you conceive it possible that the natives can have adequate justice against such trader or his agent?—It would be attended with very great delay and inconvenience, no doubt.

Is there upon the coast of Coromandel, which from Cape Comorin to the extreme point of the northern Circars is under the presidency of Madras, any criminal court to which an Englishman is amenable, except the court of Madras?—None but the court of Madras.

Would not then the same objection apply in case any act of violence was committed by any trader or his agent upon any native of India, upon any

any part of the coast, at a distance from Madras?—Certainly, there would be delay and inconvenience.

Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm.

Do you know whether it has been the policy of the Company to confine Englishmen as much as possible to the presidencies?—No doubt it has been always the policy to confine them as much as possible to the presidencies and their immediate vicinity, I believe ten miles is the extent; the exceptions to this policy have been more frequent on the Bengal establishment than on any other, owing to the indigo plantations that are established in that quarter.

Are you of opinion that, in the present state of the Indian government, the present regulations are effectual for that purpose?—I believe they are; I have not been a magistrate in India, and cannot answer positively.

In case of a free trade being opened between this country and British India, do not you think that it would be much more difficult to execute such regulations with effect, videlicet, the regulations by which the traders are chiefly confined to the presidencies and their environs?—The augmentation of numbers no doubt would increase the difficulty to a certain extent.

From your observation, do the natives appear to have any taste for European manufactures or commodities?—Many of the wealthy natives at the presidencies purchase articles of European manufacture, and broad-cloth I believe is sold to a very considerable extent; there not being a more general sale is to be ascribed to the want of means of the great mass of the community to make any such purchases, and to the nature of their habits, the mode of their life, and their dress.

Do you mean to state, that the mass of the population have no means of purchasing European commodities?—The mass of the population have no means of purchasing European commodities.

Do you mean that the purchase of them among the higher ranks is confined to those who are in the habit of intercourse with the English at the presidencies?—Generally speaking, there are no numbers of wealthy natives that I believe are in the general habit of purchasing European articles, except those at the presidencies; but there are exceptions to this rule: perhaps the present Nabob of Lucknow, Sadit Ali Khan, from the taste he has for European articles, has purchased more than the inhabitants

Lieut. Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

tants of five provinces have done; for European articles are not considered as matter of necessity, and they are either bought as curiosities or as luxuries.

From your knowledge of India, can you form any opinion, if a free trade were opened, whether the demand for European manufactures in British India would be likely to be increased?—Having always seen, not only in the principal British settlements, but in every town where there were British residents, and in every station where there was a military cantonment, an abundance of European articles of every description that were exposed for sale at various prices, from articles of the best quality and in the highest preservation, down to those of inferior quality and damaged, and which market of articles was accessible to all natives as well as Europeans, I should certainly not conclude that there would be any immediate increase of sale from any measure of the kind, because the consumption must depend upon the purchasers, not the sellers.

Do you think that in all the ports of India in which you have been, the market for European commodities seems to be fully equal to the demand for them in that country?—It appeared to me, from the circumstances I have stated, to be equal to the demand; there was always an abundance in those towns, and a free access.

Having applied yourself to the consideration of the present state of India, in your opinion is there more or less danger at present in offending the natives of British India since the conquests within the last twenty years than there was before; danger to the stability of the British power in India?—I certainly do think that the task of conquering India has been a very light one, in comparison with that of preserving that vast empire. As foreign danger has been removed, our danger from revolt and insurrections, and other domestic concerns, has no doubt been proportionably increased; and that revolt and insurrection, I do conceive, is more likely to be caused by our giving any offence to the usages and religion of the natives, than by any other cause whatever.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Is the Committee to understand by your last answer, that our empire in India has become insecure in proportion to the diminution of strength in the native powers?—No; I meant by my answer to convey, that our danger from insurrection and revolt had gradually augmented with the increase of our territories. I think that every state has two dangers, one from

Lieut. Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

from foreign and one from domestic causes. We have in India, by the success of our arms, almost obtained an exemption from the former, though by the augmentation of our territories the latter must of course be in some degree increased, and require more vigilance on the part of our government; but I do not mean by that to state, that it is increased in any such degree as to make it at all an equal danger to the safety of the state, as what existed before those successes in the hostility of the native governments by whom we were surrounded.

Do you happen to know whether the number of Europeans has very much increased in India during the period of your residence there?—I think they are very much increased, particularly in Bengal; there are a number of unlicensed Europeans, and amongst those a great number of artizans and mechanics, that are, I believe, unlicensed by the Company; they are a kind of tolerated class; the class to whom I allude, are liable to be removed as soon as noticed.

Has this increase of European inhabitants principally taken place at the presidencies?—Certainly.

Has any difficulty arisen in preserving tranquillity at the presidencies, on account of the increased number of European inhabitants?—I have never known, since I have been in India, that the tranquillity of the presidencies was threatened by any danger.

You mentioned that quarrels had taken place with the natives in the Mysore country; you meant by that, officers in the Company's service?—Yes; either officers in the Company's or the King's service, travelling through the country.

If articles of woollen manufacture should be fabricated with a view particularly to the consumption of the natives, and sent to the northern parts of India, would they, in your opinion, find a market there?—It would depend, in my opinion, entirely upon their price; they have their own manufactures that answer the same purpose as our lighter woollens, these are the cumlies for the poorer, and the shawls for the superior classes; the sale of European woollens must be chiefly regulated by the ability on the part of the natives to purchase them, as indeed the demand of any manufacture must depend upon its price. With regard to articles fabricated for the purpose, neither being acquainted with the price or the quality of the article, nor minutely knowing how the natives would use it, I cannot give a more distinct answer.

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Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm. Are you enabled to form an opinion as to the probability of increasing the demand for British manufactures in Persia?—I think the same difficulty exists in Persia, and perhaps in a still greater degree than in India, want of money among the common class of the community to purchase them.

With respect to the higher class in Persia, have they any manufactures which are similar to our cloths, and which they use in the colder climates of Persia?—They have none exactly similar to our woollens, but they have a great variety of manufactures of the country which are used as the dress of the natives; and the richer are fonder of using shawls than any other dress; but they also purchase from the Company's factory at Bushire a considerable quantity of woollens every year, and the North Western part of Persia, where the court is established, derives its chief supply of European articles by the Caspian Sea, from Astracan, where even English broad cloths are sold in great quantities.

Does your observation of the geographical and political relations which subsist between the British dominions in India and other Asiatic countries, lead you to think that the British dominions might be made the channel of trade to any considerable extent to those countries?—The trade with all the countries so situated in European articles, as well as Indian, is at present carried on with the utmost freedom, partly by the European agents in India, and partly by the Indian subjects of the British government; but as far as that question relates to Persia, Arabia, and the country to the North of Bombay, the trade is chiefly in the hands of natives subject to our government; and from a full knowledge of the activity, and bold enterprise of that class of natives, who generally import a great variety of European articles from England direct, I do not think the trade to those countries could be carried further than it is at present by any class of men.

Do you think that such trade must necessarily remain confined to the class of men to whom you have alluded?—Certainly not, it is a trade open to any person who chooses to engage in it; those persons having only the advantage of pre-occupation, and having a considerable shipping which they navigate at a very cheap rate; and I have further to observe, in elucidation of my answer to that question, that a great part of the trade is now carried on by the Arabs of Muscat, not only with three-masted vessels, but by small open vessels, navigated at a very slight expence.

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Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm. Do you conceive that any attempts to introduce the Christian religion among the natives would be attended with dangerous political consequences?—With the most perfect conviction upon my mind, that, speaking humanly, the Christian religion has been the greatest blessing that could be bestowed on mankind, and that it has tended more than all other causes to civilize and render happy those countries, by the inhabitants of whom it has been embraced, nothing but the strongest impression of the danger that would attend, not merely the attempt, but an impression among the inhabitants of India that such an attempt would be made, could lead me to give a decided opinion that it would be attended with the most dangerous consequences; and I think the risk of those dangers would be encountered without the slightest prospect of accomplishing the object; my reasons for this opinion refer to the present political situation of the British government in India. The missionaries sent to India by nations who have not established any political power in that quarter, have I conceive a much better chance of effecting their object than those under other circumstances; but even the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Danes, and the French (all of whom endeavoured to establish the Christian religion), were in a situation in India completely different from that in which the British now are. In the present extended state of our empire, our security for preserving a power of so extraordinary a nature as that we have established, rests upon the general division of the great communities under our government, and their sub division into various casts and tribes; while they continue divided in this manner, no insurrection is likely to shake the stability of our power. There are but few general motives that could unite communities of men so divided, and many of whom are of a weak and timid character; but it is to be remembered that there is one feeling common almost to them all; that is, an attachment to their religion and prejudices, and this is so strong that I have myself seen it change, in an instant, the lowest, the most timid and most servile Indian into a ferocious barbarian. In a government so large as that of British India, there must be many who desire its subversion, and who would be ready to employ any means they could to effect that object; such would, I conceive, find those means in any attempt that was made to convert the natives of India, upon a scale that warranted them in a belief it had the encouragement of the British government. It would not signify to such persons what was the conduct of the missionaries employed, or the tenets of that religion which they taught; their object would be misrepresentation; and they would, I believe, not find it impossible to kindle a flame, which might in its progress not only destroy the British government, but all who profess the faith it was designed to propagate.

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Lieut. Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

Is it your opinion that the East-India Company has usually sent to India as much of European manufactures as the country could consume, or had a demand for?—If I can judge from the knowledge that their warehouses are generally overstocked, and the great anxiety which I have known the government shew to promote the sale of woollens, I should certainly say they had. When I went upon the first mission to Persia in 1800, I was instructed by every means within my power to discover in what manner it was possible to extend the sale of European articles, and particularly woollens, in that quarter; and the anxiety at that period to promote it was so great, that it led to very large sales by their agent at Bushire, at a price and upon a credit which brought a very severe and heavy loss upon the government. When I speak of woollens, I mean broad cloths and long ells of a variety of descriptions.

From whence were those woollens shipped?—From Bombay.

Do you apprehend that in the event of a free trade there will be any extension of demand for British manufactures?—Having stated that at present there is (as far as I have had an opportunity of making an observation) an abundance of European articles in every settlement, town, and cantonment in India, I do not conceive there could be any immediate increase of the sale of those articles from any alteration in the system.

Do you apprehend that the natives themselves, in consequence of the alteration in the system, will have an increased demand for British manufactures?—As far as my knowledge (which is not minute upon points of commercial detail) enabled me to judge, there appeared to be always an abundant import of European articles into India, through the various sources which have been opened, to meet any demand that there exists for those articles; and I should conceive, that individual interest would, upon the present system as well as any other, be sufficiently active to meet any further demand that might arise; that the demand in India may increase, I think is far from impossible, as great changes may eventually take place in the habits of the communities in that country, but such changes cannot, I conceive, from the nature of the people, be sudden, and must be the effect of great time. It is also proper to remark, in answer to this question, that the facility of intercourse with India, from leading to the establishment in that country of a great number of European artisans and mechanics, will, I conceive, lead to a diminution of the exports of a great number of European articles. The manufacture of leather, lately established in Madras, has already not only furnished European accoutrements, but all species of articles down to ladies' gloves.

Lieut.-Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

gloves. Carriages and other conveyances are made by European artisans at Calcutta, all kinds of furniture, all kinds of silver work, and in short, every thing they can. The cheapness of the labour of natives, whom they teach to work under the superintendence of Europeans, in those arts, not only enables them to sell these articles cheaper, but is likely to be one means of introducing all such articles to more general use in the country, as they will become more within the compass of the means of the natives to purchase.

Do you believe that there is a very general desire in the natives of India to obtain various articles of European manufacture?—Certainly not general. The communities of India are very distinct; the inhabitants of the principal settlements of the British in India have adopted many ideas quite different from the inhabitants of the provinces; among the former, those that can purchase them very frequently use European articles, but this still applies to a very small proportion of the population of those cities; in the provinces the use of European articles is, I imagine, very rare, and confined to some of the principal and most wealthy persons; nor do I believe, from their simple attire and habits, and their attachment to the modes of their fathers, that the general mass of the people have any great desire for them, even if they had the means of purchasing them.

Are not woollens indispensable as a part of the clothing of the labouring class of the community, particularly in the rainy seasons?—The labouring class of the community almost all over India wear hardly any clothes at all; and during the rainy seasons they have a coarse fabric of their own, which they wear; the price of a woollen garment would, generally speaking, of that class, take the amount of his pay for several months to purchase.

Do you believe that this class of persons, if they had the means of purchasing woollens of European manufacture, would not prefer them to the coarse fabric which you have described?—I really cannot answer what they would do under circumstances of such a nature; the woollen is a better manufacture than that which they use, though in many respects it might not be found so useful as the light fabric of their own, which keeps out rain remarkable well, and is chiefly used by them in the rainy season.

Has it fallen under your observation that any persons who have the means of purchasing woollen manufactures, contented themselves with the use of the article which you have described?—Thousands; almost only

Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm. only use the Marhattas apply our woollens to, is making saddle cloths of them, and floor cloths for their houses.

Do you believe, if the condition of the natives of India was much improved, there would not be a considerably increased demand for goods of European manufacture?—If by the improvement of the condition of the natives of India, is meant their having more wealth, I certainly do conceive they would purchase more of our articles, particularly of woollens, than they do at present.

Do you think that the condition of the natives of India under the British Government is in a progressive state of improvement?—Under the British government, the conditions of some classes of the community are certainly in a progressive state of improvement; the mass of the population, or in other words the labouring class, does not appear to be undergoing much change.

What classes of the community are in a progressive state of improvement under the British government?—Merchants, and the present landholders in India of all classes, must have their condition gradually improved, when living under a government which, by the justice and wisdom of its administration, and its power to protect them, secures them in a state of peace and tranquillity.

By the landholders do you mean only the great landholders, or the occupiers down to the ryots?—Generally speaking, I have no doubt that the condition of both the landholders and those under them is improved.

You have stated that artisans from Europe have established many manufactures in India, have you observed whether they employ many of the natives under them in learning those manufactures?—The artisans from Europe who have established manufactures in India employ half casts, that is, the sons of Europeans and natives, and natives of the country, in their trade.

Do you consider India in general as a very manufacturing country?—I consider that the natives of India are very industrious, and very apt to learn any trade or any art that they are taught.

Do you not think that that disposition to manufacture, and the quantity of manufacture they have, will be fully equal to any improvement that

that may take place in the country, or any increase of demand?—*Lieut. Col. Sir J. Malcolm.* Certainly, in all articles which can be manufactured or made in that climate.

You have resided at Bombay?—I have been there, I believe, ten times within the last twelve years, and have resided there twelve months at one period.

Do you know whether British cottons have any sale at Bombay?—I am not acquainted with the fact.

Have you been so far north as Hurdwar?—I have been much further north than Hurdwar.

Are you aware there is a great fair held there?—Yes.

What are the principal articles sold there?—I never was at the fair; but I consider horses and cloth, and every thing else that the natives interchange with each other, are sold there.

Do you consider that the fair at Hurdwar is established merely for a market for persons south of the mountains?—No; persons from Nadown and all the mountainous districts to the north repair to that fair; I even remember, some years ago, that several Chinese came to it, that belonged to an army that was within a very few marches of our provinces in that quarter.

Are you aware whether any of the people from Thibet and Napaul resort thither?—I have no doubt they do; it is a place of general resort to the whole country.

Articles sent to the fair at Hurdwar, you conceive, would find their way into Thibet and Napaul, if in demand there?—Certainly; there is an intercourse, both at that fair and other places, with the inhabitants of these countries continually.

What do you conceive the nature of the climate to the north of those mountains to be, in Napaul, and Thibet, and China, to the north of that?—It is extremely cold in the winter.

Do you not conceive that if British woollens of a cheap quality found their

Lieut. Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

their way to the fair at Hurdwar, that after a certain time they would be likely to be purchased by the inhabitants of those cold climates who might be led to that fair?—I have no doubt many such persons would purchase British woollens, or any other warm clothing, which they have not of the fabric of their own country, if they had the means to make the purchase; I have not information whether they have or have not the means.

Is it your opinion that the East-India Company has better means of introducing our manufactures throughout that country than individual merchants of this country, sending their goods there at random?—No doubt, because they would employ (if such were their object) all the local knowledge of their servants to promote it.

Have not the East-India Company at all times sent out articles as far as they can possibly get a sale for them?—I can only speak to such a point from mere general report, not having been in that line of service myself, but I have always understood they did; in Persia I received my instructions to do so, accompanied by an anxiety towards the subject, which would lead to the conclusion that they did it in other quarters.

Have not European merchants resident in India equally the means of knowing whether any commodities might not be sold with advantage as well as the East-India Company?—Certainly, within all such parts of India as are generally known.

Do you happen to know as a matter of fact, whether, in many articles of trade in India, the commerce has not been extended very much by the European merchants resident there, not belonging to the Company?—No doubt it has.

You have stated that your instructions, when you went ambassador to Persia, were to push the manufactures of this country to the greatest extent; did they extend to any other articles than woollens?—To the general commerce of the countries.

Do you conceive that there is likely to be a demand for articles of hardware from this country?—The Persians were very fond of obtaining articles of that description as presents, but though they were taken for sale by many captains of ships and others, during the time I was

I was there, I think, generally speaking, such were disappointed of a market.

Lieut. Col.
Sir J. Malcolm.

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^o 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.

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Lord
Teignmouth.

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 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.

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Lord
Teignmouth.

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 sixty millions, and the whole number of Europeans in all parts of India probably not to exceed thirty thousand.

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 superintendence 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

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Lord
Teignmouth.

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.

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
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Lord
Teignmouth.

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
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Lord
Teignmouth.

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 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

Lord
Teignmouth.

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 seaho 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 considerable 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 the natives up the country?—I stated more broadly that the power of government was.

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

Lord
Teignmouth.

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

Lord
Teignmouth.

ceive 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.

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

Lord
Teignmouth.

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 coachmakers, carpenters, shipwrights, 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 coachmaking and shoemaking, 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

Lord
Teignmouth.

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 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.

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

*Lord
Teignmouth.*

restrained 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-General
Alexander Kyd.* (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 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?

*Major-General
Alexander Kyd.*

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 superintendents, in the works I was carrying on.

*Major-General
Alexander Kyd.*

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 Dooab, 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 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

extent of coast that we possess, that I do not see it is possible that they could be prevented from touching where they pleased.

*Major-General
Alexander Kyd.*

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.

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*Major-General
Alexander Kyd.*

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 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 into 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.

D.

*Major-General
Alexander Kyd.*

Do you mean to say there takes place a degree of association 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 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.

Is it a fact that many persons in that country who have the means of purchasing 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 purchasing 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

Major-General Alexander Kyd. Were these articles within the 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 wherever 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

Does the climate ever require the use of much fuel?—Not for warming themselves, simply for culinary purposes.

Major-General Alexander Kyd.

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 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.

Major-General
Alexander Kyd.

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

Would it not, in point of fact, increase the difficulties considerably?—*Major-General Alexander Kyd.*
It would certainly in proportion to the increase of price.

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

Major-General Alexander Kyd. this period I should suppose none at all, but at the post that has lately been established there on the banks of the Sutledge at Ludhiana.

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 outports 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 outports as well as to the Port of London?—No danger to India at all; I do not see how by this communication danger would arise.

You have stated, that in the public works carried on under your direction in India, you latterly preferred the employment of natives, as superintendents, 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.

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

and westward; at Madras and at Bombay, where grain is considerably dearer than it is in Bengal, the price of labour is considerably higher. *Major-General Alexander Kyd.*

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 Ludhiana.

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

Major-General Alexander Kyd. 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

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. *Major-General Alexander Kyd.*

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

Major-General Alexander Kyd. And they found there a sufficiency of the articles they wanted, without resorting to the interior of the country?—Abundance, I believe.

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 outports?—I should think certainly it would be regulated with more ease.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

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

Thos. Graham, Esq. (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

Are they persons of quick sensibility?—Very quick sensibility in all matters concerning their religion. *Thos. Graham, Esq.*

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 of learning it even from the natives themselves, and induces a caution 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.

I

Supposing

Thos. Graham,
Esq.

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 controul 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

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. Thos. Graham,
Esq.

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.

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 those 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

Thos. Graham, 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 increase 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

adopted of resorting to the courts of judicature, to prevent their being sent to England. *Thos. Graham, Esq.*

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 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.

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

Thos. Graham, Esq. 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 the 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 not those who carry on what is called the privilege trade, namely, the captains and officers, a very great advantage, by being allowed to carry freight

freight free, and from acting as their own supercargo?—They no doubt have. *Thos. Graham, Esq.*

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

Thos. Graham, Esq. 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 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.

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

Calcutta might not carry on his commerce in the same way?—They *Thos. Graham, Esq.* 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 outports 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 outports 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 outports 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 controul 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 controul their behaviour

Thos. Graham, Esq. haviour 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 controul through their local 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

the individual, and he would feel himself entitled to claim redress after *Thos. Graham, Esq.* 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 an 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.

Thos. Graham,
Esq. Is it your opinion that many or most of the vessels going irregularly to that coast, would be disappointed in their expectation of regular commercial advantages?—I have no doubt that they would be disappointed, perhaps to the extent of their whole speculation.

Is it your opinion that under these desperate circumstances it might not lead to their becoming 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 interference 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.

Mercurij, die 7^o 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.

Then Lieutenant Colonel THOMAS MUNRO is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel) You are now in the service of the East India Company? *Lieut. Colonel Munro.*
—I am now in the military service of the East India Company.

At Madras?—At Madras.

How long have you been in that military service of the Company?—About thirty years.

During the course of that time, you have resided in many different parts in the interior of the country as well as at Madras?—I have resided on both coasts; Coromandel and Malabar, and Mysore.

Were not you also employed by the Government of Madras, in settling the districts ceded by the Nizam?—I was so employed.

Have you, by residing at so many different places in the interior of the peninsula, had great opportunities of observing the characters and habits of the natives?—I have had great opportunities, I think, of observing the character and habits of the natives, from having been constantly among

*Lieut. Colonel
Munro.*

among them, and very often without seeing an European for ten or twelve months.

Is the Committee to understand from the last answer, that in many parts of the interior there are few Europeans, and the natives have very little communication with Europeans?—In many parts of the interior they have very little communication with Europeans, except in the places where there are European regiments of Infantry.

Have you from your experience and observation found that the natives of Hindostan generally are extremely attached to their own habits and fashions, and prejudices?—I think they are extremely attached to all their ancient habits and customs; I imagine there has been no change in them since we first had any record of them in history.

Then are you of opinion, from all your observations and all the knowledge you have acquired from any source, that the Indians are peculiarly unchangeable in their opinions and habits?—I do not think that they are unchangeable absolutely, but they are as far unchangeable as any thing human can possibly be; I imagine that all the intercourse with Europeans has hitherto produced no sensible change in any of their customs or opinions.

(*By a Lord.*) You speak of the interior of the country?—I speak of the natives of all parts of the country, except a few immediate dependents or domestics of Europeans upon the coast.

(*By Counsel.*) When you were sent out by the government of Madras into the interior, for the purpose of regulating the ceded districts, did you find that part of the country in a very irregular state with respect to government?—I found it in a state of great anarchy, from the dissolution of all government; and from the government of the Nizam having been too weak to controul its different feudatories, most of them were in rebellion.

How long were you in that part of the country for that purpose?—Seven years; from 1800 till 1807.

During that time were the ceded districts reduced in a great measure to a state of order and good government, at least comparatively?—They were reduced to a state of good government.

*Lieut. Colonel
Munro.*

Is it your opinion, that it is necessary for the Government of Madras to be peculiarly cautious as to the persons they send into the districts so situated, I mean districts recovered from a state of anarchy into a comparative state of order, in order to prevent their falling back to the state in which they were first?—I think it is necessary they should pay great attention in selecting men to send into districts which have been in that situation.

If a free trade were open to India, and Englishmen were allowed at their pleasure to pervade the interior parts of India, and to reside there for the purposes of commerce, what do you think would be the consequence of such Englishmen so residing in a part of the country situated as that is which has been just described?—I am not exactly sure that I understand that question; does it apply only to the interior of such countries as have been mentioned?

The Committee confine their question to countries situated as those are which have been just mentioned, videlicet, ceded districts that had been in a state of confusion, and have lately been reduced to good government and order?—I think the general intercourse of Europeans with such a country would certainly be productive of very bad consequences.

Will you state what are the bad consequences you would apprehend from the residence of European traders in such districts?—I think that it would a great deal depend upon the character of the men who resided there; men carried from Europe would have one effect, others that had been settled on the coast, and acquired some knowledge of the customs and manners of the natives before they came into the interior, would produce a different effect.

What effects do you think are likely to result from each of those classes of men residing in the interior of the country?—I think that men recently arrived from Europe, without any knowledge of the language or manners of the people, would be too much accustomed to exercise acts of violence to their religious and civil feelings and prejudices, and by that means to excite discontent at, and occasion constant affrays and appeals to, the authorities established there.

If any violences were committed by such persons upon the natives, would it not be extremely difficult for them to obtain any adequate redress?—I should think that even the granting them adequate redress would not exactly remove the causes of discontent.

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Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

Would it not be difficult for them to obtain adequate redress?—I do not think there would be much difficulty in their obtaining redress, because the magistrate on the spot would have the proper authority for granting that redress: still the repetition of such acts would excite discontent among the inhabitants against the Government.

You have answered the last question upon a supposition that the magistrates in that part of the country have a criminal jurisdiction, in order to redress such violence?—Yes; I certainly think, that though discontent may not break out into any open acts of rebellion, that the Government itself in such cases is always in some danger at some time or other.

Are you of opinion, that the European character would, by the conduct of such persons, be probably degraded in the eyes of the natives?—I think that the European character would, by the conduct of such persons, suffer very materially; for I conceive, that the high respect that the natives feel for the European character is one of the main pillars of our government.

You have stated, that you are well acquainted both with the coasts and with the interior of the peninsula; I would ask you whether there are not still some parts which are entirely in the possession of the native powers, and not subject to any controul of the Company, I mean such parts as Gheriah?—On the Malabar coast there is a tract of territory from Goa northward to Bombay, over which the Company have no controul; it is subject to the Mahratta government.

Are there not also in the interior of Hindostan still some independent states that have no treaties with the Company?—There are no great independent states in the interior, except such as have treaties with the Company; there are some smaller petty states of very little consequence that have no treaties with them; but those are again, almost all, tributaries of the greater states.

If it were the wish of any Europeans to get into the interior of the country, for purposes hostile to the English government, or for intrigue with the natives, and a free trade were opened with India, do you think that there would be any impediments to such persons getting into the interior, supposing a free trade to be opened with England?—I think they could not get into the interior of the country if the magistrates did their duty in any part of the Company's possessions; they could only get

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

get into the interior where the Company had no authority, by landing there and passing through the Marhatta territories; no European upon landing can pass into the interior of the country in any part of the Company's possessions without a passport; if he has no passport, he will be taken up as a deserter; there are rewards given for the apprehension of deserters, which make the natives alert; and the village police in India, I apprehend, in the apprehension of those men, is much more active and intelligent than any police in this country.

Would then any material impediments prevent such persons from getting into the interior of the country, if they landed at a port not under the Company's government?—There could be no means of preventing their getting into the interior if they landed on the coast where it was not subject to the controul of the Company; but that part of the coast is little frequented by vessels of any description, scarcely ever by vessels in which there are any Europeans, but by some small vessels employed in the coasting trade, a little larger than boats. Might I beg to explain, with respect to a former question put to me about European merchants wishing to get into the interior; when I spoke of European merchants lately arrived from Europe committing acts of violence against the inhabitants and natives, I did not mean to confine my remark entirely to merchants, I extend it to all Europeans, civil and military, Company's servants and King's: when they first land, from their ignorance of the manners of the natives, from seeing them apparently so mild, they are apt to treat them with contempt, and to commit acts of outrage that they would not do in their own country: they consider themselves in India as part of a nation of conquerors, and they are very apt to act as such in their own persons.

From your knowledge of the natives of Hindostan, are you of opinion, that if a free trade were sanctioned by law between this country and India, there would be any considerable increase among those natives of the demand for British commodities or manufactures?—I do not think there would be any material increase of the demand now existing for European manufactures and commodities; I think that some small increase would arise from the gradual increase of population, but I think none from a change in the customs or the taste of the natives themselves.

In your last answer, do you mean by increase of population, increase of European population or natives?—Both; there would be an increase of articles now consumed by Europeans, in proportion to the increase of European establishments, and those trifling articles which the inhabitants

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

now take would likewise have a proportionate increase with their population; but I see no signs among the natives of any increasing demand for our commodities: I think that when I went to India, and when I left it, a period of twenty-eight years, there was scarcely any variation. I think the cause of that does not exactly arise from what we call high prices, but from causes that are more permanent than the rate of the prices. It arises from the influence of climate, from the manners of the people, from the great skill of their own manufacturers; if it was entirely occasioned by high prices, we should see a greater demand among the rich in proportion to their means. I do not see that that demand, as might be expected, is greater nearer to the source of supply, and lessening gradually as the natives are removed from it. I think that the demand is just as little at the source of supply as in the interior of the country. There are two great sources of expenditure in this country which cannot apply to India at all, these are the expences of the table, and the furniture of the house; the Hindoo has no table, he eats alone upon the bare ground, and generally in the open air: the whole equipment that he has for that purpose is perhaps an earthen platter or a small brass bason; and as far as furniture is concerned, he may be said to have no house, for his house contains none. The house of a Hindoo is generally built of mud walls with a mud floor, without any kind of furniture; he may have a small mat to lie upon, and a lamp to burn at night; again, those articles which he wishes for food his own country supplies, all his clothing it supplies in much greater beauty and variety than any thing we can furnish him with.

Are you of opinion that in the colder parts of the country, there is any probability of introducing to any great extent the use of English woollen manufactures?—If we could furnish our woollen manufactures as cheap as the natives can furnish their own, there would be a very considerable demand, because there is hardly a native of India that does not use woollen. I never knew a native who had not a large piece of coarse woollen of their own manufacture, which they use as the highlanders of Scotland do a plaid; they sleep upon it, they wrap it about them when they travel; but it is so much cheaper than our manufactures, that I am afraid our woollens can never come into competition with it; there must be a very great improvement in our machinery for manufacturing woollen before we can possibly sell our woollen in India. Of the coarser kind of Indian woollen, which is usually worn by the peasantry and the lower classes of the people, as much as a man requires to cover him, a piece of about seven feet long by four or five broad, is sold for about two shillings; but that is the coarsest kind: the finer kind is as fine as the boat cloaks are

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

are commonly made here. This is of a much larger size, about ten feet long by five or six wide; it sells at from twenty to twenty five shillings.

Do natives of high rank and wealth in that country, who have intercourse with Europeans, sometimes purchase European commodities?—Very few of the natives of high rank ever purchase them from any wish of their own; it is generally such of them as associate with Europeans, who do it, I believe, out of compliment to their European visitors; but that custom does not extend, it does not increase. The man who purchases them is never much respected by his own countrymen or by Europeans either; what the father purchases is perhaps cast aside by the son, or thrown into a lumber room.

Do you happen to know that Tippoo Sultaun was in possession of a great quantity of European commodities?—He was in possession of a great variety of European articles sent to him from France and other places; but he did not employ them in the decoration of his house; most of them were found lying in a large lumber room, many of them unpacked.

According to your observation, did the market for European commodities in every part of India, while you were there, appear to you to be adequate to the demand for them?—The market is perfectly adequate to the demand; there is no obstruction to the supply in every part of India. I never was in any large village in India, in which European commodities were not exposed for sale, those commodities for which there is a demand; but they are in general trifling, some small pieces of broad cloth, some articles of cutlery, such as scissars, penknives, and perhaps in glass ware a few small looking glasses.

Do you think that the present system of commerce with India is fully adequate to the supply of any probable increased demand for British articles among the natives?—I think that the present supply is fully adequate to any probable increase of demand.

Am I to understand that it is your opinion, that the natives of India, being a manufacturing people, and ingenious in manufactures, are fully adequate to supply any demands that may arise among them themselves?—I think they are fully competent to supply all demands that can arise among themselves, and that the chief cause of the difficulty of exporting our manufactures to advantage for sale in that country is, that we as a manufacturing people are still far behind them.

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

Are they also very quick in learning new arts?—They are very quick in learning any new art which they think will be useful to themselves; but there are many arts which we think are useful, which they have no respect or regard for.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Do you conceive the authority of the local governments in India sufficient to prevent any unlicensed Europeans from residing within the territories of the Company?—I think the authority of the local government, as the law now stands, is perfectly competent to that.

Do you think, that if any further regulations should be necessary for that purpose, the Government would be competent to enforce them?—I should think that the Government would be competent to enforce any regulations that were established from this country.

Either from this country, or established in the manner in which regulations are established in India by themselves?—Either from this country, or by themselves.

Have you ever been in the northern parts of India?—No, never any where but in the Decan or the Carnatic.

Have you ever been in that part of India which they call the cold climate?—The Mysore climate is as cold as any climate south of Delhi: I believe I have been there a great while.

You have stated the high opinion you entertain of the perfection of the native police, does that observation apply to the whole of the dominions of the Company equally?—I do not know, with respect to Bengal; but I imagine with respect to all parts on the coast of Coromandel and Malabar.

You have never been in Bengal, I believe?—I never was there; but I imagine that the police, the real Hindoo police, is the same in every part of India; that if the magistrate will direct the police to stop any Europeans endeavouring to go into the interior, they will always be successful, and that no one can possibly elude them.

Does your observation respecting the police apply generally to its excellence for the prevention of crimes of all descriptions, or merely to the particular

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

particular point to which you have been adverting, namely the passage of Europeans?—I think that the excellence of the police applies to the apprehension of offenders of all kinds, as well as to the detention of Europeans passing unlicensed through the country.

Has it appeared to you to be equally good during the whole of your residence in India; or has it undergone any recent improvements?—I think it is equally good in all parts of India, where it has not been disturbed during the war, by some of the police officers being driven away.

Was it equally good when you were first acquainted with India?—It was equally good when I was first acquainted with it.

You state there has been no change in it during your progress in India; is it meant either for the better or the worse?—There has been no change in the village police, the Hindoo police; but in part of the Company's territories they have superadded a police, consisting of hired servants, which I do not think has improved it, rather the contrary.

Will you state in what respects it has deteriorated the police, the changes to which you allude?—There are in every village in India, according to the ancient Hindoo system, hereditary police officers who hold service lands for their maintenance; those men conduct the police of the village, protect travellers, and apprehend all offenders; but in some parts of the Company's territories they have now, besides those hereditary police officers, entertained a large establishment of hired servants, who I think are quite superfluous, and who, so far from assisting, rather impede the efficiency of the ancient police establishments.

Have you observed any material difference in the condition of the lower classes of the natives, under the native government in which you have resided, and in the dominions of the Company?—I think that under the dominion of the Company, the condition of the lower classes of the natives is certainly much better than it is under that of any native government.

Can you state more particularly in what respects the condition of the natives under the Company is better than that of those under the native powers?—The condition of the lower classes of the natives under the Company's government is improved chiefly by their persons being protected, and by their assessments being fixed and known, by their being defended against every exaction except that of the fixed rent of the Government;

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

vernment; under the native governments they are all subject to arbitrary fines, to demands of every kind, which are only limited by their power of paying them.

Is there any difference in their situation with respect to the price of labour?—With respect to the price of labour, I apprehend there is no great difference under the different governments; the price of labour is very little more than sufficient for bare subsistence. During my residence in India, I had a great number of statistical tables of the prices of labour drawn up; but not having brought them to this country, all that I can recollect is the general result of the calculations.

Will you state that result?—I think that the price of labour for servants in husbandry, is from 5s. to 6s. a month; this is calculated upon the average of a population of two millions. There was likewise along with the price of labour an estimate made of the expenditure of each individual in all the different classes of society, from the highest to the lowest, annually. They were divided at that time into 30 or 40 classes, I think; but I can only remember now the average of the three principal divisions: the first division comprehended all the rich classes and higher casts, of which the average expenditure of each individual among them, about three or four hundred thousand individuals, was only 40s. a year; the consumption of each individual among the middling classes, comprehending the whole of the cast of cultivators and manufacturers, was 27s.; that of the third and lowest class was 18s. The average of the whole three classes was 25s. These calculations were made at different times, and for different purposes, which completely counteracted and checked each other; and I did not find that in the whole course of these investigations any statement ever made the average below 22s. or any above 27s. upon the population of two millions. I comprehend in that expenditure every article both of food and clothing, of furniture, and every thing else.

Do you foresee any circumstances as likely to occur, that can produce any material alteration in the state of society, which you have described; or do you conceive it to be founded upon permanent and unalterable causes?—I see no cause to expect any great change in the present state of the Hindoo society. It is founded upon their civil and religious institutions; and until those change, there can be very little change in their present condition.

Have you been able to form any opinion as to the probability of extending the commercial intercourse with the countries surrounding the
British

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

British possessions in India, principally the countries to the north and to the eastward?—I can only state on that subject from information; I have had no opportunity of being an ocular witness. But I rather imagine, that there could be no great field for the export of our manufactures to those countries; that the manufacture that would be most in demand there would be our broad-cloth; that the demand for that is in a great measure prevented among the rich by their having shawls, which they prefer, and among the poorer classes by their own coarse woollen cloths. They have besides woollen, in the cold weather, a kind of quilted silk and cotton which is light; they have it of a variety of colours, which suits their taste much better than our plain colours; and it likewise has the advantage of washing, and is warm and light.

By the prices of labour amounting merely to a bare subsistence, is the Committee to understand that you mean the subsistence of the individual, or the subsistence of the entire family?—I mean the subsistence of the entire family; the thing is generally understood, and so familiar to me, that I was not aware in explaining it to the Committee, that I should state it so.

How is the commerce of the country conducted in the interior of India, is it not conducted by commercial residents?—It is conducted by commercial residents; but does the question apply to the provision of investments for this country, or the sale of European goods?

Both?—The provision of investments is conducted in the interior by commercial residents, who make advances to the weavers, and receive the cloth at stated periods in return.

Was that always the case in India?—It was always the case.

Have you never heard that there were manufacturers who had a capital of their own, and conducted it without advances formerly?—On account of the Company.

For themselves?—There are many of the native merchants who conduct it for themselves; but they generally conduct it in the same way that the Company's agents do, by making advances to the poorer weavers: that is always done with a view to profit, because where they make advances they always take care to deduct it with a high interest in the price; but there are many weavers who manufacture without any advances, and sell it in the markets the same as they do in this country or any other.

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Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

Was not the number of those weavers who traded on their own capital, and sold it in the market, formerly greater than they have been of recent years?—I do not know that they were formerly greater than they are now: I think the proportion being large or small depends upon the state of tranquillity or war in the country; that after a long peace the number that trade upon their own capital is much greater than it is after times of disturbance, when most of their houses have been set on fire, and their property plundered.

Has there not recently been more war in India, than there was in former times?—There has been more of general wars, but I believe less of petty and internal warfare; and I believe that those wars under the Company's government have been of shorter duration than they were among the natives.

Do not the commercial residents carry on trade for themselves?—The commercial residents, I believe, are the only class of the Company's civil servants who are allowed to carry on trade on their own account.

Do not you think that, in the event of a free trade being permitted to India, a commercial resident of the Company would have a great advantage in making his purchases over any free merchant who should resort to the same station?—He would have that advantage as far as any private merchant would have who had been long accustomed to deal with a particular set of weavers, who would have more confidence in the continuance of the demand from the commercial resident than of that from a new settled merchant.

Is there not a degree of awe on the minds of the natives that will lead them to obey any order given by the commercial resident?—I do not think that the weavers have any awe with respect to the commercial resident at this time: at an early period of the Company's government, when the provision of investment was one of the principal cares of government, the commercial residents exercised an authority which has long since been put an end to; and I believe now that a commercial resident has no more authority over the weavers in India, than any merchant or master manufacturer has in this country over the people with whom he deals.

At what period do you suppose this authority of the commercial residents ceased?—The last instance I recollect of it was on taking possession of

Lieut. Colonel
Munro.

of a new country in 1792 or 1793, the Barramaul ceded by Tippoo Sultan in 1792. The weavers during that year, and I think the succeeding year 1793, complained that they were restrained by the commercial resident from working for private merchants; but orders were at that time, I believe, issued by authority of the government, removing all restraint of that kind; and I never heard that it was renewed since, and I am convinced that it was not.

Do you believe that there has not recently throughout India been any authority exercised with a view to fix the price of any commodity purchased for the Company?—I have no reason to think that the government have taken any steps to interfere with the free price of commodities in any part of India.

Are you aware that if a weaver has taken money in advance from an individual, that he is by the regulations of the government, prevented from working for the government until his contract with the individual is performed?—I believe that the regulations direct that the person from whom he receives the advance shall be supplied first; whether it is from the government or an individual, there is no distinction.

If unlimited intercourse should be opened with three or four thousand miles of coast in India, with its innumerable ports or creeks where vessels might trade, would it be possible to restrain the disorders that might arise from such a mode of trade?—I think if vessels are allowed to touch at any other ports than the principal settlements, that it will be subject to great irregularity, that there will be no possibility of restraining the disorders of the lower orders of traders and seamen, unless at such places where there is European authority established.

Will it be possible for the natives to obtain redress against the oppression or violence of Europeans against the natives, except by going to Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay?—In criminal cases they will obtain no redress, but by going to the principal settlements; in civil cases they might.

Are not many parts of the coast upwards of a thousand miles from either of those three places?—I believe that no part of the coast is so far as a thousand miles from some one of the presidencies; but there are, probably, some of the more distant parts of the Bengal territory a thousand miles from Calcutta.

*Lieut. Colonel
Munro.*

Can the natives bear the expence of seeking redress, especially at such a distance?—I do not think they can support the expence of seeking redress at so great a distance as any of the presidencies.

Is it practicable for the India Company to have police establishments at all the ports and creeks where vessels might enter for the purposes of trade?—I think it is very possible to have them, and that they actually exist now; that there is a police establishment at every port.

Are there no creeks where they might enter for the purpose of illicit trade?—There is no creek, there is no spot, that is not under the jurisdiction of the police of some village or other.

Is it your opinion that many or most of the vessels going irregularly to that coast would be disappointed in their expectations of regular commercial advantages?—I should certainly think that vessels, going to the small ports on the coast, would be disappointed in their expectations, because no goods are prepared or collected at such places.

Is it your opinion that the traders, thus disappointed, and in a desperate state, might not be guilty of great violences against the natives, and ultimately, perhaps, become piratical?—I should not think that they would ever carry their impudence so far as to become pirates; their disappointments might, perhaps, occasion temporary affrays or disputes between them and the natives on the coast where they might land.

Is it your opinion that the benefits expected from opening the trade to India from the outports are at least doubtful, and if any advantages can be expected, are they likely to prove permanent?—The only advantage I can foresee, is the introduction of a great capital into the principal establishments; it will, certainly, be an advantage to those establishments, whatever it may be to the adventurers themselves.

Has the East-India Company better means of introducing our manufactures in India than private merchants?—I do not think they have better means than private merchants. I apprehend that the introduction of our manufactures, whether by the Company or by individuals, must be through the same channel, through the natives. India is full of merchants of all kinds, from the pedlar who carries on his head his goods, to the man who loads a boat with them, or travels with 4 or 500 bullocks loaded with merchandize; they have correspondents in every part of the country, both upon the coast and in the interior; they are as keen and

*Lieut. Colonel
Munro.*

as intelligent, and much more economical than any private English merchants possibly can be; they make no distinction between the commodities of Europe and those of their own country; and for whatever article there is a demand they will always carry a supply.

Does the certainty of regularity, and the confidence there is in the East-India Company, give that Company great advantage in all mercantile transactions?—The character of the East-India Company is certainly very high all over India, but it gives them no other advantage over private merchants in the transactions with the natives than the permanency and the certainty of the demand which the Company have for their commodities.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then WILLIAM YOUNG, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows:

(By Counsel.) You have been in the civil service of the East-India Company?—I was.

*William Young,
Esq.*

At what time did you go out to India in that service?—I went out in the year 1765.

How long did you remain in that country?—Upwards of twenty years; I left in the month of March 1786.

Had you abundant opportunities during that residence of studying the characters, manners, and usages of the natives?—I had.

Are those manners, usages, and characters very dissimilar from the manners, usages, and characters of the British subject in general?—Perfectly opposite.

What do you conceive would be the effect of an unrestrained intercourse between the natives of that country and the natives of this?—I should think it would lead to very disagreeable consequences.

Will you describe in what way you conceive those disagreeable consequences would arise?—I think that they would arise from their interference with the manners, customs, usages, and religious prejudices of the people.

William Young,
Esq.

Do you speak of the inhabitants of any particular parts of British India, or of the inhabitants of that country in general?—I have seen the inhabitants of most of the different parts of India, but my knowledge is chiefly confined to the inhabitants of Bengal and Bahar, in which country only I was myself a resident.

Do you apprehend then, that an unlimited influx of Europeans into that country would produce consequences dangerous to the happiness of the natives and the stability of the British Government?—I think, that unless very great restrictions indeed were imposed upon them, it would.

Can you state whether the European population of the principal settlements increased during your stay in India?—The European population of the presidency certainly did increase very much during the twenty years I was there, but with respect to the provincial situations the increase was not great.

Was there any perceptible alteration in the manners or usages of the natives arising from their increased intercourse with Europeans during that time?—I cannot say that I perceived any material alteration.

Was any alteration perceptible within the principal settlements?—I do not think that there was.

Has the use of European commodities increased among the natives of India, within your knowledge?—There were some few of the natives that certainly did make use of some articles from this country, but those articles were few in number.

Do you speak of the inhabitants of the principal settlements, or of the inhabitants of the interior?—I speak of the inhabitants of the principal settlements; with respect to the inhabitants of the interior, I cannot say that I perceived any increase whatever.

Is the Committee to understand that there was some slight increase of demand for European articles among the inhabitants of the principal settlements?—I think there was; for example, such articles as looking glasses, pictures, and perhaps glass ware.

You have stated that some increase of demand took place in those parts of British India, where there was a considerable intercourse between British subjects and the natives. Do you conceive that any considerable increase

increase of demand for European manufactures is to be expected in the interior of the provinces, unless there shall previously have taken place a very extended intercourse between the inhabitants of that interior and British subjects?—I do not myself think that there is any probability of any material increase of British manufactures in India.

Supposing that such an increase was under such circumstances to take place, can it take place without an increased intercourse between the natives and British subjects?—I scarcely know how to answer that question; my own opinion is, that the habits, customs, and manners of the people of India are so peculiar, British manufactures are not suited to them.

Are you acquainted with the state of the regulations for preventing Europeans from pervading the interior of India?—It is such a length of time since I left India, that I have certainly no immediate opportunity of knowing what those regulations are.

It is perhaps within your recollection that the British functionaries in the interior of the country occupy very dispersed and distant points?—They do.

In order to prevent Europeans from pervading the interior, supposing them disposed to do so, must not the British government in India rely chiefly upon the functionaries in question?—They must rely entirely upon them.

Are those functionaries assisted by natives officially employed for that purpose?—I believe they are, and by natives only.

Supposing Europeans to pervade the interior of India in very much increased numbers, how far do you conceive that it would be possible for them to do so in spite of regulations to be exercised by the British magistrates or collectors for the purpose of preventing them?—I think it scarcely possible, under any regulations, to prevent Europeans pervading the interior part of India by the way of Bengal.

Can you state upon what circumstances you found that opinion?—Upon this, the Ganges for many hundred miles flows through the entire country in the height of the rains, even five hundred miles from the sea; to my own knowledge it is five miles wide; there are many collateral streams that communicate with the river in the height of the rains through which people can proceed in boats without observation. There are other methods

William Young,
Esq.

William Young,
Esq. methods by which people disposed to penetrate through the interior of the country by that channel may likewise proceed; they may go in boats disguised as boats occupied by females, and under that disguise I do not think any persons would attempt to search them. I have no doubt that I could myself proceed from Calcutta to Hurdwar in that disguise without obstruction: I know not the exact extent of the Company's dominions to the west at present, but I apprehend there would be no difficulty in proceeding up the Jumna in the same manner.

Do you conceive that the natives, officially employed as assistants to the British magistrates stationed throughout the country, might be corrupted or intimidated to permit Europeans to pervade the interior, provided a strong disposition existed on the part of Europeans to do so?—I think that they might.

While you resided in that country, were the markets in your apprehension sufficiently stocked with European commodities?—If it is meant by European commodities, the common articles that were imported by the officers of the Company's ships, generally speaking, there was an abundant supply, rare instances have occurred, particularly during the American war, in which those supplies were short; if by British commodities is meant articles of British merchandize, I believe upon every occasion there was an ample supply.

Is it within your knowledge, that the price of labour and the expence of living are very low?—They are.

Do you conceive that the cheapness of labour and of living to arise from casual and removeable causes, or from fixed peculiarities in the soil, climate, and produce of that country?—I conceive it to arise from the natural fertility of the country itself, which produces all the necessaries and comforts of life, as far as they want them, in great abundance, in an abundance beyond what can be imagined by people who have never been there.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then JOHN STRACEY, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows:

John Stracey,
Esq. (By Counsel.) Will you acquaint the Committee how long you were in the service of the East-India Company?—Between fourteen and fifteen years.

When

When did you go to India?—In 1791.

John Stracey,
Esq.

In what department of the East-India Company's service were you?—In different departments in the judicial, and for some short time as sub-secretary to the government in the secret and political and military departments.

In what Presidency?—In the Bengal Presidency.

Were you acquainted with the languages of the country?—Yes, I was.

In what parts of the Bengal provinces have you at different times resided?—First in Calcutta; then in the district of Tirhoot in the province of Bahar; then for three years in Calcutta; then for three years at Momening, in the province of Dacca; then for nearly two years at Cawnpore in the Dooab.

During the time of your residence in the Bengal provinces had you an opportunity of making accurate observations upon the character of the natives?—Certainly, as far as they came before me in my public capacity as an officer sitting in an open court of justice.

Had you any means of forming an opinion whether if a free trade were enacted between this country and India, and British traders or their agents were permitted to pass and to reside unrestrained through that country, it would have any dangerous effects upon the peace and happiness of the natives?—I should certainly think if British subjects are allowed to go when and where they please, through the different provinces, the greatest injury would arise in every respect; and if they are to go in an unlimited manner, and to be under no restraint to the different courts established in the provinces, I think they would all of them, or at least most of them, be guilty of the greatest excesses and enormities.

If such excesses and enormities were committed, is there any court, except the supreme court at Calcutta, throughout the Bengal provinces, that could punish such offenders?—No, not British subjects, all other subjects are liable to the provincial courts, but British subjects are not; the only mode of redress that a native having suffered an injury of a criminal nature from a British subject has, is to complain to the magistrate, who having ascertained to the best of his ability whether such complaint is true, and finding it to be so to his satisfaction, he has power to apprehend the British subject, and to send him down to Calcutta, to be tried by the supreme

John Stracey,
Esq.

preme court, and whatever the distance may be, he must send also the plaintiff with his witnesses.

Do you not believe that if such a state of circumstances were to take place as has been just supposed, it would create great disturbance in the native population against the English government?—I certainly think it would.

Are you of opinion that if such enormities were committed, they would materially tend to lower the character of the English in the eyes of the natives?—If they could not obtain redress, I should certainly think it would.

Supposing it were practicable to establish provincial jurisdiction in that country, to which the English might be subject, are you of opinion that the frequent punishment of Englishmen by such jurisdiction would tend to degrade the character of the nation in the eyes of the natives?—I think it possibly may; but that is so general a question, the effect of it I cannot speak to; I am of opinion that no Europeans should be allowed in the interior of the country, except British subjects, and those British subjects to go under a specific licence from the different governments, as is the case at present.

Are you of opinion that if a free trade were opened between this country and India, there would be any material increased demand among the natives of the Bengal provinces for English manufactures?—I really should think not.

Are the mass of the population in that country in a condition to purchase them if they wished for them?—The price of labour varies greatly in the different parts I was in. In Momensing I think the price of labour, I mean merely of a labouring man, not of art, was not more than a rupee and a half per month; in Tirhoot, I think it was rather more than two rupees; and in the Dooab nearly three, or fully three.

Did it ever appear to you that among the native inhabitants there was any great taste for European commodities produced by intercourse with Europeans?—If they could get broad-cloths in different parts of the country extremely cheap they would not only wear but approve of them; and the few that got them, liked them; but they were not generally worn, nor do I think it was possible for them to obtain them.

John Stracey,
Esq.

If there were any increased demand for such commodities in the Bengal provinces, have they not means under the present system of trade to obtain them to the full amount that that increased demand might require?—I really cannot say whether they can or not; but judging how things are sold at Calcutta at a public auction, I should suppose they could obtain them, but I never was concerned in any commercial transaction whatever.

Has it ever appeared to you from your observation that the market for European commodities in India has ever fallen much below the demand for them?—I had scarcely an opportunity of seeing that, being so far in the provinces; and these things must occur in Calcutta.

(By a Lord.)—Has not the number of British subjects within the interior of the country much increased of late years?—In the district of Momensing there was not one except those in the Company's service. When I was in Tirhoot from 1793 to 1797, there were several, but whether they increased afterwards, I do not know; in the district of Cawnpore, in which the British government was so lately established, there was not a trader in the district, except the sutlers with the army.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then GUY LENOX PRENDERGAST, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.)—I believe you are in the civil service of the East-India Company?—I am.

Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.

On what establishment?—On the Bombay establishment.

How long ago did you go out to India?—I went out in 1793.

How long have you been returned to this country?—A little better than two years.

In what parts of India did you reside?—The greater part of the time in the Guzerat country.

And the rest of the time where?—In Bombay.

*Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.*

In what capacity did you reside in the Guzerat country?—I was in 1795 appointed resident at Broach during Scindiah's government there, and I remained in that situation seven years, until the commencement of the warfare in Guzerat in 1802, when I was appointed paymaster to the troops in the field in Guzerat; at the close of the warfare I was appointed judge and magistrate and revenue commissioner for settling the revenue affairs of that newly conquered country, in which capacity I remained for five years, and until I left India, a little better than two years ago.

Did you in that time acquire an acquaintance with the characters, manners, usages, and institutions of the inhabitants of the Guzerat country?—During the time that I resided at Broach as resident I had no other society whatever, there was no other European than myself. I think I had an opportunity of knowing the native prejudices and habits.

Are the manners, usages, and institutions of the natives of that country very dissimilar to those of Europeans in general?—Extremely so.

What do you conceive would be the consequence of an unrestrained intercourse between Europeans and the natives of those countries?—An unrestrained intercourse between Europeans and natives would be productive of considerable disorder, and it would be extremely likely to produce quarrels.

In what manner do you conceive that effect would arise?—From an interference with their prejudices, interruption to their religious ceremonies, and in a variety of ways, during their common intercourse they would offend them.

Do you conceive the cause of it would be a difficulty on the part of Europeans of accommodating themselves to the peculiarities of the natives?—Exactly so.

Supposing Europeans to be allowed a free access to that country, do you conceive that it would be easy to prevent them from pervading the country, and from interfering with the prejudices of the natives?—I do not think it would be possible to prevent them from interfering in the prejudices of the natives, newly arrived from Europe and unacquainted with their manners and habits.

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*Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.*

Did you have occasion to see exemplified the effects of an ignorance of native manners on the part of Europeans associating with the natives?—In some instances I had frequent complaints against young men recently arrived from Europe, for offences against their prejudices, the extent of which they were not aware of, and which it was extremely difficult to impress upon them; I mean young men in the Company's service, there were no other Europeans within the jurisdiction that I had.

Do you conceive that a much more extensive intercourse between Europeans newly arrived and the natives would increase those abuses in a very great degree?—No doubt it would, as at present constituted; the local authorities would not have the power of controuling them, or protecting the natives from the violences and irregularities they would no doubt be guilty of.

In what courts are the British subjects triable for offences committed against the natives?—In the recorder's court at Bombay.

Can you say of what part of the population the juries in that court consist?—The juries I think consist of Europeans.

Do you mean of the inhabitants?—I resided at Bombay very little. I have been frequently on the grand jury, which is composed of Europeans; the petty jury I never was on, but I think they also are Europeans.

Have the government the power of recalling Europeans immediately from the interior who misconduct themselves in any manner?—They have.

In point of fact, has this power been exercised within your knowledge?—I do not immediately recollect any instance of it.

Supposing a very great influx of Europeans into that country, and supposing the government to find a pretty frequent exercise of this power necessary, do you conceive, that the exercise of such power would be invidious or odious in the eyes of the British inhabitants under that presidency?—I think it certainly would.

Are you able to say, whether there be a considerable European population in Bombay itself?—The island is a small one; there are belonging to the ships and merchant's service a good number in Bombay; the European population is very considerable in proportion to the size of the island.

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*Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.*

Are there any number of British residents in the island of Bombay not in the service of the Company?—A good many, I think.

Do you conceive, that in the eyes of this British population, any frequent exercise of an arbitrary power on the part of the government over British subjects would be offensive?—I do think they would view it in that light.

Are you able to say, whether the British population in that quarter have a considerable degree of national feeling with respect to each, or whether they freely associate and communicate with the natives in the island of Bombay, or on the continent of the peninsula?—The intermixture is not a great deal; it is very little.

Have the Europeans a considerable national feeling of sympathy with regard to each other?—I think they have.

Have you had opportunities of seeing how far the native population under the presidency of Bombay are in the habit of using European commodities?—In the island itself, the Parsees, I believe, are in the habit of using some little; but excepting them, I do not think I have observed it at all, and to the northward, certainly not at all, excepting in a very small way, perhaps a piece of cloth thrown over the shoulders; but not in their dress, or house, or utensils.

While you resided in that country, did you perceive a growing use of European commodities among the natives?—In that respect I did not see the smallest difference while I resided amongst them, they appeared to be in that respect perfectly stationary.

To what circumstance do you ascribe it, that the natives are so indifferent or averse to the use of European commodities?—They are not at all necessary to their comforts or habits, they find every thing they wish or want extremely cheap where they are, and their necessities do not seem to require them.

Do you conceive that cheapness and facility of procuring commodities which they want, to arise from peculiar circumstances in the climate, soil, and produce of the country?—Certainly I do.

Can any part of it be traced to the fixed habits or manners of the people?—No doubt.

Are

*Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.*

Are you able to say, whether persons who have the means of purchasing European commodities, do always purchase them, or not?—There are a great many who have the means who do not purchase them; within that part of the country where I lived, a great many could purchase them, but did not feel disposed to do so.

Do you conceive, that under any circumstances the sale of European commodities in that quarter is likely to be much extended among the natives?—Among the natives I am decidedly of opinion that it is not.

Did you observe among that part of the native population who had intercourse with Europeans any growing conformity to European manners or habits?—In a very trifling degree indeed; perhaps the introduction of a few chairs on a public visit; beyond that and a few articles of furniture I never have observed any.

Is the use of furniture general among the inhabitants of that country, or confined to a few persons of rank and distinction?—The furniture I have mentioned is never used but on the occasion of receiving visits from Europeans.

Are those persons who receive visits, persons of distinction?—Yes.

Is there, in point of fact, a great inequality between the condition of persons of the highest rank in that country, and persons of the lowest order?—There is.

Will you shortly describe who are the parties of whom you have spoken as constituting a part of the population of Bombay?—I do not recollect their history, they are separate and distinct from the rest of the natives of India, and bear no proportion in point of numbers to them.

Are they in point of fact a small tribe?—Very small.

You have said that the use of European manufactures, to a slight extent, takes place among the Parsees; do you conceive that even an extended use of them by persons of that sect would have the effect of proportionably extending the use of them among the other natives of that country?—I do not think it would; the Parsees who use European articles are those principally connected with the houses of agency at Bombay, and joined in partnership with them; there are Parsees besides those, on the Broach coast, at Surat, Broach, and Cambay; those have not at all used

Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.

used the European articles, nor shew the slightest disposition to do it, I think.

Is there any perceptible difference between the characters of the native population within Bombay, and that of the native population on the adjoining continent?—There is a very great difference; the population of Bombay is a mixture of almost all, but I have not resided a great deal among them to know so much of the natives of Bombay, as I have of the natives of the province of Guzerat; they are more mixed, and more difficult, from that circumstance, to trace to any particular character.

Do you conceive in general that an increased use of European manufactures among the inhabitants of Bombay would produce an increased use of them among the other native people under that presidency?—I do not think it would have that effect.

Do the natives of the adjoining continent use, in any degree, woollens from this country?—In a very limited degree indeed; I have seen it with an odd native here and there, but not in dress, merely as a piece of cloth thrown over them; I exclude of course the Company's sepoy, those that are clothed by the Company.

Do the natives of that country use any kind of woollen, or other thicker kind of clothing, during the rainy season?—Woollen cloth that is called manufactured in the country, and comes very cheap.

In point of fact are European articles, and particularly woollen, exposed to sale in the markets of that country?—In the interior, I think not.

In Bombay have European commodities generally been imported, and exposed to sale?—They have.

Do you conceive that whatever demand there may be among the natives for articles of European manufactures, has been sufficiently met by a supply of such articles?—Certainly it has.

Do you conceive that an increased communication between British subjects and the natives of the interior would in any great degree increase the consumption of European products?—I do not think it would.

Do you conceive it possible that, without such an increased intercourse, the consumption of European produce should be much extended among the

Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.

the native population?—It does not appear to me that European produce can be introduced among the natives, for had they wished it, they no doubt could procure it through native agents from Bombay where various descriptions of European articles are often to be found in the ships frequently decaying and injured, and would be sold extremely cheap; but I have not seen such in the shops in the different towns I have passed in the Guzerat country, and I have gone into those shops to look for them; any European articles excepting a few common looking glasses, and very coarsely manufactured clasp knives.

Do the Europeans in that country employ natives as menial servants?—They do.

Have you observed among those persons any great taste for the use of such commodities as are ordinarily used by their masters?—I have not.

Do you imagine that under any circumstances there is much prospect of extending the sale of European manufactures to the northward or eastward of our possessions in the Guzerat country?—That is a point on which I was spoken to by the government of Bombay; they expressed a considerable anxiety on that account, and I made every inquiry from those natives I conceived best calculated to give me information on it during the time I was resident at Broach. I also consulted the commercial resident at Surat, and he made inquiry, and none of these inquiries induced me to believe that European commodities could with any advantage be forced up into those quarters alluded to in the question.

As far as you have had opportunities of knowing, have the Bombay government exerted themselves to promote the consumption of European articles among the native people?—I think they have, and I am quite satisfied that I could not have recommended myself more strongly to the Bombay government, than by forwarding those views which led me to make the enquiries already stated.

Do you imagine that any such increase of the consumption of European produce in that quarter of India is to be expected, as would not be most fully supplied by the existing system?—I think it could be fully supplied by the present system.

Have not the government of Bombay been particularly careful in paying respect to the manners and institutions of the native people?—They have.

(Examined

(Examined by the Committee.)

Guy Lenox
Prendergast,
Esq.

Do the distinction of ranks in India at all correspond with the distinctions of rank in this country?—No, I do not know how I could assimilate the two ranks.

How could you distinguish the different ranks in India?—In the province of Guzerat there are governors of divisions of country; soubadars, nabobs, and others placed in official situations of government.

Is there any order at all corresponding to our country gentlemen?—None; there are the heads of villagers and cultivators of land.

What part of the population are the principal consumers of the articles that go from this country?—Amongst the natives of the Guzerat country, there are no consumers of articles that go from this country.

Is the consumption of the manufactures that go from this country confined principally to the Europeans?—I think generally throughout the country, excepting only a few of the Parsees of Bombay.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then DAVID HALIBURTON, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

D. Haliburton, Esq. (By Counsel.)—How long were you in the service of the East India Company?—Five and twenty years.

At which of the presidencies?—Madras or Fort St. George.

In what department of the India Company's service have you been principally employed?—In the political and revenue department I may call it, for I was Persian translator to the government of Fort St. George, from the year 1778, till a few months before I came away in 1795; and during that time from the year 1782, I was also employed in the revenue, first in the committee of revenue when the Carnatic was under the charge of the Company, and afterwards in the Board of Revenue.

Were you for some time at the head of the Board of Revenue?—Yes.

State

State for what time?—For four years.

Did you acquaint yourself with the languages of the country?—With the Persian and with the Hindostan, but not with the vernacular languages of that part of the country.

Did the situations you held and your acquaintance with the language of the country, enable you to form an accurate idea of the character of the natives?—I endeavoured to form an opinion of them, whether it was accurate or not, I do not know; I did all I could to form the best opinion of them.

Did they appear to you a race of people extremely attached to their own manners, and opinions, and fashions, and with great difficulty induced to alter them?—I think so certainly.

In the event of a free trade being opened between this country and India, and the permission of private traders from hence to penetrate into the country, and to reside in it at their pleasure for mercantile purposes, is it your opinion that any material inconveniences would arise, either with respect to the happiness of the natives or the stability of our government there?—I think there would, from I may say the contempt the Europeans have of the natives on their first arrival in that country; in process of time, when an European gets better acquainted with them, he forms a better opinion of them; but, at first, most Europeans have a thorough contempt for the natives of that country.

Are you then of opinion, that more mischief is likely to arise from such free intercourse of persons unacquainted with the habits of the natives, than from the intercourse which now takes place between them and the servants of the East India Company?—Certainly, a great deal more.

Would such persons be in danger of ignorantly offending the natives, from not knowing their peculiar prejudices and manners?—Yes, I think they would; I could give an instance: Madras is a great settlement where numbers of ships arrive, men of war, and others; and it is necessary to put the Europeans under some restraint on their landing ashore from the navy, at the hospital, for example; and where they have been landed in considerable bodies, it was necessary to keep them under some sort of restraint to prevent their committing offences, which they did not know were offences, perhaps.

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(*By a Lord.*)—Those are the seamen of the men of war?—Yes; the same with regard to the King's regiments that had come out to India. In the latter years that I was there, they were put under some sort of restraint, it depended very much on the character of the commanding officer; sometimes men of consideration took care that they should commit no offences in the country, and kept them under some sort of restraint in their garrisons. I speak of course to the time that I was there, I cannot say what may be done now.

(*By Counsel.*)—If it is necessary to place the crews of such vessels under restraint at the presidencies, would it not be still more necessary at the other ports along the coasts, if vessels were permitted to enter those ports freely?—If possible, but I should think myself it would be almost impossible; there are, on the coast of Coromandel, perhaps thirty or forty different places of landing, where vessels might arrive, and where it would be impossible to restrain them.

From your observation, do you think if a free trade were opened between this country and India, that there is any probability of a material increase of demand for European commodities among the natives?—It is a matter that I must speak upon with very great doubt myself, as I never was employed in any commercial capacity, nor do I know any thing of the trade of the country; but I think that the demands of the natives are so little for European articles, from what I have known, that I think it never would increase very much.

Have you had an opportunity to observe at Madras, whether natives who are in the habits of intercourse with Europeans, acquire in any degree their manners or tastes?—I think at Madras a few may perhaps have done it in some degree; the first establishment of Madras was of the date of 1620; it was the first establishment the Company had in the peninsula of Hindostan; they may be better acquainted there than in the inland parts, but still the bulk of the people remain very ignorant of the English manners, and are given very little to purchase European articles of furniture, or to attend to European customs of any sort.

Have you known any persons of high rank in that settlement among the natives, who have shewn any taste for European commodities?—I hardly know but one or two instances in all the time I was there.

Do you recollect what those instances were?—They were what we call the Dubashes, who are the native interpreters to gentlemen there; they have

have sometimes indulged themselves with a carriage, or perhaps a watch, or some trifle of that sort; their masters gave the latter to them perhaps, or they would not have been at the expence of buying them.

Do you think the present system of Indian commerce adequate to supply the demands of the natives for European commodities?—It did at the time that I was there, but it is eighteen years since I left it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then GRÆME MERCER, Esq. 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?—Nearly twenty-five years.

In what department, and at what settlement?—I was appointed to the medical department in the service on the Bengal establishment; but have been since very frequently employed in both the revenue and political departments of that service.

Are you still in the service of the Company?—I still am in the service of the Company.

You having stated you have been employed in political duties, will you have the goodness to state to the Committee what they have been?—I was first appointed, in the year 1789, by the governor-general, Lord Cornwallis, to attend the embassy at the Nizam's court in a medical situation, where I remained for nearly four years; during that interim, I accompanied the resident with the Nizam's army to Seringapatam, where I was employed as secretary in the negociation for a peace, which took place between the British Government, the Marhattas, and the Nizam, on the one part, and Tippoo Sultaun on the other. Bad health having forced me to resign my situation at Hydrabad, I returned to Bengal, when I was appointed to Benares in a medical capacity. In that situation I remained till 1801. In the interim I accompanied Lord Teignmouth, then governor-general, twice on his journeys to Lucknow, once as an assistant and once in a medical capacity. In 1801 I was appointed to accompany Mr. Henry Wellesley in his mission to Lucknow; and was soon after appointed secretary to the mission. On the conclusion of the treaty with the Nabob Vizier, I was appointed secretary to the Lieutenant Governor and Board of Commissioners for the settlement of the countries ceded

Græme Mercer, Esq. by that treaty. On the conclusion of the treaty with the Nabob of Furuckabad, I was appointed agent for the Governor-General for the settlement of that district; and on the dissolution of the Board of Commissioners, I acted for some months as secretary to the government in the department of the ceded provinces. On the breaking out of the Marhatta war, I was sent by the governor-general, Lord Wellesley, as political agent with the commander-in-chief, Lord Lake, for the purpose of conducting the political negotiation under his superintendence. On the conclusion of peace with Scindia, I was nominated to reside with him as resident on the part of the British Government, and in which situation I remained till 1811, when bad health forced me to return to Europe.

Are you acquainted with the Persian and Hindostan languages?—I am acquainted with both.

From your knowledge of the languages of the country, and the opportunities you have had from residing in so many different parts of it of observing the natives, have you been enabled to form an accurate idea of their character?—I should consider any general character of the inhabitants of so large an empire as very liable to mistake.

Are they generally very tenacious of their own modes of living and thinking, and of their habits, their fashions, and their prejudices?—Very much so.

From the knowledge you have of the natives of that country, are you of opinion, that if a free trade were opened between this country and India, and private adventurers from this country were allowed to go into the interior of India and reside there at will, it would be attended with any evil consequences to the peace and happiness of the natives of that country?—I believe that such an intercourse would certainly lead to oppression upon the natives of those countries.

If such a measure were adopted in this country, are you aware of any manner in which that oppression either could be prevented or adequately punished?—I know of no measure which could entirely prevent, but measures of regulation might be taken to lessen the evil.

If such oppression were to take place from the circumstances above stated, would it not tend to create great disaffection in the natives towards the English government?—No doubt it would.

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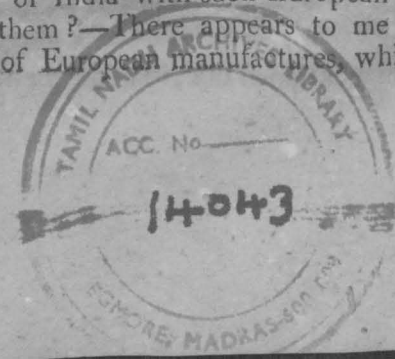
Græme Mercer, Esq. Are you of opinion that if a free trade were opened between this country and India, there would be any materially increased demand among the natives of India for English manufactures or commodities?—I think no sudden increased demand for the manufactures of this country would arise from such a free trade; the habits and manners of the natives are of such a nature as may be said to be nearly unchangeable; their wants from other countries are few or none; and from the period in which I have resided in India, I could perceive little or no alteration with regard to their demands for any European commodities.

You have been at the Nizam's court; did you perceive there among the higher ranks of people, or even in the Nizam himself, any taste for European commodities?—Certainly not. The only article that I at present recollect in the Nizam's court of European manufacture was a pair of lustres which were sent out by His present Majesty to the Nizam.

Have you ever been at the fair at Hurdwar?—I accompanied the Lieutenant-Governor of the ceded Provinces to Hurdwar, for the purpose of examining whether any vent for goods, either the produce of our own provinces or of Europe, could be effected there. In consequence of Lord Wellesley's anxious wish to give every possible encouragement to the intercourse in trade of the countries lately ceded to the British Government, and those bordering on them, fairs were established on the borders of the Rohilcund country; and the commercial resident at Bareilly, the nearest station to Hurdwar, was, in the following year, 1803, furnished with an assortment of every kind of broad-cloth, the manufacture of Great Britain, which could be supposed likely to meet a sale at the Hurdwar fair. This experiment I believe entirely failed; hardly enough was sold I understood afterwards to pay the expences of the conveyance of the goods to the fair.

Has it fallen within your knowledge, that Lord Wellesley anxiously pursued every measure in his power to extend the consumption of the manufactures of this country, in the newly acquired districts in the neighbourhood of Oude?—It certainly appeared to be his Lordship's wish to do so, and orders were issued that every facility should be given for this intercourse.

Is it your opinion, that the present system of trade has been fully adequate to the supply of the natives of India with such European manufactures as are in demand among them?—There appears to me to be great abundance of all those articles of European manufactures, which are likely



Grème Mercer,
Esq. likely to be wished for by the natives, at the principal cities and military stations at which I have been, fully equal to meet any demand which was likely to be made for them by the natives; the native traders themselves are very active and industrious, and could convey goods through the country at an expence perhaps one-fourth of what would be required for an European. If such a demand existed in the interior, I have no doubt that these traders would supply it from the stores in Calcutta and other large cities.

Are you of opinion that there is any probability of such an increase of demand for European manufactures among the natives of India as cannot easily be supplied by the present system?—Certainly not.

Do not the persons who resort to the fair of Hurdwar principally come from the cold countries to the northward?—Great numbers come from Caboul, Punjab, and Candahar, they also come from the Napaul Hills and Sirinagur; the former countries are situated in a high degree of latitude, where warm clothing is much required.

Can you state what warm clothing the people of these countries are furnished with, so as to prevent their consumption of British woollens when offered to them at the fair of Hurdwar?—They manufacture coarse woollens, which is the general wear of the lower ranks of people; the higher ranks wear the shawl manufacture; considerable numbers of coarse shawls are brought down by those traders to the Hurdwar fair.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Do you happen to know whether, during the time you have been in India, any articles of woollen manufacture have been fabricated and sent out from hence of a cheaper kind than what might have been usually sent, for the purpose of trying whether they could get a market in India?—I do not know that any particular kinds have been sent of late that were not before; there are great quantities of very coarse broad-cloths sent out, which are principally disposed of at the sales of the Company at Calcutta: considerable quantities of this cloth were used to clothe the armies of the native powers. Scindiah had a force of perhaps 50,000 men, great part of which were clothed in British coarse woollens. Holkar had also the regular battalions of his army clothed in the same way: this vent has considerably diminished, from those powers retaining fewer regular infantry than formerly.

You mentioned that, in consequence of the representations of Mr. Henry Wellesley,

Grème Mercer,
Esq. Wellesley, woollens were sent up to Bareilly to see whether they could find a market at Hurdwar; do you recollect whether they were sent with low prices, or whether there was not a higher price put on them than they were selling at, at the presidency?—I have no particular recollection but from their sales at Calcutta, which I understood generally were at as low a rate as they could be sold at with a most moderate profit. It is probable, I think, that those sent up for sale at Hurdwar were ordered to be sold at an equal rate, with the difference of charges, to the sales of Calcutta, but of this I am not certain.

What is the duration of the fair of Hurdwar?—I believe a fortnight or three weeks, I speak entirely from recollection.

And it is an annual fair?—Annual; but the great fair is held only once in twelve years, where the people from all parts come, both for religious purposes and for barter. The fair at which I was present was not of those great fairs, and it was supposed there were then between two and three hundred thousand people collected.

Were there any articles sent to the fair of Hurdwar at the time you attended it, except woollen goods?—None, I believe.

Were any articles of hardware exposed to sale there?—I did not observe any.

Have you observed generally throughout the interior of the country, there are at the Bazars European articles offered for sale?—Only at such places where Europeans reside in Scindiah's camp. I have seen European articles, such as spectacles and other trifling articles.

Are you aware that the experiment tried by Lord Wellesley's orders, of sending woollen goods to Hurdwar in a subsequent year to that in which you were there, was afterwards repeated at the subsequent fairs?—I cannot speak with certainty; but I am rather inclined to believe not: the Marhatta war took place during the course of the next year.

Do you know of any efforts which have been made during your residence in India, more particularly during Lord Wellesley's time, to push manufactures into the countries north of the mountains above Hurdwar?—I have no recollection of any, except what I have formerly stated of the institution of fairs for the purpose of barter.

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Græme Mercer,
Esq. Is it your opinion, that the example of Scindiah and Holkar, in clothing certain regular battalions in British woollens, is not likely to be followed by other powers, for example, the king of Candahar?—There are no regular troops on the footing of those disciplined by Scindiah and Holkar, that I believe are entertained by the king of Caboul; the Mussulmen, who constitute the principal part of his subjects, will not readily serve on foot; they will not submit to the discipline which is necessary to render infantry effective, and even in the native infantry of our armies. The Mussulmen do not compose one tenth, I believe, of the numbers entertained in our service.

Are there any other of the native princes that have any thing like a regular army?—They have some few small bodies of men, which they call battalions, but nothing at all effective, and the want of this force has been the great cause of their failure against the Marhatta chiefs, Scindiah and Holkar, and their effective force of infantry and artillery.

Is the principal part of the native armies covered during the warm weather with calicoes rather than woollen?—Yes, calicoes quilted.

It is not the greater part of the armies that wear woollen?—Only regular infantry.

Is that regular infantry a considerable part of the army?—With those two powers, Scindia and Holkar, it constituted a very large proportion.

Do the Marhattas wear any woollen?—Some people of higher rank wear a piece of broad-cloth, generally scarlet broad-cloth, over their shoulders in cold weather; but this does not extend to any great number.

And that of their own manufacture?—Of British manufacture.

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.

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The EARL of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The counsel are called in.

The proceedings of this Committee yesterday are read.

Then THOMAS COCKBURN, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(*By Counsel.*) You have resided at Madras in the civil service of the East India Company?—I have. *Thos. Cockburn,*
Esq.

How long did you reside there in that service?—I believe I arrived in 1779, and left it at the close of 1802.

Did you reside in the country during the whole of that interval?—The whole of that interval.

Did you occupy any, and what, high official situations in the service of the Company during that time?—I served the Company the whole of that period. When I arrived I entered the military secretary's office; in 1781, was appointed deputy accountant general; in the year 1786, commissary general of grain and provisions to the army. I also acted some part of that time, till 1793, as accountant to the board of revenue, and as member of the board of revenue from 1793 to the period of my quitting India. I was also employed as acting president of the commission for carrying into execution the permanent settlement of the land revenue at Madras.

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Thos. Cockburn,
Esq.

Had you ample means of informing yourself with respect to the characters, manners, institutions, and prejudices of the native population?—I had the means of doing so, but not so extensively as those who had made the language their study. At the period of my arrival in India it was not the system of the Company's government at Madras to encourage the study of the languages; the system was rather adverse to it; and the situation I was thrown into immediately after my arrival, and the war with Hyder, which commenced in 1780, rendered my official duties so onerous, as to preclude my appropriating time to study the native languages; but I had certainly opportunities of being intimately acquainted with the natives, their habits and prejudices.

Had you, either by your own communications with the natives, or by communication and correspondence with other British subjects resident in the country, sufficient means of acquainting yourself with the native peculiarities to form a definitive opinion on the subject?—I think I had.

Are you able to say, whether the natives hold their customs and opinions loosely, or whether they cherish for them a bigotted attachment?—I conclude that they feel them interwoven almost with their existence.

Are their manners and institutions such as must seem very singular in the view of an European?—Certainly they are; and so singular, that I believe the legislature has provided that customs and manners, which are not consistent with English ideas, should still be suffered to prevail in all the considerations of subjects that come before the courts of judicature of Bombay, Bengal, and Madras.

Speaking with respect to the majority of the natives, would you say that they were equal in vigour, either of body or mind, to Europeans?—It is not possible to suppose, that they are equal in vigour of body to the Europeans, from the climate in which they live; but they are capable of enduring great fatigue, and are naturally considerably laborious in vigour of mind; they certainly are not equal to the Europeans, but what they want in vigour of mind, they certainly make up in some degree by their habits of yielding, and of opposing evasion to oppression; in taking opportunities of revenging themselves, in cases of injury, or of complaining to those from whom they may hope for redress.

Have you ever observed in Europeans, unacquainted with the natives, a tendency to violate their prejudices, or to make light of their peculiarities?—I frequently have had occasion to see it, when the European himself

himself perhaps was not sensible of it, for they are peculiarly tenacious of all their customs and usages. *Thos. Cockburn,*
Esq.

Have you ever observed in Europeans a disposition to domineer over the natives, from the mere consciousness of their superiority in mental and bodily vigour, or of their national and political ascendancy?—I sometimes have had occasion to know ignorant Europeans, and even those better informed, treat the natives, not with that consideration which is due to all their prejudices and habits; but I cannot say, that Europeans, generally speaking, whom I have seen in India, unless those who had been a very short time in the country, or whose tempers were bad, did not treat the natives with due consideration.

In your apprehension, does the forbearance and indulgence generally exercised towards the native people by the British residents, result from the peculiar guards provided for the natives by the present system of British government?—Certainly; the regulations of the British government have a strong tendency to preserve order in the conduct of the Europeans generally, because they are under the immediate and direct controul of the government of India; but it has frequently happened, that the soldiery, from the natural habits they indulge in, do not treat the natives with that degree of feeling which it is desirable they should; and in some instances have been known to consider them not at all on a par with themselves as human beings.

Is your remark confined to the British soldiery, or does it more or less extend to all lower Europeans?—There were very few instances, when I was in India, of any Europeans of the latter description being any where resident in the country but at the presidency; none indeed of the lower orders that I ever knew; it was not permitted by the regulations of the government that any such persons should pervade the country.

Were such persons permitted to pervade the interior of the country, do you conceive that the natives would be exposed to insult and violence?—I have no doubt, that if an unrestrained ingress of Europeans was suffered to resort to India, that it would have a baneful effect upon the comfort, the peace, and happiness of the native British subjects of India; and that it would also, in my humble opinion, imminently endanger the British interests in India.

Supposing a large influx of British subjects into the seaport towns of the

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. the peninsula, and supposing many of them inclined to penetrate into the interior of the country, how far in your opinion would it be possible to prevent the frequent fulfilment of that wish?—That must entirely depend upon the regulations which the Government might institute for the prevention of that evil, and how far those intrusted with the executions of the regulations might do their duty; at present, at least when I was in India, the rule I believe was, that when a ship imported at any port where there was a master attendant, and a custom-house, it was the duty of the master attendant to require the captain of the ship so importing to transmit to him a list of the crew, their names and countries, and the names and countries of all passengers on board; and until such list was furnished, no boat, or any thing from the vessel, was suffered to be landed. In regard to proceeding into the country, the law and regulation of the Government was, that a passport describing the person so wishing to go into the interior of the country must be obtained, and then the party was to proceed to the place of destination, where another passport, if he wished to proceed further, would be granted to him. If he attempted to proceed without a passport, he was liable to be seized by all the officers of Government employed throughout the country, and by the inhabitants of the country, to whom a reward is given for bringing into the nearest station all Europeans of whatever description or denomination, who are found travelling without the passport of government. This of course might be evaded, by forging passports in the first instance, and by taking such tracts as were not likely to fall in with the officers of Government; but it would be very difficult, if not impossible, in such a case, not to meet with obstruction from the inhabitants. As all Europeans of every description are prohibited from holding lands or houses, or renting lands and houses beyond ten miles from the presidency of Madras, without the sanction of the Government, it of course could seldom have happened, while I was in India, that instances of Europeans being stopped in this way should occur, though I have known it in the case of civil and military servants proceeding to stations without having obtained the necessary passports.

Are there any seaports on either side of the peninsula in which the British have not established a port police?—In a coast that extends so many thousand miles, I really cannot venture to say that there are establishments at all the ports. At most of the ports on the Malabar coast, and on the Coromandel coast, there are establishments for the purpose of inspecting all vessels importing there; and the motive of it, I believe, was to endeavour, if possible, to prevent the ingress of Europeans, especially foreigners, and Frenchmen in particular; but to extend establishments of that

that kind to every place where it was possible for a ship to import, would naturally require very extensive establishments as well as considerable expense.

Supposing then that the Indian seas were laid fully open to the vessels of private adventurers from this country, do not you conceive that many Europeans might effect a landing upon the peninsula with licences, and might penetrate into the interior of the country?—It is not improbable that many would attempt it; but I do not think it very probable that a great number could effect their purpose, because the Government is peculiarly vigilant in preventing an evil that would be so detrimental to the comfort and happiness of the people, and to their own interests.

Do the police establishments in the interior of the country consist chiefly of Europeans or of natives?—They consist of an European magistrate in each zillah or district, who is also, or ought to be, a justice of the peace; under him all the officers employed are natives, who act under regulations printed and published for the information of the people at large.

Is not then the British magistrate in a great degree dependant upon native assistants, both for information with respect to such Europeans as are attempting to pervade the interior, and for fully enforcing such restrictions as he may think it necessary to impose on their progress?—The European magistrate must naturally very much depend upon the exertions of the police officers in the efficient performance of those duties which he cannot himself personally superintend. The efficient performance of his own duties, with the strictness and regularity necessary to check such an evil, must depend very much upon his individual energy, and the degree of authority which he may feel himself warranted and disposed to exert towards his countrymen in such situations.

Should Europeans in any number attempt illegally to pervade the interior of the country, might not the native officers of police be induced either by corruption or intimidation to promote their purpose?—There can be no doubt that corruption and intimidation might have some detrimental effect, as the regulations which can be framed are subject to a defective execution of them; but it would not only be necessary to bribe an officer of one district or zillah but of all, between the sea-port and the situation to which such individuals may desire to proceed.

Are the troops posted at the different stations in the interior of the country

Thos. Cockburn,
Esq. country principally natives or Europeans?—It is difficult to answer that question, because there are stations for Europeans in the interior as well as on the sea coast; but, generally speaking, in the small forts and stations in the interior of the Carnatic, sepoys under the command of European officers and non-commissioned officers are stationed as guards on the coast. There are many of the ports where, I believe, there are no military, but persons in the employment of the collectors.

What effect would follow from the frequent exercise of coercion over Europeans by native officials or corps of sepoys, in the estimation in which the British character is generally held throughout that country?—It would no doubt tend to lessen the respect of the natives for Europeans in general; and I think, in the instances to which I alluded of persons having been stopped who had gone without passes, complaint was made of the disrespect which had been shewn to them; but it being a regulation of the government intended for the peace and good order of the country, I do not apprehend it would have any very violent effect in that respect. It might, however, in some cases be productive of inconvenience, by stopping the officers of government in their progress on important business of the government; but though it might have that effect, the execution of the regulation would still, in my opinion, be necessary.

In what way do you conceive that obstruction could arise to the progress of the officers of government on the part of the natives?—As the natives receive a reward of ten pagodas for every European who may be found passing without regular passports, it is their interest to stop all persons whom they may find without passports; and it may be also, from the same circumstances, an inducement for them to question the authenticity of the paper that may be presented to them as a passport, as very few of them can read what is therein written.

Are not you of opinion that the natives described might occasionally question the authenticity of the passport with very good reason?—No doubt they might do so, but in that case they would carry the person and his passport to the next garrison; it would be for the officers commanding to discriminate as well as he could, whether it was a regular or a forged pass.

Are the garrisons frequent with reference to the whole area of the country under the presidency of Madras?—So many changes have taken place, and so many small ports that used to be occupied when we had enemies to apprehend, are now withdrawn, that I cannot, in an area of
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not much less than 130,000 square miles, give an answer to this question; but though there may be no garrison, there are collectors and judges in different parts of the country, to whom, in case of a garrison not being near, such parties would be carried.

Are you aware that British subjects, for offences committed against the natives, are triable only in the supreme court of judicature established at the presidency?—I am aware of that being the case, and I consider it one of the great grievances under which our Indian subjects labour. It is not only in respect to assaults or irregularities affecting their persons, but in respect to their property; an European, a British subject resident in the interior, licensed by the government, by some construction of the law as it now stands, is considered even in regard to matters of property only amenable to the supreme courts; but as the act of going into the interior is one of his own seeking, and suffered by the license of government, he enters into a bond to allow himself to be prosecuted in the courts established under the regulations of government to the extent of 500 rupees, while the European has the power to prosecute a native subject of Great Britain to any extent to which his dealings may extend; but if the native has larger demands upon the European than 500 rupees, he must proceed to the supreme court to prosecute him at the distance of sometimes hundreds, and in Bengal one thousand miles, at an expence not only ruinous, but he must leave his family, his pursuits, and I may say every thing that is dear to him, and which he has been accustomed to, for the purpose of obtaining redress at the presidencies, while other Europeans not British subjects, are considered amenable to the country courts: I mean the courts established under the regulations of the government of India sanctioned by the authority of the legislature; and this exception in favour of the British appears to me to give great reason for the natives to doubt the impartiality if not the justice of the English government. In criminal matters, an European, if informed against before a magistrate, is liable to be taken up by that magistrate, and the witnesses are bound over to proceed to the supreme court wherever established, for the purpose of prosecution for the offence; of course subject to the same inconveniences already described, except that in case of poverty, an allowance of two annas (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) a day, I believe, is allowed to the witnesses to bear their expences on such occasions, and in some particular cases, I believe, government defray the expence of the prosecution.

From your answer is the Committee to collect, that a frequent resort on the part of the natives to the supreme court for the purposes of justice

Thos. Cockburn,
Esq.

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. justice is morally impracticable?—I think it nearly amounts to impracticability, and that the natives in such cases would rather suffer great injury than resort to it, because a separation from their families, and I fear frequent ruin to their circumstances, would be the consequence.

You have had occasion to know several of the British residents at the presidencies; can you say whether they are much actuated by that national sympathy and fellow feeling which is known generally to characterise British subjects domiciliated in a foreign country, and among a people of peculiar habits?—Certainly they are.

Are you aware, that by law the juries in the supreme court are composed exclusively of British subjects?—Yes, I am; I believe in cases of foreigners they are not.

By law, British subjects tried in the supreme courts are tried by juries exclusively consisting of British subjects?—Certainly they are.

In the provincial or district courts of which you have spoken, is the mode of trial by jury established?—No, because their jurisdiction does not extend to the British European subjects.

Would it be possible to introduce into those courts the mode of trial by jury, supposing a condition that the jury must consist of British subjects?—Certainly not, in my opinion.

Could British subjects be made generally amenable to those district courts, without offence to their national feelings and prejudices?—In cases of life and death, I do not think it is possible, either consistent with British laws or British feeling, that they should be amenable to the country courts; but in all other cases whatsoever, I cannot but think it would be just to the people of India, that those Europeans, who for their own advantage seek a residence among them, with the licence and protection of the Company, should be equally amenable to the country courts, I mean the circuit courts, where European judges preside, as the natives among whom they reside, and whom it is the bounden duty, as is prescribed by the law, that the British government should protect in their religion, their usages, and even their prejudices.

Were British subjects made amenable to the jurisdiction of the country courts, however consonant the frequent exercise of that jurisdiction might be to the dictates of justice, would it be in fact agreeable to the natural

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. natural feelings and prejudices of Englishmen?—As justice is the first principle in the heart of an Englishman, and as Englishmen place themselves in the situations described voluntarily, it is for themselves to consider whether they will do so, knowing that they will be amenable to trial by their countrymen, who preside in the courts to which I allude.

Would the frequent exercise of the jurisdiction alluded to, produce any and what effect upon the opinion of the British character entertained by the natives?—I have already stated my opinion, that a numerous race of Europeans suffered to pervade the country of India, would have the worst effect, both in regard to the comfort and happiness of the natives, and to the interests of this country, but I am not aware how any great number of Europeans can ever be allowed, or could find any object in resorting to that country, if the laws are executed which preclude them from holding lands, or employing themselves in any way in the cultivation of land; if these were relaxed, and numbers were suffered to proceed into the interior, it would inevitably give rise to an apprehension in the natives, that it was the intention of the English government to suffer them to colonize and ultimately to dispossess them of their lands, which would certainly, in my humble opinion, operate to the destruction of the English empire in the East; and so far it would be very prejudicial to the British character, as it would involve British faith.

Are there not exceptions to the prohibition of Europeans from holding lands or works in the interior of the country?—It is the regulation of the government, that no European shall hold lands beyond ten miles from the presidencies of Madras or Bengal, without especial licence of government; and any European obtaining lands surreptitiously, is liable, by the regulations of the government, to have them taken from him; and he would thereby incur the penalty of having his licence withdrawn, and of being called back to the presidency.

Supposing a number of private vessels admitted into the Indian seas, and the crews of those vessels to land at various ports in the peninsula, do not you conceive many British subjects might be tempted to venture into the interior?—Unless persons of a description who mean to desert from their ships, I am not aware that it would be probable that many would seek to do so, though some might; at the same time I have already explained the risk they would run if they should attempt it.

Do any number of British subjects, unprovided by licences by the Company, reside under the presidency of Madras?—Very few when I was

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. was in India, and those few I apprehend without the knowledge of Government; it has been a principle in the Government to discountenance it; notwithstanding this, no doubt, persons are annually left by the ships, who, unknown to Government, obtain a residence at the presidencies; but their numbers could not be great, because no persons are suffered to embark in English ships, without the licence of the Company in England, and therefore it could only be some of the officers, or of the crews, of such ships who may be so left behind. When foreign ships import into the ports of India, no doubt, persons may in like manner escape from them; but I have no recollection of any particular instances of this nature.

Your India experience extended from 1779 to 1803, or the end of 1802?—Yes.

Within that period did you observe whether the number of unlicensed persons increased or not?—They no doubt very much increased; but I am not perhaps correct in saying they were unlicensed; for all persons resident under Fort Saint George were at one time called upon to take out licences, if they had not brought them out from England; and I believe they were compelled to return themselves to the town-major's office, under the direction of the government.

Do you mean that on that occasion persons who previously resided illegally in the country obtained licences from the government?—Persons who had resided in the country, certainly, so far illegally, that not being licensed originally they were only residents on sufferance, were called upon to take out licences for the purpose of preserving order, and of ascertaining their names, professions, and pursuits.

Were any persons sent home on that occasion?—I have no recollection of it, it did not fall within my department particularly to know; I might have heard of such a thing, and I have heard that some persons were sent home, or ordered home; they were more frequently ordered home than sent home; it is the duty of all others the most onerous that a governor has to perform, that of sending home by force a British subject; it is one in the execution of which feelings must be very much injured, and it is only in extreme cases that it has been resorted to; it is one also that involves the personal responsibility of a government, and therefore acted upon perhaps not with that severity that circumstances might require it should be.

Was your last answer intended to imply, that there is among the British

ish residents in India, a general leaning towards each other, and a common jealousy of coercive proceedings on the part of the government with respect to individuals of the body?—I think there is: in former times, I have known instances of Europeans being tried for crimes committed against natives, and I am sorry to say that in some instances I have had reason to think that the leaning to their countrymen was too strong; in latter times, I am happy to think that this has been greatly got the better of, and that there are many instances of Europeans having suffered death for the murder of natives.

Have you not known that the lower order of Europeans, from ignorance of the manners and usages of the natives, have committed great offences against their peace and welfare?—I have known some instances where men, either mad or drunk, have committed very great excesses, as soldiers and followers of camps are sometimes liable to do.

In a former answer you have stated that the number of unlicensed residents in that country was limited by the necessity of their proceeding on board the Company's ships, and with previous licence from the Company: do you conceive the establishment of an open trade between the outports of this country and the ports of India would tend to augment the number of unlicensed residents in that country?—That would depend upon the regulations established for the purpose of preventing that evil, and on the due and strict execution of the regulations in India for the prevention of it.

Have you had an opportunity of observing how far the natives of India discover a taste for the use of European manufactures or commodities of any kind?—Very few, if any, of the British commodities can be consumed by the population of India. A few rich individuals may use carriages; some few, glasses, watches, &c. and perhaps a little broad-cloth occasionally to cover them in the very cold weather, but in very small quantities. I do not recollect above three or four natives at any time in my remembrance in India who had carriages, and I do not recollect ever being in any native house upon the occasion of their ceremonials and marriages, where I saw any but a very few small looking glasses; the furniture, and other articles, used by them upon such occasions, were generally borrowed from their masters.

Do you think there is much prospect of an extended use of European commodities among the natives of that country?—It is necessary to advert to what are the articles in use among the natives, to ascertain that point:—

Thos. Cockburn,
Esq.

point: of course I had occasion to inquire into the expences of native families of different descriptions; and when I was at the head of the board of revenue, I conversed with some natives on the subject, who gave me, as a matter of curiosity, a statement of the expences of a labouring man and his family, and what a family of the middling class lived on, a man capable of keeping a hackery and a pair of bullocks to carry him to his business; and it is scarcely to be believed how small the sums are in those accounts which are expended for clothing. I happen to have preserved the memorandums; I got them in the year 1802; if it is wished, I can produce them to the Committee. The whole expense of a labouring family, consisting of the man, his wife, and five children, (the eldest eight years, the youngest an infant) amounted to about £11. 6s. per annum; and of that sum, the whole amount expended for clothing is 17s. and a fraction. The expences of the middling family, that is a person who is usually known by the term of a dubash, which consisted of six men, a boy five years of age, and twelve women, in all nineteen persons, amounted per annum to £193. or thereabouts; the whole amount of the clothing included in that sum, used by the family in the course of the year, amounted to about £42 sterling; and those expences included daily charity, which forms part of the expence of a native of that quality in India. In the articles necessary to the subsistence of both families, no British articles of manufacture are included, or could be necessary.

When was that paper drawn up, from which you have made those statements?—They were written by a native of good character to whom I applied for the information, in the year 1802, and are in his own handwriting.

Do you conceive that this extreme cheapness of living in India results from fortuitous and removable causes, or partly from fixed peculiarities in the climate, soil, and produce of the country, and partly from peculiarities scarcely less fixed in the characters, modes, and institutions of the inhabitants?—I conceive that the mode of living characterized in the preceding answer, is that which is most consonant to the wishes and desires of the people: their expences, separate from the necessities of life, except in the few of the higher orders, who are not numerous, are I believe principally on their marriage ceremonies, and performing the funeral rites of their fathers; on which occasions they generally expend all they can spare, and very often vie with each other in their marriage expences, so as to encumber their circumstances for several years. The richer classes also expend large sums in repairing pagodas, digging wells and

and tanks to supply the traveller and cattle with water, and in building choultries for the comfort and convenience of travellers, where no other accommodation can be found.

From your experience, during your residence in India, can you state whether at that period the markets were fully supplied with European commodities?—To the best of my knowledge and belief they were.

Is it within your knowledge, whether the Company and their governments abroad have made anxious efforts to promote the use of European commodities among the natives?—I am not aware of any particular efforts that have been made, except that of offering the goods for sale at low prices, and selling whenever required, or buyers could be found for them; they also used to send from the presidency to the subordinate factories goods for the same purpose.

Do those among the natives, who have intercourse with Europeans, in any material degree imbibe European tastes, or affect European fashions?—Some few have; the instances are very few, I believe; and I am not aware of it to any great extent, in regard to the use of European articles.

Do you conceive that any extended intercourse between the natives of this country and the natives of India, would in any great degree augment the sale of European commodities in that country?—I am not of opinion that any very great extension could be given to the export trade of this country to India; except the staple articles of broad-cloth, and the metals generally sent to India, I believe copper and lead and iron, I do not know of any articles that are much in demand, except for the uses of Europeans.

Do you imagine that under any circumstances, the consumption by the natives of India, of the articles named in the last answer, will be greatly increased?—I do not know any circumstances that are likely to give rise to a very great increase of it; as population increases in all countries, of course demand must increase in proportion.

Are you of opinion, that any such increase of demand for European commodities is likely to take place in India, as shall not be met by an adequate supply under the present system of the Company?—I am not aware that the present system is not capable of supplying all that can be required of it; but there may be means which I am not acquainted with.

Thos. Cockburn,
Esq.

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. of extending those supplies in countries with which I am not particularly acquainted.

When you stated that no very extended consumption of European manufactures was, in your apprehension, to be expected in India, did you mean to speak of those countries of British India with which you have been peculiarly conversant?—Yes.

With reference to those countries, does your observation and experience lead you to judge, whether the establishment of a free trade between the ports of this country and the ports, or principal ports, of British India, will have the effect of greatly augmenting the consumption of European commodities among the native Indian population?—I do not think that any system could greatly increase the consumption of British manufactures in India, because the people of that part of India with which I am acquainted, have no use, generally speaking, for such articles.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Did you ever reside for any time in the interior of the country?—Very little: I have been in the Mysore country, and in different parts, merely for a few weeks, in the Company's districts around Madras, and I have been at Bengal for a short time, but my general residence was at the presidency of Madras.

You have not resided, in the execution of your duty, in the interior?—No, only for a short time; I was with Lord Cornwallis's army when in Mysore; nor did my particular line of service lead me to a particular knowledge of commercial questions; the information I have on that subject is merely general.

Are the existing regulations of the local government sufficient to prevent the lower order of Europeans, adverted to in your examination, from going into and residing in the interior of the country?—I think that if there was a great number of Europeans likely to proceed to that country, that it would be desirable, if possible, to strengthen the hands of government in regard to the removal of them, in case it should be necessary; I think that a vigilant execution of the regulations that now exist in India would, generally speaking, tend to prevent any great number of Europeans from finding their way into the interior of the country; or, if they found their way there, they could not remain long undiscovered, provided the magistrates, and all the parties whose duty it was to execute the orders of government, were vigilant in so doing.

Do

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. Do you know whether it is the uniform practice of the governments in India to enforce a strict attention to the habits and customs, both religious and civil, of the natives?—It is and has been their peculiar care; there is no part of the duty of the government of India which has been so anxiously looked to, or which has been more sedulously attended to, than the preservation of the native British subjects of India in the free use of their religion and usages, their customs, convenience and happiness.

The Committee understood you, in a former part of your examination, to state, that if the laws against colonization were put in force, you were not aware of any inducements to get people into the interior, or reside there; are you of opinion that the laws against colonization remaining in full force in a country like that, if the intercourse were left free, there would be any danger of a great resort of Europeans into the interior?—What I meant in that part of the examination to which the Committee refer was, that I was not aware of any legitimate object, the Europeans being precluded from possessing lands, or cultivating lands, which should induce them to reside there; but men of shattered fortunes, or who hope and seek to obtain fortunes, would nevertheless certainly endeavour, in the hope of obtaining it, to proceed into the interior if they were so permitted. There are many means of employment with the petty princes of the interior, where they might hope to obtain advantages, and that would operate as an inducement to some to seek them: but the difficulties of doing so, I have already explained; and probably the number that would attain their object under any circumstances would not be very great, if, as I have already observed, there was that vigilance which ought always to be exerted in that country; but when it is considered that I am speaking of a country, I mean British India, which in extent I do not believe to be much less than 320, or 330 thousand square miles, and of a population not much less than sixty millions, it is very difficult to form any correct opinion as to what might be the result of a very great European ingress into the sea-ports of that country.

Do you happen to know the fact, that by the existing treaties, I believe with all the native powers, greater and less, no European is allowed to reside at any of their courts, or in their countries, without the permission of the British government?—There is, I believe, such an article in the treaties, that have been made by the supreme government, with the several parties with whom they have political connection; but as the object of those parties, I mean the native princes and their subordinate Zemindars and others, may have a desire to possess the assistance of Europeans in the formation of troops, for purposes perhaps hostile to the very

Thos. Cockburn, Esq. very objects of those treaties, it is by no means improbable, as the British resident always resides where the native prince resides himself, that many Europeans might be collected in the more distant parts of his country, without its being possible for the European resident to ascertain that they were so employed.

Have not we residents and agents at all their different courts?—I believe where the darbar is held we have a resident, but they do not suffer our people to pervade their countries; and if they wished to form a force with a view to future contests with the English, or even with their neighbours, (for they are very often at war with each other, which the English government cannot prevent,) it might become an object for them to entice Europeans to their service, whom they think all good soldiers and capable of drilling men, and therefore great encouragement might be held out to adventurers. Our own deserters, and deserters from foreign ships, have found their way into the interior; but that is less likely to happen now than formerly, because the native princes are further removed from the coast than they were formerly: when Hyder and his son Tippoo had possessions on the Malabar coast and the borders of the Carnatic, and when Cuttack belonged to the Marhatta government, it was certainly easier for Europeans to seek such employment, and to obtain more immediate shelter than now, when the powers with whom we have subsidiary treaties are so much further in the interior.

If an unlimited intercourse should be allowed with three or four thousand miles of coast in India, having innumerable ports where vessels might trade, would it be possible to check the disorders and irregularities likely to arise in such an unrestricted mode of trade?—If by the question I am to understand that an entirely unlimited intercourse should be allowed, not subject to the regulations which I have explained, it would be impossible to prevent the disorders adverted to; but I have already stated to what extent I conceive the regulations in force, if duly and vigilantly followed up, would have the effect of preventing any very great degree of disorder from such a trade.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from eluding all restrictions and limitations, and to trade and go where it might best suit their purpose?—I think it would be very difficult for them, under the circumstances I have explained, to get into the interior of the country.

Might they not trade along the coast where they pleased?—There could be

be no restraint on that, because a ship could touch at all the ports without the power of prevention. *Thos. Cockburn, Esq.*

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from eluding all restrictions and limitations, and to trade and go where it might best suit their purposes?—If it is meant by the question, that the licences authorize them to import at particular ports of India only, there is certainly nothing that could prevent their going to any other port if they thought proper; but I believe when ships are insured, the ports where they are to import are mentioned, and any deviation would forfeit the insurance.

Is it your opinion that in case there should be an open intercourse with the coast of India, that many or most of the vessels going to that coast would be disappointed in their expectations of commercial advantages?—It is a question that really I cannot answer, unless I knew what their expectations and hopes were.

Expectations of commercial advantages?—If I were to give a general opinion upon the subject, I certainly should say, that any persons who expected great advantages from that trade, with respect to the sale of the exports of this country, would be disappointed; but they may have other objects in view, in which they may succeed, that I am not acquainted with.

Do you believe that if they went to India with the means of providing a cargo for export, that they would be likely to be disappointed?—If they went to India with a cargo of goods from this country in the hopes of obtaining by the sale of that cargo a return cargo for England, I believe that they would be under the necessity of selling such cargo to great disadvantage, so as to enable them to get an early return cargo, I mean without the necessity of detaining their ships longer than they otherwise would do in India; but if they carried specie for the purpose of procuring a cargo, I have not the smallest doubt that they would, as early as they could wish it themselves, obtain a cargo and return to this country.

Is it not your opinion, that many ships going there, in the way they are likely to go, without all that knowledge you possess, that many of them will not be disappointed?—I cannot take upon me to say; I have answered that question before; generally, I gave what was my humble opinion upon the subject.

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Your

Thos. Cockburn,
Esq.

Your opinion was, that they would be disappointed in the expectation of selling their cargo?—Yes.

Is it your opinion, that under the general circumstances you have stated, there would not be a considerable number of those vessels that would be greatly disappointed, and get into situations of great distress?—I really do not know; they would be disappointed if they did not make a good voyage; but I am not aware of any distress they could get into from it, except that of not finding the trade advantageous and answering their expectations.

Is it your opinion, that those traders from the outports who may go to India and be disappointed in their expectations, might not commit great depredations and violences on the natives, and ultimately become piratical, as was the case in the reign of King William?—At the period alluded to, we had only the possession of factories in India; we had no navy and no political power. I do not think in these days it would be possible for any English ship to pervade the Indian seas as a pirate, without being captured, if information was obtained of her proceedings, and of course the parties punished. But it is possible, as has happened in various parts of the islands in the East, that some few of the commanders of ships may maltreat the people with whom they have dealings, or unintentionally injure them by some part of their proceedings, and then they will certainly be liable to the natives endeavouring to assert their right, as they conceive, if they have the power, of taking vengeance into their own hands, as has sometimes occurred on the Malay coast; but I should suppose that a few examples of that kind would prevent their frequent recurrence.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then THOMAS SYDENHAM, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

Thos. Sydenham,
Esq.

(By Counsel.) How long were you in the service of the East-India Company?—About twelve years.

In the military or civil service?—In the military service.

At which of the presidencies?—At the presidency of Madras.

While

While you were in India were you employed upon many diplomatic missions?—I was employed as Secretary of Legation at the Courts of Poonah and Hyderabad: afterwards acting resident at Poonah, and for five years resident at Hyderabad.

Thos. Sydenham,
Esq.

Were you acquainted with the Persian and Hindostance Languages?—Yes, I was.

From your long residence in the interior of Hindostan, and your acquaintance with the languages of that country, were you enabled to make accurate observations upon the character, manners, and habits of the natives?—Being accustomed to transact business for many years with the natives, I should suppose that I have had opportunities of forming an opinion with regard to their character and habits.

From your knowledge of the character and habits of the natives, and the usual conduct of Europeans arriving in that country without a knowledge of either their languages or their characters, are you of opinion that if a free trade were opened between this country and India, and Englishmen were suffered to enter into the interior of India, and to reside in it at their pleasure, that it would be attended with any mischievous consequences, either to the natives or to the English Government of that country?—Certainly an unrestricted and unlimited intercourse would be productive of great danger to the government of the country; and I am of opinion that any intercourse between Europeans and the natives of that country, that was not limited and very much restricted, might be productive of mischievous consequences.

From your knowledge of the habits and wants of the natives of that country, do you think that in the event of a free trade there would be any materially increased demand, among the natives of India, for European manufactures or articles?—I do not think that there would be any material increase of demand, whether the trade remained in its present situation or were thrown open.

Are you of opinion, that in the event of a free trade, there would be any great increased demand for European commodities?—Certainly not; I do not see how the demand is to be at all increased by the opening of the trade: the demands of course take place from the wants of the natives there.

Thos. Sydenham,
Esq.

Is it your opinion, that the natives of Hindostan have, to any great degree, either the want or desire for European articles?—Certainly not.

Did you negotiate, on the part of the Company, a commercial treaty with the Nizam?—I was a Secretary of Legation at Hyderabad, when that treaty was negotiated by my predecessor, Colonel Kirkpatrick.

Was there any demand for European articles in that part of the country; do you apprehend they might be procured by the natives of it, through the intervention of the present system?—The average demands from the whole of the Nizam's dominions, for goods of European manufacture, for the last ten years, before that treaty was negotiated, amounted to about two lacs of rupees a year, or twenty-four thousand pounds a year, which they generally procured from Bombay; and of course which they could have no difficulty in procuring, to that or to a much greater extent, provided there was any further demand.

Are you of opinion that if there were any increased demand for European commodities among the natives of India, that they could procure them, according to the present system, without any difficulty?—Certainly, without any difficulty; for at every period that I recollect, the warehouses of the Company, especially at Bombay, have been filled with goods, which the Government have been able to sell only a very small proportion of; there is no want of goods in the Company's warehouses, provided there were a sufficient number of consumers.

From your knowledge of the natives of Hindostan, do you think there is any probability of their being induced to purchase, to any extent, woollens the manufacture of this country?—I think not; the woollens of this country are in use only with a few of the Hindoos, and many of the Mussulmen of high rank; but to the other classes of the community the manufacture of what is called a comley, I believe, is considered by themselves as comfortable as any kind of cloak they could have of the woollen, and must be always much cheaper.

With respect to the higher ranks in that country, what manufactures have they similar, in their use, to our finer woollens?—I know of none but the various kinds of shawls. Then they supply the use of the woollens by quilting their silks.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Are you aware that there are existing treaties with the higher powers in India,

India, and within the more subordinate, which preclude the intercourse of Europeans with the natives, without the permission of the Company's Government?—Certainly.

Thos. Sydenham,
Esq.

Do you believe that the conditions of those treaties are adequate for the purpose for which they were made?—Certainly, within those dominions.

Within the dominions of those princes?—Yes; but I would beg leave to qualify my answer by saying, I only know of two treaties, that with the Peishwa, and that with the Nizam.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then ROBERT MORRIS, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

Robert Morris,
Esq.

(By Counsel.) You have had experience in trading with India in a private capacity?—Yes, I have.

Have you visited any part of British India?—I have been ten different voyages to India in the Company's ships.

To China?—I have been to all parts; not for last fifteen years to China, mostly to Bengal.

How lately was the last of those voyages made?—About nine years ago.

Since that period have you had any opportunity of commercial communication with that country?—I have been constantly acting as an agent principally to that country.

In what capacity did you repair to India in the voyages you have mentioned?—Six voyages as surgeon, and four as purser of a regular ship.

Was it as a surgeon on board the ships of the Company?—On board the ships of the Company all the time.

Were you, while acting in that capacity, allowed an opportunity of trading on your own account in any degree?—During the time I was purser, my whole time was employed in trading.

When

Robert Morris,
Esq. When you repaired to India as surgeon, had you any opportunity of trading?—Considerable opportunity.

What articles were they which you in general exported for the supply of the markets of India?—Generally for the consumption of the Europeans of that country, such as are generally used by Europeans in this.

Will you describe what, generally speaking, formed the principal articles in the assortment which you took out?—I can only describe such as are generally used in this country; almost every article made use of by Europeans in this country, wearing apparel of every description, and for the use of the table; it is hardly possible to enumerate them.

Did any articles enter largely into those assortments for the use of the native population of British India?—Very few, some few of ironmongery, cutlery, hardware, a little fine glass, and a few woollens.

Was the smallness of the number of articles so described, occasioned by the narrowness of the market for them in British India?—The demand was small for them in proportion to the others, in value probably one tenth.

Do you state that as the general proportion?—I conceive it as generally the proportion.

Is it within your knowledge, whether other persons trading in the same capacity have taken out about the same proportion of articles for the use of the natives?—I believe it is generally the case.

Is it within your knowledge, whether during the period in which you had this commercial communication with India, there was a growing demand, on the part of the native population, for European commodities?—I do not think there was, in any considerable degree.

Had you an opportunity of observing from what circumstances, in the character or condition of the natives, it arose, that they furnished so contracted a demand for articles of European manufacture?—I believe they do not, generally, make use of them.

You have stated that some small proportion of every assortment consisted of articles for the use of the native population; can you state by what part of the native population those articles were, in fact, generally used?—I have

have never been in the interior of the country, and am, therefore, not capable of answering the question. *Robert Morris,*
Esq.

Are you able to state in what parts of the country those articles were generally used?—I believe mostly in those parts connected with Europeans.

To what class of men, European or native, were those exports generally disposed of, in the first instance?—To both Europeans and natives.

To what class of persons of either description?—Shopkeepers, who purchase them to retail out again to the public.

Were they disposed of to the shopkeepers at the different presidencies?—Yes.

Are those shopkeepers Europeans or natives?—Both, principally native.

Was it within your information whether the markets of British India were fully supplied with commodities for the use of the native population, provided there had existed any demand for those commodities?—I think they could have been supplied, had the demand been greater.

You have mentioned that cutlery and hardware formed a part of your assortment?—The principal part for the natives.

Could you have disposed of an entire cargo of articles of that description?—No, a very small one indeed.

Did you ever export woollens to that country in any degree?—Woollens are generally sent out by the Company, and confined to them alone, except a very small proportion of late.

Do you conceive that the sale of woollens could be extended in that country?—Not much, for I have been in the habit, of late, of sending out considerable quantities of woollens, to supply orders from that country.

During what period have you so sent them out?—The last six years.

I believe the captains of the ships in the service of the Company are allowed opportunities of private trade?—They are allowed opportunities of private trade, the captains and officers.

Do

Robert Morris,
Esq.

Do you conceive that every effort has been made by that class of persons to promote, as far as in them lay, the consumption of European commodities by the natives of India?—It is their interest to carry out as much as they possibly can; therefore I conceive they would do every thing they possibly could to increase the consumption.

In what degree have you, within the last six years of which you have spoken, had an opportunity of ascertaining how far the consumption of European manufactures could be extended among the natives of India?—I consider full as much as when I was in the service, in a very considerable degree.

Describe how?—Being settled as an agent in this country, I have been in the constant habits of receiving orders from India to send out goods.

From the experience you have had, during that interval, do you conceive there is much prospect of an extension of an export trade of the articles described?—Not under the present circumstances of the country, I mean unless there are a greater number of Europeans to consume them.

Supposing it to be the fact, that the exports of European articles to India have, of late years, been considerably augmented, do you conceive that such augmentation has been owing to any increased consumption of European commodities amongst the natives of India?—I do not; or in a very small degree, probably some few articles, such as fine glass ware for ornaments for their houses, but of no others that I am acquainted with.

Do you, in describing the hopelessness of increasing this trade, speak merely from your own experience, or also from your knowledge of the experience of others who have been concerned in the same traffic with yourself?—From both.

Were there any hope of profitably extending that export trade of which you have spoken, would you and other traders in the same department employ a good deal more capital in the prosecution of it?—I certainly would myself.

Are you of opinion that there is much hope of profitably extending that trade?—I do not at present see any prospect.

Do you conceive that the hopelessness of extending that trade arises from any peculiar inconveniences in the system under which the export must

must now be made, or from a smallness of demand for the articles in India, arising from permanent causes?—From the demand for the articles in India not being equal to the quantity generally carried out by the commanders and officers of the ships. Robert Morris, Esq.

Are you of opinion that an increased facility of export would materially increase the demand for the article in India?—Not in any material degree.

Do you conceive, therefore, that if the trader were to load and send his own ship with a cargo of European articles, that cargo would be likely to find a market among the natives of British India?—I do not; among the natives, not more than at present.

Were the traders, under the circumstances described, to send a cargo of such articles of hardware as are occasionally used by the natives, do you suppose that the concern would prove profitable?—On the contrary, I conceive, that if the cargo was considerable, it would prove a great loss.

Is the Committee to understand that answer as confined to articles of hardware, or as embracing all such articles as occasionally find a consumption among the natives of India?—All such articles as occasionally find a consumption among the native population.

Are you of opinion that any saving that might be effected by the insurance of such private vessels, or in any other manner by the speculation being left exclusively to the alacrity of a private trader, would compensate for the loss upon the sale in the markets of British India?—I certainly do not.

Is it your opinion, that individual houses could send out many ships to India profitably, in the event of an open trade being established?—I should think not.

Do you conceive, it would be found convenient for several houses to join in making up a cargo for the Indian market?—I hardly conceive it would be worth their while, the quantity required is so small.

Do you conceive that the insurance upon private vessels the navigating Indian seas, would be higher or lower than the rate of insurance on the ships of the Company?—It would be higher.

From what causes do you conceive that that advancement would be necessary?—Because they could not afford either to man them so well, or arm them so well, in the time of war, and the ships themselves could neither be of that strength nor capacity which the Company's ships are of.

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Robert Morris, Esq. On the supposition, therefore, that a great number of private vessels should clear out to India with cargoes intended for the consumption of the native Indians, do you conceive that such a speculation would prove profitable, or otherwise?—I conceive it would not prove profitable.

Do you conceive, that in the event of an open trade, any great expectations entertained by British manufacturers of an increased market for their products in India, would be realized or disappointed?—I conceive they would be disappointed.

(Examined by the Committee.)

You have mentioned that you had many opportunities of trading, both while you were surgeon and while you were purser; did you trade to the full amount, or beyond the amount, of privileged tonnage, which you were allowed as an officer?—The four voyages that I was purser, I had a principal share with the captain, one-third or one-fourth of his whole tonnage.

Had you not privileged tonnage as a surgeon?—Very small tonnage

Will you take upon yourself to say, that a private merchant could not freight a ship to India cheaper than the India Company's ships are now freighted?—He could certainly freight a few pounds per ton cheaper, probably on the outward and homeward voyage four or five pounds per ton cheaper during war. I speak from experience.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then JAMES HORSBURGH, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

J. Horsburgh, Esq. *(By Counsel.)* Were you a free mariner under a licence from the East India Company?—Yes.

For what length of time?—About twenty years I was in India.

As a free mariner, did you command a Company's ship trading in those seas?—Yes.

I believe you are at this time hydrographer to the East-India Company?—I am.

Are

Are you, from your own experience, well acquainted with all those seas, and the ports of them?—In a nautical view I am. *J. Horsburgh, Esq.*

Are you likewise acquainted in a trading point of view?—In some places.

Will you state what parts of those seas you are well acquainted with?—I was mostly in the China trade.

By that you mean the trade between India and China?—From Bombay and Bengal to China, and also to Batavia.

Are you also well acquainted with the trade to the Eastern Islands?—I have been several times among the Eastern Islands in my voyages to China.

Have you, in the course of those voyages, explored those islands, and their ports, with a view to commerce?—Not particularly so.

Will you state to the Committee by whom and in what manner the trade within the East-India Company's Charter, commonly called the country trade, is carried on; is it not by free merchants and free mariners under licence from the Company?—Yes; certainly.

Does it come within your knowledge that those free merchants and free mariners explore every port of those seas for the purposes of commerce?—Yes; they certainly do.

Do you believe that there is any port of those seas unexplored by them for those purposes?—I think not.

Are you acquainted with what articles of European manufacture, if any, are carried to the Eastern Islands by such traders?—There is very little wanted of European manufacture or even from Hindostan, a little cutlery, a few looking-glasses, and some chintz of different kinds for the wear of the Malays.

What are the assortments of cargoes that are usually made by the merchants of India to go to the Eastern Islands?—They depend principally upon opium with some piece goods from Bengal of different kinds; but the sale of opium is the article they principally depend on.

J. Horsburgh,
Esq.

Do you mean that to the assortment of cargoes you have just mentioned, they add a few things such as cutlery?—No; chintz or light piece goods, and things of that kind, and opium; they may carry iron and cutlery in a very small quantity.

Are you of opinion that it would be possible to freight a ship with an European cargo, to trade with any prospect of advantage in those Eastern Islands?—No, I think they must make a losing voyage. I can state a recent instance of a person, a particular friend of mine, who went from Bengal on a speculative voyage, in places where ships did not frequent; he went to Gilolo, one of the Moluccas, the south coast of Mindanao, and several other of the islands to the eastward, with a cargo selected from Calcutta, and made a losing voyage by the speculation.

Are you acquainted with the climate of those Eastern Islands, whether it is warm or cold?—Very warm; the equator passing over those seas completely, makes very little if any apparel necessary for the natives.

Is it your opinion that English woollens could ever be in demand in those islands?—Never, I conceive.

Do the natives manufacture any clothing for themselves?—Yes, they do.

Will you state what sort of clothing that is?—Light cotton stuffs of different patterns.

Will you state what is the general character and temper of the natives of those islands; whether they are barbarous or civilized, and whether they are hostile to Europeans, or friendly?—They are naturally I believe a very passionate people, and that disposition I believe is very much increased from their sufferings by the Dutch. It has been a maxim with the Dutch government, when they found the natives of any of the villages trading with English ships, or ships of any other country but Dutch, to send some of their cruizers with troops to burn and destroy those villages.

Have any circumstances, according to your knowledge or information, happened of late years, to make any of the inhabitants of those islands peculiarly hostile to the English?—I do not know from my own experience, having left India about seven years ago.

Do you know, of your own knowledge, that the rajahs of those islands are jealous of the commerce of English ships?—If those English ships did not

not trade with the rajahs, but were to trade clandestinely with their subjects without the approbation of the rajahs. J. Horsburgh, Esq.

I believe the rajahs receive duties upon such commerce?—Yes.

Have you ever known instances of their revenging themselves on persons who have carried on clandestine commerce?—Yes, I have.

Will you state those instances?—The particular instances I cannot recall to my memory, but I know of great numbers of ships that have been taken by natives out of revenge for the dealings of the commanders on former voyages.

Do you know instance of captains having been assassinated by those rajahs from that cause?—Yes.

Can you name any instance, do you remember the name of any captain?—Captain Pavin was assassinated at Sooloo.

From your knowledge of those islands, and the trade carried on from India to them, what in your opinion is the best mode of conducting such trade?—I think by our government of Batavia, and that of Prince of Wales Island, sending the most intelligent of the natives with missions to the different rajahs, inviting them in a friendly manner to come with their praos to such settlements in order to trade.

Are you then of opinion that inviting their praos to our settlements is a more advantageous and safe mode of carrying on that trade, than by exploring their ports ourselves?—Yes, and I can state the reasons; their praos go round to different ports amongst the different islands, where they collect a cargo of small articles on purpose to exchange for returns from Prince of Wales island or Batavia, which a ship cannot with propriety do, for a ship to go among those islands from Europe would have to retail her cargo amongst the different islands, and she might be six or seven months probably in doing so, and after all would not be able to dispose of her cargo in that retailed manner amongst the different islands.

In the event of a free trade being opened with India, is it your opinion that the demand for English articles or manufactures in those seas would be increased to any material degree?—I think not, without the natives are altered in disposition and habits.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE ON THE

*(Examined by the Committee.)**J. Horsburgh,*
Esq.

Do you suppose it probable that any merchants of this country, who would inquire into the state of the trade in those islands, would be likely to embark in a commercial speculation from Europe there?—If it were left to me I should not do it myself, certainly; I should rather go to Batavia, or Prince of Wales island, with my cargo.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then CHARLES BULLER Esquire, M. P. is called in; and having been sworn, is examined as follows:

Charles Buller,
Esq. M. P.

(By Counsel). How long have you been in the civil service of the East India Company?—One and twenty years.

In what department of that service, and under what presidency?—In Bengal, and in the revenue department.

Are you still in the service of the East-India Company?—Certainly.

In the course of your official duties in that country, have you resided a good deal in the interior of the Bengal provinces?—In Calcutta principally, not very much in the interior.

Have you, during your residence in Bengal, had opportunities to observe the character of the natives?—Certainly, I have had an opportunity.

Do you think, if a free trade were enacted by law, and Englishmen were allowed to enter into and to reside in the interior of the country without restraint, it would produce any and what ill effects to the happiness of the natives, or to the security of the government there?—I conceive that it would produce very ill effects; that it would be the cause of great oppression and tyranny towards the natives; and that it would be prejudicial to the British name, and consequently to the British interest. It has occurred to me, in two instances, in the course of two months, to recommend to government, that two gentlemen might be sent out of the district where they resided; now these came accidentally before me, in my official capacity, as I had nothing to do with the superintendence of those gentlemen, nor with the general police of the country; but when any question arose whether they held lands directly or indirectly, such questions were always sent to the board of revenue to

to report upon, and in these two instances, the acts of oppression committed against the ryots were so great, that I believe we suggested to government, whether it was proper that people of that kind should be allowed to remain in that country; and I believe they were removed in consequence; I know they were ordered.

Were the persons you speak of, persons licensed to reside by the Company in the interior of the country?—I think they were.

Had not the Company been empowered by law to remove those persons, are you of opinion the mischief they might have produced in the country might have been very great?—Certainly, there is no doubt of that I suppose.

Are you of opinion that it would have been very difficult, or even impracticable, for the natives to obtain any adequate justice against them except by such removal?—I think they might have taken the law into their own hands, as they did in one or two instances; in one it was attended with the actual murder, and in the other not actual murder, but very near it, very severe wounds.

Are you acquainted with the confusions that took place in consequence of the misconduct of the indigo planters about two or three years ago?—I do not particularly know to what you refer; I have spoken generally, that I have known many of those instances occur; but I do not know to what the question particularly alludes.

The Committee understand there was some misconduct in the indigo planters some years ago; they wish to know whether it came to your knowledge?—No, not that I recollect.

Are you of opinion, that if a free trade were opened with India, there would be any increased demand among the natives of that country for European articles or manufactures?—Very little, if any, I should suppose so.

What are your reasons for that opinion?—From the general poverty of the people, and from their not having any wish, as I have seen, to have our articles, generally speaking.

Do you mean that, in your opinion, the more opulent of the natives have little wish for our articles?—Very little; what I should observe on that is, that where I have seen natives possess European articles, they have

Charles Buller,
Esq. M. P.

Charles Buller, Esq. M. P. has been rather of the mean or trumpery kind; in fact I should suppose that they did not buy them at the Europe shops, as we call them, but at the outcry of some gentleman when he was going home.

Are you of opinion, according to your observation when in India, that the supply of European articles in that country is fully equal to the demand by the natives?—The Bazaars abound with those articles, as far as I have seen.

Are you of opinion, that if from any cause there were any increased demand, the present system would be fully adequate to the supply of it?—I should suppose the present system is sufficient, as far as I can suppose any cause will happen.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Is it your opinion, that the proposition for changing the East-India system tends to establish those territories as colonies?—I should suppose a great number of Europeans would come into the country, and it would be very difficult to prevent their marrying and having children, and those children being brought up in the country, in that manner I suppose it may lead to colonization.

Has it not always been considered as highly necessary policy to check or prevent as much as possible our East-India possessions from being on the footing of becoming colonists?—I have always understood it so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then the Honourable HUGH LINDSAY is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

Honourable Hugh Lindsay. *(By Counsel)*. You are in the marine service of the East-India Company?—Yes.

How many voyages have you made to India as commander of a ship?—Six to India and one to China.

When you say to India, to what part of India do you mean?—I have been five voyages to Bengal, and one to Madras.

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I believe the captains of the Company's ships trade on their own account in some degree?—They do.

Honourable Hugh Lindsay.

Do they take out their goods free of freight?—They do.

Can you judge, from your own experience, how far articles of European manufacture find a sale among the natives of India?—I consider that the investments are fully sufficient for the demand; indeed rather more so, as I have invariably found that there has been a glut of the market every season I have been in India; I mean towards the latter part.

What proportion of the assortment which you usually made, consisted of goods for the consumption of the native Indians, and what for the consumption of Europeans resident in India?—The investments were generally sold to people who retailed them, and I conceive that they were entirely for the consumption of the Europeans, and in a very trifling degree for the natives.

To what class of persons were the investments usually sold, on arriving in India?—Sometimes to European retailers, and sometimes to native retailers.

Were they sold in the mass?—When the market was tolerably good they were sold by the mass; but in the latter parts of the season, very often by the hammer.

As far as your observation and experience go, can you say whether the Indian markets were fully supplied with European commodities?—I consider, to the full extent.

Do you imagine, or conceive, that the consumption of European manufactures is likely to be much extended among the natives?—I do not think it is likely to be much extended. I have, at various times, endeavoured to obtain information on that subject with the natives, and I begged they would inquire whether any new article could be sent, and their answer was, that their retail was for the Europeans, not for the natives.

(By a Lord).—Those are the shopkeepers?—The shopkeepers.

(By Counsel).—Do you conceive that the scantiness of the native demand for European commodities arises from permanent peculiarities in the taste of the natives?—From their peculiarities, not wanting what is exported from this country, except in a few staples.

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Honourable Hugh Lindsay. Is it your opinion that the exportation of European manufactures to India could ever take place with any hope of a much increased consumption amongst the natives?—As far as I can judge, I should think it will not increase.

Can you state what were those articles in the investment which you usually took out, which were calculated for consumption by the natives?—Iron, steel, some glass ware, and a few looking-glasses.

Have you had any opportunity of seeing what prospect of trade is afforded by the Eastern islands?—In the year 1801, I was senior captain of eight sail of ships bound to Bengal, and after a very long passage, we put into Acheen head, and although we had every article on board that is exported from this country to the East, yet we could not find articles of any description by which we could pay the Malays for the cattle we received for our refreshments.

Is it a fact that the Malays have no great want for European manufactures?—I think they have less wants than the natives of India.

The Committee need scarcely therefore ask, whether, in your contemplation, there is likely to be any increase in the export of manufactures to these islands?—I should think not.

Do you conceive that the trade between this country and the Eastern islands would labour under any other difficulties than those arising from the want of a demand on the part of the natives?—I should think very great, from the manner in which I conceive ships would be navigated from this country, and from the people who did navigate them not understanding in any degree the language of the Malays, I should consider that they would run every risk of being cut off, as many people have been who well understood the language and habits of the people of those islands.

Is the character of the Malays violent and ferocious?—I think extremely so.

Treacherous?—I think that the government they have been under by the Dutch, has in a great measure occasioned that; the Dutch on many occasions have treated them very severely for having intercourse with ships of other countries, and I have understood that they have burnt their vessels; and it seems that they did not understand the distinction between the European nations.

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Do you conceive they are generally suspicious of European nations?—I should think so, certainly.

Honourable Hugh Lindsay.

(Examined by the Committee.)

How long was you in the Company's service before you became a commander?—I was three voyages, occupying about six years.

Do you think it advantageous for the commander of a vessel employed in the India trade, that he should have been previously engaged in a voyage there before he has a command of a ship, with a view to his understanding the proper subordination in which he should keep his men for the purpose of preventing any disputes with the natives?—Most certainly; I should think it was necessary he should perform a certain number of voyages before he was qualified to command a ship.

It is not meant the navigation of a ship, but with a view to the dealings with the natives?—I should think it was necessary that he should acquire a knowledge of the natives also.

Is it your opinion, that ships going from the outports to India are likely in general to be disappointed in their expectations in respect to the sale of the cargo?—I should think to a very great degree indeed.

Is it your opinion that, thus disappointed, they might be very liable to commit great depredations and violences on the natives along the coast?—That is a question I should hardly feel myself disposed to answer; it would depend upon the character of the captains, and it would also depend upon the restraint they kept their crew under.

Have there not of late years been a great number of extra ships taken up for the Company that were commanded by persons not regularly, like yourself, from the Company's service?—I believe no extra ships have been commanded but by Company's officers regularly bred; sometimes the ships that have been taken up to go to Botany Bay have not been so commanded, nor should I class them as extra ships; there is a scale of qualification for the officers of extra ships.

They are not of the highest class, I suppose?—No.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee to Monday next;

The same is agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

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Die Lunæ, 12^o Aprilis 1813.

The EARL OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The counsel are called in.

The proceedings of this Committee on Thursday last are read.

Then STEPHEN RUMBOLD LUSHINGTON, Esq. M. P. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

S.R. Lushington, (By Counsel.)—State to the Committee how long you were in the East India Company's service?—About eleven years.

Upon which of the establishments?—The Madras establishment.

In what department of that establishment were you principally employed?—I was first employed in the political department, and afterwards as secretary to the board of revenue; and then superintendent of the southern provinces; and afterwards as registrar to the Sudder Adawlut.

Will you explain to the Committee the nature of the office you exercised as superintendent in the southern provinces?—As superintendent of the southern provinces, it was my duty to administer justice to the inhabitants, and at the same time to collect the revenue; those functions not having been then separated upon the coast establishment.

When you went into those provinces for the purpose of exercising the office, will you state what was the situation of those provinces, with respect to order and government?—Nothing could be more disturbed or more disorderly than the state of those provinces: the districts were overrun by plunderers, professing to be in the pay of the Polygar chieftains; and the Company's authority was continually in conflict with that of

of the Nabob. No effectual measures could then be adopted for rescuing the districts from that state of anarchy and confusion, and restoring them to a state of subordination and prosperity. Property was insecure, and the persons of the people exposed to every species of violence and outrage. It was my misfortune also to receive charge of the district at a period of great scarcity, and this affliction aggravated all the evils which I have described. I should state also, that the Polygar Peons were extremely numerous and very well armed; and the Polygars themselves nearly in a state of rebellion against the Company's government.

S.R. Lushington,
Esq. M. P.

In what year was this?—In 1799.

Were any effectual steps taken, during your superintendence, to reduce those settlements to order and good government?—When the war with Tippoo broke out, the Polygars took up arms against the Company's government throughout the whole of the district, and their state of licentiousness was so intolerable and so oppressive to the people, that the earliest opportunity was taken, upon the close of the Mysore campaign, to endeavour to reduce those refractory chieftains to the authority of civil government; the Company's troops were employed against them, and succeeded after some months in punishing the rebellious; and my attention, as a civil officer of government, was subsequently directed to the collection of their arms, and to assisting in dismantling their forts; I was also instructed to increase the tribute they had paid to the Company's government, it being the opinion of the Company's administration, that the superabundant wealth which they had possessed, was one of the most fruitful sources of their disobedience and turbulence. The divided state of power exercised over the Polygars, under the treaty of the Nabob of the Carnatic of 1792, had also greatly aggravated all the disorders in that country, and retarded the application of an effectual remedy. This obstruction had been recently removed by explicit orders from the Court of Directors, founded upon the recommendation and reasoning of the Right Hon. Lord Hobart. Under those instructions, full authority was given to me to negotiate with the Polygars, for the increase of that tribute; and I had the happiness of succeeding in a manner satisfactory to the government, very much to the relief of the people, and I believe to the comfort of the Polygars themselves; for I have understood that the dispatches received at successive periods from India, since that time, have proved that the Polygars have conducted themselves in the most obedient manner, and that the ryots of the surrounding districts are relieved from those evils under which they formerly suffered.

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S. R. Lushington,
Esq. M. P.

Are you of opinion, that the measure you have stated, of disarming those districts, was effectual in reducing them to good order; and the continuance of their being disarmed necessary to maintain that order?—I thought, whilst I was in India, from the number of arms collected, and all the inquiries I made, that the measure was effectual; and a report that I have recently seen from the judge of circuit in that province, states, that they are in the highest condition of cultivation, and that the military troops have literally turned their pikes and matchlocks into the ploughshare; but the same report suggests, that there still exists the greatest necessity for caution and vigilance in preventing their regaining arms; and my own experience and recollection convinces me of the absolute necessity of this precaution.

Had you, while you were in those districts, and generally during your residence in India, opportunities of observing the character, manners, and habits of the natives?—I certainly had opportunities.

If, in consequence of the enactment of a free trade between this country and India, an influx of Europeans into that country were to take place, are you of opinion it would produce any mischievous consequences?—An unrestrained influx must undoubtedly produce the most mischievous consequences, because there can be nothing more adverse than the feelings and manners of Europeans, and the customs and prejudices of India.

If by licence of the Company, Europeans were permitted to go into the interior of that country, do you think it would be attended with pernicious consequences?—The degree of danger would depend upon the number, and upon the personal character, of the traders so licensed, and upon the regulations which might be established for restraining them.

Would there, in your opinion, be any danger in that case, of intrigues with the Polygars, if many persons were to go into the country?—I think that danger would depend also very much upon the state of the country at the time; if there were temptations to turbulence from the external relations of the Company, the presence of Europeans, having no interest in the welfare of the Company, and owing no special authority to the government, would be dangerous.

In your opinion, would it be safe to allow private traders to go from port to port on that coast?—I think the safety or danger would depend very

very much upon the number of the private traders, the regulations under which their intercourse was permitted, and very much also upon the vigilance of the superintending authority in the province.

S. R. Lushington,
Esq. M. P.

Will you state whether, in your opinion, opening the trade to India would produce any, and what, mischievous effect upon the civil service of the Company?—I think opening the trade would have a mischievous effect upon the civil service of the Company, if the result of the competition between the private traders and the Company should be to induce the Company wholly to forego their commercial concerns; and my opinion is founded upon this reasoning: I think there is no country in the world, where the success or the miscarriage of the measures of government depend so much upon the personal qualities of the officers employed, as in India; for, separated as they are at a great distance from the government, and compelled to act continually from their own resources without the opportunity of taking advice, it is of the greatest importance that they should possess all the qualifications necessary to fulfil the trust committed to them. The service, as now constituted, admits of a selection for political, judicial, and revenue trusts; that selection is made from amongst the most intelligent of the Company's servants, whilst those of a different class are generally employed in the commercial departments; the abandonment of the Company's commerce would narrow this selection, and the servants must be more indiscriminately employed in offices of the greatest trust and difficulty.

From your observation of the natives of Hindostan, are you of opinion that the mass of the population have either the means or the desire of procuring any European manufactures or articles?—Does the question refer to the districts in which I have been, or to the mass of the population in India?

To the mass of the population in India which you had an opportunity of seeing?—In the Southern Provinces of the Peninsula, the mass of the population consists of Hindoos; there are very few Mahometans amongst the Hindoos: there is no desire for European articles, and I believe there are few parts of India where the primitive manners and customs of the Hindoos are preserved so unmixed as in Tinnevely and in the Southern Provinces; I think the Hindoo there is at this day what he was two thousand years ago. The lapse of twenty centuries, as far as my observation and reading will enable me to judge, have made no change in his habits, his customs, or in his civil or religious condition: his diet is frugal and simple; his hut is composed of mud and cocoa-tree leaves, and a few bamboos; and a small strip of cloth is all the garment that he uses. I cannot

S.R. Lushington,
Esq. M. P.

cannot therefore trace amongst any of the classes of the population of the Southern Provinces any desire for European articles; the means of purchasing such articles they do not possess; and the price of labour is so low, the raw materials are also so cheap, that I despair that the manufactures of this country, where labour is so much higher, and the material not the produce of this country, can ever be sent there to advantage for native consumption.

Are you of opinion that if a free trade were allowed, there might not be danger of a demand for fire arms by the natives of that country, and that they might possibly be supplied with them?—I have no doubt of the demand for fire arms, and that complying with that demand would be a measure of the utmost danger; nor should I have conceived it possible that any doubt had existed upon this subject, if I had not seen a printed paper anticipating, on the part of the private traders, an open market in India for the sale of their fire arms.

Will you state whether it is the practice of the government of the East-India Company to collect any part of their revenues in kind?—Yes it is; but it is not resorted to when a money engagement can be made upon fair terms, because the loss in the sale of the grain, and the uncertain period of realizing the revenue, make the operation very expensive and very troublesome to the Company's Government. The condition of the ryot is ameliorated by making a reasonable settlement at an earlier period of the year in money, except in very rare instances, when the uncertainty of the seasons, as in Ramnad, have made it necessary at times to receive the revenues in kind; but it was a measure always of necessity, and not of choice.

From your observation, while you were in India, are you of opinion that the market for European commodities was fully equal to the demand, according to the present system?—Whilst I was at the presidency, I always saw the shops full of articles, and native hawkers used to carry goods round about the country; but this is a point I was not particularly acquainted with, during the last years of my residence in India.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Would it not be a gross neglect, on the part of the Madras Government, to allow Europeans unlicensed, or if being licensed they misconducted themselves, to remain in the Polygar countries?—I think it would be a measure of greater wisdom and mercy to withdraw at once from the Polygar countries, because such an unrestrained intercourse could not but lead to the effusion of much blood and loss of life between the English

English and the Polygars, and therefore it would be a most gross neglect on the part of the government, to allow of any such unrestrained intercourse, and the government, of course, ought immediately to apply its power, by removing such individual.

S.R. Lushington,
Esq. M. P.

What reason have you to apprehend that a competition between the private traders and the Company would have the effect of inducing the Company to abandon their trade?—My answer to a former question stated the supposition that such might be the effect; and I presume, that if private traders should be able to bring home the manufactures of that country and sell them upon much more reasonable terms than the Company, that the Company would not pursue that trade to an evident loss.

If an unlimited intercourse should be allowed with three or four thousand miles in India, having innumerable ports and creeks where vessels might trade, would it be possible to restrain or check the disorders and irregularities likely to arise in such an unrestrained mode of trade?—I think it would be hardly possible in that immense extent of coast; and I would add, that the revenues of the country would be almost swallowed up to guard against the danger.

Would it be possible for the natives to obtain redress against Europeans, in cases of injustice or oppression, but at one of the principal settlements, Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay?—I am not aware of any mode by which they could otherwise obtain redress according to the present system of judicature in India.

Is not a great part of the coast many hundred miles distant from either of those three places?—Undoubtedly; the place where I principally resided was four hundred miles.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it be possible to prevent traders from evading all restrictions, and to trade and go where they pleased?—I think the difficulty would be in proportion to the number of ports so licensed.

Is it your opinion, that many or most of the vessels going from the out-ports to India, would be disappointed in their expectations in respect to a sale of their cargoes?—Without knowing the number of vessels that are to go, and the nature of the cargoes, I cannot give a specific answer to that question; but I know that the demand for European articles is extremely limited, and I believe is at present abundantly supplied.

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S.R. Lushington,
Esq. M. P.

Is it your opinion, that if they should be thus disappointed, and fall into a desperate state, they might not commit great depredations and violences along the coast, and among the islands?—I should fear that such violences would happen.

Have you not heard, that formerly when private traders were called interlopers, and navigated those seas, that they were disappointed, and became pirates?—Yes, I have so heard.

Would it be an easy matter for East-India ships of war, in that immense extent of Sea, to repress such depredations?—I think the number of ships of war necessary to repress such depredations would be so expensive as not to make the country worth possessing.

Was the East-India Company able to prevent the depredations of French privateers, from the Mauritius, the Isle of France, and other places?—The maritime protection in India is under His Majesty's government, and is received from His Majesty's ships of war chiefly; the Company have a few vessels, I believe, but I am not acquainted with it.

Were the ships of war in those seas able to repress those privateers?—The privateers at different periods committed very material depredations, at other times they were taken.

Is it your opinion, that the East-India Company has usually sent to India as much of our woollen and other manufactures as there was a demand for?—I have always heard so, and I believe so; but never having been in the commercial department, I cannot speak specifically to it.

Does not the certainty and regularity of payment, and the confidence there is in the East-India Company, give that Company great advantages in their commercial transactions and in their investments?—No doubt of it.

Have artizans from Europe established any manufactures in India?—At the presidency of the establishment of Fort St. George, to which I belonged, there were some artizans who made palanquins and carriages.

Are the natives employed in those manufactures?—Yes, they are.

Are not carriages, and all other articles of leather, down to women's leather gloves, now made in our settlements, particularly in Calcutta, which used to be sent thither from this country?—As to carriages and palanquins,

palanquins, no doubt; I have no personal knowledge of any other articles. *S.R. Lushington,*
Esq. M. P.

Are not the people of India more sober and diligent, and as much employed and skilful in manufactures as the inhabitants of any country you are acquainted with?—There can be no human beings more patient, or more industrious, or more sober, than the Hindoos; and deriving their knowledge of the arts from their fathers, and concentrating their attention to the object immediately before them, they are eminently skilful in the manufacture of muslins, of chintzes, of shawls, and in some sorts of silver and gold work; but I would add, the object of emulation with the Hindoos, is, to preserve the ancient fashions of the country, rather than to aim at any new object of improvement.

Are any of our manufactures, except some trifling articles of glass in the principal towns, in demand among the Hindoos?—No.

Can they not manufacture such woollen articles as they want, infinitely cheaper, and more to their habits and tastes, than we can send them?—I can have no doubt of it, because their labour is so much cheaper, and their materials so much lower in price.

Are not the warehouses in our principal establishments in India, frequently overloaded with British manufactures, and the markets so glutted as for the manufactures to be often sold below their prime cost?—Not having been in the commercial department, I have no detailed knowledge on the subject.

Is it your opinion that the East-India Company has better means of introducing our manufactures into India than private traders?—This must depend very much upon the regulations under which the private trade is to be conducted.

Is it your opinion that the admission of foreigners to trade with our Indian possessions is necessary, or will prove ultimately advantageous?—If foreigners bring bullion and take away the surplus manufactures, it must be advantageous to India, in my judgment.

As foreigners have now no settlement in India, would it be a wise measure to reserve the whole of the trade to and from British India to the subjects of the United Kingdom?—If the trade to India can be all occupied by the subjects of this country without draining from it large supplies of bullion, it might be advantageous; but this is a question embracing such serious points of consideration, and I am myself so little acquainted with

S.R. Lushington, Esq. M.P. the details of commerce, that I find difficulty in answering it satisfactorily, even to my own mind.

Is it your opinion that if ships are allowed to trade in the Indian seas it would be possible to confine them to particular ports?—I think it possible under regulations from this country which shall restrain them, by penalty and punishment, from transgressing the laws, but of course the difficulty or the facility would depend much upon the number of ports so licensed.

If an unlimited intercourse from the out-ports should be permitted to India, and the return should be to the out-ports, and not to London, would it be possible to restrain the traders?—It would depend much upon the number of ports, I think, to which they should be allowed to go in India.

If private traders are permitted to go to Malacca, Manilla, and the other Indian islands, do you think the smuggling of teas can possibly be prevented?—I think the China junks would be met by the private traders in the narrow seas, and that they would receive teas on board, in spite of any precautions that could be adopted in India; whether they could be smuggled into this country, in greater or less quantities, would depend upon the regulations existing here; but I beg leave to observe, I am not acquainted with the details of the Custom House.

Is it your opinion that the propositions for changing the East-India system tend to establish those territories as colonies, especially if India-built ships are to be admitted to the British register?—I really am not at all acquainted with the shipping of India, or with the registers under which they sail.

Is it your opinion that the propositions for changing the East-India system tend to establish those territories as colonies?—My answer to that question must depend very much upon the sense in which I am to understand the word “colonies;” because, if it be asked, whether I fear such a degree of colonization, as that Europeans would propagate and live upon their daily labour, I have no apprehension of that, because I think that the price of labour, and the extent of the population in India, preclude their daily livelihood, and that the climate is so hostile to European life, that they would become tired of living there; but at the same time, I do apprehend that, from an unrestrained influx of Europeans into India, the greatest danger would arise to our political safety, and that it would change

change those feelings of respect and of good-will towards the English character, which now prevail there, into hatred and resistance.

S.R. Lushington,
Esq. M.P.

Has it not been always considered as a highly necessary policy to check, or prevent as much as possible, our East-India possessions from being on the footing of or becoming colonies?—No doubt it has; and one of the reasons which has influenced this policy has been the uniform observation that the natives of India in their intercourse with Englishmen of low character, imbibe all the evil, and reap none of the good of the European character.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then DAVID VANDERHEYDEN, Esq. M.P. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) How long have you been in the civil service of the East-India Company?—About twenty-five years.

David
Vanderheyden,
Esq. M.P.

On what establishment?—On the Bengal establishment.

Will you state what offices of responsibility you have filled in that service?—For the first ten years I held inferior situations according to the custom of the service; in the year 1790 I was appointed by my Lord Cornwallis, collector, judge, and magistrate of the twenty-four Pergunnahs, a district in the vicinity of Calcutta. I remained in that situation a few months, and was then appointed a member of the board of revenue; I continued in that situation about eight years. Upon the insurrection of Vizier Ali, in the province of Benares, and the assassination of Mr. Cherry, I was appointed, by Lord Wellesley, chief judge of the court of appeal and circuit in that district, and agent to the governor general.

How long have you been returned from the East-Indies?—About ten years.

Did you reside in those parts of the country which you have mentioned?—I resided principally for the first eight or ten years in the province of Bahar, and subsequently at the places mentioned in the former answer.

Can

David
Vanderheyden,
Esq. M. P.

Can you state, from your experience, whether under the present system of restricted intercourse between the British subjects and the native people, oppressions ever took place on the part of British subjects which it requires the prompt and despotic interference of the government to repress?—They do occasionally, but in no very great degree, under the present system of restriction.

Supposing that a considerable number of Europeans were admitted into the interior of the country, but under bonds, passes, or other restrictions, do you conceive that abuses might take place from the misconduct of such Europeans with respect to the natives?—I think they would, and in a very considerable degree, if they went in great numbers; under whatever restrictions, it would give rise to great abuses and great inconvenience.

In what manner do you conceive, that, in spite of the restrictions alluded to, the abuses in question would take place?—I think, in many instances, from ignorance of the manners and customs of the natives, and from the general contempt and contumely with which the lower order of Europeans are disposed to treat the natives, and particularly upon their first arrival.

Do you conceive that the frequent exercise of a coercive power on the part of the government over Europeans admitted into the interior of the country would produce any bad effect?—I think it would have a great tendency to depreciate the European character in that country; and I think it essential, that it should be upheld by every possible means.

Is it your opinion, that a frequent exercise of such coercive power, on the part of the government, would be invidious in the eyes of the population?—Is it meant by the government recalling the persons to Calcutta.

A coercive power over the Europeans admitted into the interior, whether by recalling them from the interior, or any other method?—Undoubtedly it would be considered an invidious exercise of power; but the reasonable part of the community would of course acquiesce in the exercise of such powers as were indispensably necessary.

On the supposition that Europeans in great numbers were admitted to Calcutta, but confined within certain limits of that port, would it, in your apprehension, be easy to restrain numbers of those persons from penetrating into the interior of the country?—I should think not, that in process of time great numbers would get into the interior of the country by

David
Vanderheyden,
Esq.

by various means, such as intercession with the government; and that it would be extremely difficult and invidious in various cases to prohibit the people from going up the country, as it would be frequently found essential for their commercial pursuits, if they went there for such objects, that they should go up the country.

Have you had any opportunity of observing the commercial habits or wants of the native population?—I have resided a great many years in the country, and certainly I must have general information on that subject.

Are you able to state, whether the use of European commodities has been upon the whole increasing among the natives of India?—I should think not.

Supposing such increase to have in any degree taken place, is it to be looked for at the presidencies or in the interior of the country?—Almost exclusively at the presidencies, I should think, with some very few exceptions; such, for instance, as the Nabob of Oude, who is in the habit of purchasing them to a very considerable extent; and some, but very few, of the highest class of natives.

Among the great mass of the population, is there any prospect of extending the consumption of European commodities?—I should think not the least, speaking of the people of all the provinces.

Will you state very concisely from what causes you think that event so unlikely?—I should think from their customs, manners, religion, and their very slender means of purchasing them, and their disinclination to purchase them, if they had the means.

Are the Committee to understand from you, that the contractedness of the means of the natives for the purchase of European commodities is likely to be lasting?—With the great mass of the people and the state of society, I think there is no period that we can contemplate when it will be otherwise, or that there will be any material alteration.

Can you state whether, at the presidency of Calcutta, any growing conformity was discoverable, on the part of the natives, to European fashions or habits?—None to European habits; in some degree it may be with respect to fashions amongst the highest class of the people, I mean in the use of carriages or articles of furniture, such as looking-glasses or glass ware in a very moderate degree.

Do

David
Vanderheyden,
Esq. M.P.

Do you ascribe this slight progress of European fashions among natives of distinction to their intercourse with Europeans or to any other cause?—Of course it must have arisen from their intercourse with Europeans.

Do you apprehend, that in the interior of the country, on the supposition that no great intercourse should be allowed to Europeans with natives, the consumption of European manufactures could be materially promoted?—I do not think that under any circumstances the consumption of European commodities in the interior is likely to be increased, for the reasons I have before stated.

Can you state whether the system at present established is sufficient to provide for any such increase of demand as may rationally be contemplated?—I should think entirely sufficient.

Having been employed in the revenue department in the Bengal government, can you state, whether it be the practice of that government to receive any part of the territorial revenue in kind?—Never.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Might not the taking away great commercial advantages from the East-India Company ultimately ruin the British interests in India?—Is it meant, taking away the commercial advantages they now enjoy.

Yes?—I should think it would materially affect them.

And affect the British interests in India?—As affects the East-India Company.

Might not the taking away great commercial advantages from the East India Company ultimately ruin the British interests in India?—I should think it would materially affect their whole establishment; and in that way materially affect the British interests in India.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then WILLIAM FAIRLIE, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

William Fairlie,
Esq.

(By Counsel.)—How long have you resided in India?—About thirty years in Bengal.

In what part of Bengal have you resided during those thirty years?—In Calcutta during the whole of the time.

What

What has been your occupation or profession during that time at Calcutta?—Merchant and agent.

Has your trading and agency been upon a large scale?—It has been upon a very large scale.

Do you still continue engaged in merchandize?—I do.

What are your present engagements in merchandize?—As established English agent in London.

Are you connected with any mercantile house at this time in the East-Indies?—I am connected with a house at Calcutta at this time.

From your long residence in India as a merchant and agent, are you well acquainted with the mode of carrying on trade throughout India, and in the islands of the eastern Archipelago?—I have had a great deal of experience in it, and am pretty well acquainted with it; both the inland trade of the Bengal provinces and the trade to the eastern islands.

From your knowledge and experience in that trade, are you of opinion that, in the event of a free trade being opened between this country and India, there would be any materially increased demand in that country for British manufactures?—I do not think that any additional quantity could be forced into the country at present: very gradually, I think there may be some increase; I think it would be very gradual.

Is it your opinion, that according to the present system, the present demand for European manufactures and commodities in India is fully supplied?—I think there is a full supply at present; for some years before I left India, goods were generally selling at a loss; and I understand, that they are still selling at a loss. By letters by the last fleet, I understand they are much under the cost, and likely to be much under it at the end of the season, when all the ships may arrive with their cargoes; that is the case in general; some few articles may sell better than others; some may sell at a profit.

Are you of opinion, that any increase of demand for European articles can be reasonably expected in that country, that cannot be adequately supplied upon the present system?—I certainly think they can supply as many as are wanted, upon the present system; they can carry it to any extent; the Company's ships can carry out any quantity they think proper, and that they think may be wanted.

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Do

William Fairlie,
Esq. Do your former answers apply to British India only, or to all the countries within the East-India Company's Charter?—I speak principally of the Bengal provinces, and to the islands to the eastward, such as are frequented by the merchants from India.

Will you state to the Committee, what are the European articles that are in demand among the natives of India?—The chief articles are iron, lead, copper, woollens, and some other articles; spectacles, and hinges for doors, some small articles of that kind; but they can manufacture almost every thing they want themselves.

Will you state to the Committee, what in your opinion is the great impediment to the increase of a demand for European articles among the natives of India?—Their habits, customs, and having no use they can put them to, that I know of.

In your opinion is the low price of labour and the poverty of the mass of the population an insuperable impediment?—It is to a certain extent, no doubt; while I was there, thirty years, I did not know a native that made any attempt to follow the customs of Europeans, neither by using the articles or following their dress; they would use woollens in a great quantity if they could afford it, but none of the common people can, their wages are so very low; nor is there much used in Calcutta; in the upper provinces, where the climate is colder, there is broad-cloth used by the natives.

Do you know whether efforts have been made by the merchants of India, to extend the use of English broad-cloths up the country?—There are both native and European merchants that trade freely from Calcutta over the country, as far even as Delhi and Hurdwar, and they carry whatever articles are in demand; the natives are very keen merchants in their way.

Can you state to the Committee what is the rate of labour among the cultivators at Bengal?—I have good reason to know it, from connection with the indigo planters and others in that line; the wages that the farmers and the lower orders receive from the indigo planters and others is perhaps double what they get from their own labour, or what they get by being employed by the natives, which may be from 5s. to 7s. 6d. a month; about three rupees, I think, is the amount; in Calcutta the mechanics get considerably higher wages; but the farmers and weavers do not get a sum exceeding that.

Can

Can you state what is the price of the manufactures of the country, with which those cultivators usually clothe themselves?—There is some of the cloth that they use, as low as I should think three-pence a yard, perhaps some under: it is wide cotton cloth.

Will you state to the Committee in what way the traders who import European articles into India, dispose of them when they arrive there?—They wish to sell them, and generally do upon their invoice, with as much advance as they can get; when they find they cannot sell them in that way, which is often the case, they are sent to public auction, and sold for the best price they can get; there are a number of European shopkeepers, and those persons are the general buyers.

Do you mean that, at the presidencies, there are European shops at all times open at which any British commodities, in demand by the natives, can be purchased?—There are, at all times, along with the Company's warehouses; in the shops sometimes, perhaps, the cloths cannot be had; but in the Company's warehouses, there are always the different kinds of cloth.

What is the course of providing for the demand for European commodities in the interior of the country?—At the principal stations of the army and civil stations, there are always European traders that have the goods there; and the natives carry up large quantities of goods from Calcutta, and carry them up as high even as to Hurdwar.

In the event of a free trade being allowed with the interior of India do you, from your experience, imagine that that trade would be managed by native agents or dealers, or that the free traders would send their own agents up the country?—I really cannot say what they would do; they would prefer selling at Calcutta, I think, to sending up the country, at all, European goods.

Are you of opinion that the habits of India would admit European goods being carried up the country as they are here, by riders or travellers?—They cannot be carried up by riders, I think; they can be carried up in boats upon the Ganges; there is a communication for fifteen hundred miles, I should suppose.

Has it been your interest, while you were a merchant in India, to push the sale and consumption of European articles in India, as far as you possibly could?—I never carried it on to any great extent; I never found a profit

William Fairlie, Esq. a profit upon them; we only imported European goods for returns upon the goods sent; there was very seldom gain on the returned cargoes.

Are you of opinion that attempts have been made by the British merchants now in India, to push the use of European articles into every part of the Indian seas, from whence there was a probability of profit?—I really cannot say how far the attempts have been; but I know that European goods have been sent to the eastern islands, and the sale was very small indeed; European goods have never been an object of that eastern trade.

When you traded from Calcutta to the eastern islands, what sort of cargoes did you send to them?—The chief article was opium, indeed the principal article; some few of the India piece-goods sell; coarse cloths, a few silk goods, a little iron and chintz, those are the principal articles that are disposed of to the eastward.

If a cargo of European articles were sent to the eastern islands, in your opinion would there be any probability of their selling to advantage?—I do not think they could put up a cargo of European articles but to a loss; I do not think they could sell them at all, from my knowledge of the eastern trade; the Malays make many articles themselves, particularly their pieces, which is a favourite article; and European articles of the same kind they will not purchase.

Do you know whether there is any difficulty in trading with the natives of those islands on account of the ferocity of their temper?—It requires the greatest caution to be constantly on the guard: I have known many vessels whose crews have been cut off and the vessels captured; they are deceitful and ferocious, Malays in general.

Do you know whether from the same causes it is not impossible to penetrate into the interior of those islands?—It never was customary, so far as I have known, that they went further than the ports; they never attempted, as I understood, to go into the country, only to the port where the vessels go to, or near it.

Do you know whether, during the last twenty years, there has not been an increased export of European articles and manufactures to India?—A very great one, I think; but chiefly, I should think, owing to the increased number of Europeans now in the service of the Company; the Company's military and civil service have greatly increased, the King's regiments are greatly increased, and the number of Europeans is twenty or thirty to one, as compared to the time I went, thirty years ago.

Has

Has not also, within that time, the prime cost of all European articles and manufactures in this country increased to a very considerable degree?—I cannot speak particularly to that; some of them have increased, some of them have not.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Is not the fair at Hurdwar a place to which there is a great resort of natives of India?—I understand so, from the Indies and countries round to a great extent.

Is it within your knowledge whether any quantity of woollens have been sent to that fair from Calcutta?—There have been woollens sent there. The natives purchase them at the Company's sales and carry them up; how far they may satisfy the demands I cannot say.

Will you be so good as to state to the Committee in what manner the Americans carried on their trade in Bengal?—The American trade commenced since I went to India: when they came first out, they considered that a great gain was to be got from English goods; they thought the captains of the Indian ships had made considerable gain, and for several years they brought great numbers; but they found they could not make any profit, and they have not brought any; the whole of that trade since principally consisted of treasures of different kinds; Madeira and Teneriffe wines, French and Spanish brandies, mahogany, and bills of credit upon London, those are the principal articles that have been brought out for some years past; a few of their own articles, salt fish, and so on, which they cannot get a sale for.

How do they procure their investments?—By purchase of goods chiefly at the presidencies at market; some of them, after being better acquainted, have given orders for their goods to be procured from the Aurungs, to be sent by another ship.

Were they able to procure their investments, in some way or other, at Calcutta?—Yes, certainly.

Did they procure any large proportion of their investments from the native merchants at Calcutta?—A very large proportion.

If the merchants of this country, desirous of providing an investment in India for an European market, could obtain funds from the government of Bengal, would they consider it for their advantage to grant bills

William Fairlie, Esq.

William Fairlie,
Esq. bills upon England, for the purpose of obtaining those funds?—They might to a certain extent; it would depend much upon their want of money: a great part of their trade is carried on by money taken upon India; if the Company gave it on better terms than others, they would take it from the Company, no doubt; it is carried on by the merchants granting their bills upon England, which they get from the Company's servants, and others, who have money to remit.

You observed that in the colder climates, a considerable quantity of our woollen manufactures was in use?—There is a considerable quantity, I believe, used in the upper parts of the country.

Is there not a manufacture of a kind of woollen cloth, well calculated to keep out rain, which the Indians use over their shoulders in cold weather?—I seldom saw cloth of their own manufacture used in Calcutta.

In the distant provinces?—I cannot speak to that; almost all the woollen cloths sold by the Company is carried up the country; but I know of no woollen cloth made in Calcutta except coarse cloth.

Is it your opinion, that if the out-ports of the United Kingdom were permitted to send ships to the ports of India, they would be able to dispose of more of our manufactures than are usually sent there?—I should think very few more at present; the markets being so completely overstocked, I do not know how they could; in time, it is to be supposed, that there will be an increased demand, for they are not averse to them from prejudice, to many of them.

Is it your opinion, that there is an opening for the employing of a larger capital in the Indian trade, than is at present employed in it?—I do not think there is any want of capital at present, at least for the export trade from India, except what may be supplied by the surplus money to be remitted, beyond the funds which the merchants have of their own; they will prefer to sell goods, to shipping them; if the merchants from this country will buy their goods, they will be very glad to sell them.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from eluding restrictions and limitations, and to trade and go where it might best suit their purpose?—I do not know any where they could go without the Company's provinces to trade, or where they could desire to go; and within the Company's provinces, I do not know that they would desire to go beyond that;

that; and if it was desired to prevent that, there would be much difficulty to the police of the country. *William Fairlie,*
Esq.

Is it your opinion, that many, or most of the vessels going from the out-ports to India, would be disappointed with respect to their expectations of the sale of a cargo?—I should think so, from the state of the markets.

Does not the certainty and regularity of payment, and the confidence there is in the East-India Company, give that Company great advantages in all commercial transactions, and in their investments?—I have found no impediments to the procuring of investments for many years past: they certainly have advantages by established factories, and a certain set of manufacturers of different kinds, weavers and others, that they constantly employ, perhaps abler mechanics than individuals could get.

Does not the certainty and regularity of payment, and the confidence there is in the East-India Company, give that Company great advantages in all commercial transactions and in their investments?—They have only those advantages, for, having established factories, an individual can go there and make advances and get his goods.

Have they not advantages over the private trader?—I do not know that they have any, where there is any proper capital in the hands of the merchants, and the Company do not take unfair advantages: a man with a great capital has an advantage over a man with a small one.

Have artizans from Europe established any manufactures in India?—They have.

Are the natives employed in those manufactories?—They are almost wholly; there are few Europeans; the Europeans have the head management, but they are natives who are employed under them.

Are not carriages, and all articles of leather, down to women's gloves, and many other manufactures, now made at other establishments in India, which used to be sent thither from this country?—There are a great many articles; plate, carriages, leather of every description almost; harness for the army, shoes, boots, furniture of the very best kind, and a variety of others, copper and brass; indeed there is almost every article manufactured now in Calcutta, and very well. Glass ware is the principal article wanted; they get the bark for tanning the leather, and silver for the plate, in that country; some copper and lead is got from this country.

Are

William Fairlie,
Esq.

Are not the people of India more sober and diligent, and as much employed, and skilful in manufactures, as the inhabitants of any country you are acquainted with?—They are certainly more sober than any other country that I know; and they are pretty diligent, but not remarkable for their industry, but ingenious good workmen.

Are the people of India, considering their few wants, their manner of living, and habits, likely to consume more of our manufactures than they have hitherto done?—The greater intercourse they have with Europeans, I should think they would; but it must be very gradual, I think.

Can the mass of Hindoos afford to purchase them?—No, the lower classes, from the rate of wages I have stated, cannot afford it; but there are a great many others, who are making money and are very rich, in Calcutta: the lower classes of people are not at present in a condition to buy any European articles, that I know of; their wages are so very low, and they seem to prefer very much their own manufactures.

Are the people of India liable to change their customs and habits?—I should think not; I have observed no change in thirty years, and I believe there has been very little in two thousand, perhaps.

Can they not manufacture such woollen and cotton articles as they want infinitely cheaper and more to their tastes and habits than we can send them?—Woollens I do not know that they manufacture, but of very coarse kind, which is used only to cover horses; and their cotton cloth, which I have stated, is from three-pence a yard to two shillings, which are quilted sometimes in the cold weather.

Is not the condition of the general mass of the inhabitants of Bengal generally improving?—I really cannot speak to the general mass of the people.

Having resided there thirty years, is not the condition of the inhabitants of Calcutta generally improving?—I think it is so far improved that they now get better wages, and particularly where they are employed by Europeans, and there are great numbers employed by the indigo planters.

Has not the number of Europeans half-cast considerably increased in Calcutta for the last few years?—They have increased, but I do not know that they have been added to by any importation of others of that kind.

By the gradual increase of Europeans?—I do not observe many of them
grow

grow up; there were very * Europeans when I went to India, but there are of Portuguese; there are a great number of young people, but not many grown up, and they are increasing.

William Fairlie,
Esq.

* Sic Orig.

Have they not in a great measure adopted European habits?—They have wholly European habits; they take the habits of the father.

Are they more at their ease than the Hindoos?—They certainly expend more than the Hindoos, but it must depend ———

Sic Orig.

Are they more at their ease than the Hindoos?—None, or very few of them, were grown up; a few of them are grown up to be set out for themselves.

You do not mean to convey that they die off, all of them?—No, but there were few of them that had grown up; there were but few Europeans when I went there; but they will be more expensive than the natives, and they live in the European manner, and there are many of them growing up.

Are those observations of yours confined to Calcutta?—They are confined to Calcutta, with respect to those half-cast people.

Has the Indian market been always sufficiently supplied with woollens under the present system?—I really cannot answer particularly to that; the Company are the chief importers, and I do not know whether there might have been a want of them up the country; I have stated they are not much consumed in Calcutta, except for European wear.

Is the capital of the Company employed in the Indian trade sufficient to occupy the whole of the country between India and Europe?—I do not think the capital employed by the Company has been sufficient.

Are not the warehouses in our principal establishments in India frequently full of British manufactures, and the markets so glutted as to be often sold greatly below their value?—Frequently.

Has the East India Company better means of introducing our manufactures in India than private traders?—At present there is every facility given to the private traders in distributing the goods in India, if they are allowed to be exported by the individuals from this country.

Is the capital of the East India Company and the private traders now
Y employed

William Fairlie,
Esq. employed sufficient fully and for all purposes?—Whether it would be advantageous to increase it I cannot say, but much more could be employed; the manufactures of India may be increased to almost any amount; the exports from India may be increased.

How happens it that that capital is not employed?—There has been very heavy loss on many of the articles, and others leave no profit; but as to the quantity of articles they can be increased, if it were for their interest to do it, they certainly could purchase goods.

How can you suppose that a larger capital can be employed if there should be a great loss in the use of that capital?—The quantity of goods and manufactures of India certainly can be greatly increased; whether it will be for the interest of the Company to purchase those I cannot say; losses have arisen, and they do not increase the trade.

But you seem to be of opinion it would not answer?—I think it would not, or it might have been increased.

Are you of opinion it would be advantageous to persons to employ a larger capital?—I do not think it would, from the prices India goods have been selling at.

Do you happen to know whether the price of India goods of late has not much increased at the sales here at home?—I understand that piece-goods have rather increased in price: indigo is increased in the sale that is just finished, and other articles again are falling; raw silk and cotton are low; the present sale of indigo has been pretty favourable, not very great.

Is the capital of the Company, and the capital employed by private persons, sufficient to supply the Indian market with European and British commodities, particularly woollen cloth?—Perfectly sufficient, I should think.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then LESTOCK WILSON, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

Lestock Wilson,
Esq. (By Counsel).—Were not you for some years captain of an East-India-man in the Company's service?—I was.

For how many years?—From 1786 to 1799, thirteen or fourteen years.
Are

Are you now in the marine service of the Company?—I have left the service. *Lestock Wilson,*
Esq.

Since your retiring from that service have you been engaged in any commercial concern with India?—I am now in a house of business under the firm of Palmer, Wilson, and Company.

While you were in the service of the Company, had you an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the navigation about the coasts of the peninsula?—Of course I was at Bombay, and from thence to China three voyages; several times I have been at China.

Had you any opportunity of becoming acquainted with the navigation in the Malay Archipelago?—As far as the track to China went; I cannot say I was all over it, but in the Eastern passage to China I had a pretty extensive range.

Had you the means of informing yourself with respect to the characters, manners, and habits of the natives of the islands in that Archipelago?—In a degree, in a very small degree, I never traded amongst them. I was picked up by a Malay trader, after I was cast away in the Vansittart, and there I saw a little of them.

Are you able to say, whether they are a civilized or a barbarous people, or in what stage between those points?—It is certainly necessary to be very cautious in your dealings with them, and to take care, if you land, to have nothing about you that shall make it an object to them to rob you; the Europeans who traded with the Malays always go armed, and it was their rule to keep their Sepoys under arms, whenever a Malay boat was near.

Are the Malays in any degree a people of commercial habits?—They certainly will bring you the commodities of the country; they will bring it you, and take opium from you.

In what degree do those islands furnish a demand for European commodities?—I should think in a very slender degree; the articles that are generally obtained from them, are beetle-nut, some other articles, particularly tin; the island of Banca is almost a bed of tin, it is easily smelted, lying near the surface, and is obtained without any difficulty; tin is procured from all those islands, from Sumatra and others.

To what circumstances do you ascribe the scantiness of the demands furnished
Y 2

Lestock Wilson, furnished by those islands for European manufactures?—Their servants
Esq. are very few, they do not want them, added to which they are in some degree manufacturers themselves; they can make all their culinary utensils, and they obtain others in a considerable degree from China.

Were an open trade established between the ports of the United Kingdom and the Eastern seas, do you apprehend that the commerce between this country and the Malay Archipelago would, in any considerable degree, be increased?—I should apprehend, that a direct intercourse between this country and that, would never be worth any body's pursuing at all. I know nothing to be brought from the Malay islands, that would be useful; they might obtain tortoise-shell, perhaps, and a few other trifling articles.

You have stated, you are acquainted with the coasts of the peninsula; can you state whether there are not many ports of the Malabar coast where a landing might be easily effected?—Yes, certainly, at all of them; there is a surf, but no formidable difficulty presented by that.

I believe the officers and captains of the East-India service are allowed to trade on their own account?—They are, they are paid in that way.

Were you in the habit of availing yourself of that privilege?—Unquestionably.

In making up your investment for the Indian market, did you chiefly use such articles as were intended for the native consumption of India, or for the consumption of European residents in that country?—A great part of a captain's investment consists of dead weight, consisting of lead, copper, and iron; copper is carried in a very limited degree; the East-India Company seldom allow you to deal in it; the rest is for the Europeans, I hardly know of any thing exclusively for the natives, unless it might be some articles that were intended to be manufactured in that country, either by natives or by Europeans.

Did you find it profitable to make up a great portion of your investments of articles intended for the consumption of the natives?—My three last voyages were to Bombay and China, and I think two out of the three were unproductive, as far as the trade from Europe went, or nearly so; the profit in the other was slight.

Upon the whole, do you conceive that the private export of commodities, in the manner you have described, is likely to be increased under any circumstances?—I should think not, or in a very limited degree: I must observe

observe that with respect to Bombay and China, the voyages are peculiar, in that it was not possible for a commander to carry out the funds, which he would require at Bombay, for the purchase of cotton in commodity, it was generally three-fourths of it carried in silver. *Lestock Wilson*

Was it from a want of demand for European articles in Bombay, that a great part of what commanders carried out was in silver?—Certainly, because we could not dispose of it to a profitable account, but silver was more profitable.

From your experience as a partner in a mercantile house trading with India, are you able to say, whether there be now any great demand in India for European manufactures from this country?—As a trader in a mercantile house, I am particularly situated, having a ship at this moment going out, that came home in 1810, which has since made a voyage in the Company's service, and now has a right to return there; it is a teak-built ship, and probably may be sold there; there is a necessity for her returning to India, and she must return dead freighted, or in ballast, if the Company had not relaxed in the conditions of her going out with the produce and manufactures of this country; and I know, in consequence, her lading consists of a very few articles indeed that are strictly the produce of these kingdoms; I recollect but four she has, namely, empty bottles, a little ale, which is carried more to oblige a brewer, than any hope to get any thing out of it; she has a little English iron, twenty or thirty tons, and twenty or thirty tons of chalk, which they use in a very small degree; she has been offered for freight at a very low rate, of which a very little indeed is obtained.

Do you apprehend that any much greater quantity of capital could be profitably invested in the export trade of manufactures from this country to India, than is now employed?—I should apprehend not, we would gradually increase our exports if we could.

(Examined by the Committee.)

This ship you have been speaking of is not to return to this country with any cargo?—That will depend upon circumstances entirely, she is at present not, and she cannot, unless she obtains permission from the East-India Company to do so, as the law now stands, unless she returns with rice.

If an unlimited intercourse should be allowed with three or four thousand miles of coast in India having innumerable ports and creeks, where vessels

Lestock Wilson, Esq. vessels might trade, will it be possible to restrain or check the disorders and irregularities likely to arise in such an unrestricted trade?—I should suppose, as far as the coast of India is concerned, that the Company's power and authority would be able to keep every body in order; but with respect to the Malay islands and the Coast of Sumatra, that I cannot speak to, they are out of any civilized authority there.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from eluding restrictions and limitations, and to trade, and to go where it might best suit their purposes?—I do not know that I am qualified to answer that question, never having been any where but at the ports; never having been up the country at all.

Is it your opinion that many or most of the vessels going from the out-ports to India would be disappointed in their expectations in respect to a sale of their cargo?—I am confident of it; at least I cannot divine any articles that they can possibly put into their ships that they will succeed in selling; I take it for granted that upon an unlimited intercourse being allowed, there would immediately go a vast number of ships and people.

But they would be disappointed?—They certainly would be disappointed, and nine-tenths of them would be ruined.

Would you take upon yourself to say so, as confidently, if they took that cargo of the manufactures of this country to South America, and procured specie to take to the East-Indies?—I knew nothing of South America.

Is it your opinion, that if ships were allowed to trade in the Indian seas, it would be possible to confine them to particular ports?—In my opinion it would be impossible to confine them to particular ports, the Malay Archipelago consists of innumerable ports.

If private traders are permitted to trade to Malacca, Manilla, and the other Indian islands, do you think the smuggling of teas can possibly be prevented?—There is no doubt at all they would obtain the teas from China, especially at Manilla, because it is upon the coast of Lucomia, and they can pass from one to the other in Junks, in both monsoons.

Is it your opinion, that the admission of an indiscriminate host of traders to the Indian seas is likely to debase the character of Englishmen in

in the eyes of the native powers?—I really cannot answer that; I should think that an indiscriminate host of Europeans landed on the coast of India would have very much that tendency, unless they were strictly confined to the sea ports, and not permitted to rove. *Lestock Wilson, Esq.*

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then WILLIAM DAVIES, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel) Will you state to the Committee how many voyages you have been to India, and in what capacity?—I have made four voyages to China and India, as an officer in the Company's service, having in the course of those voyages touched at South America, the Cape of Good Hope, and Batavia. *Wm. Davies, Esq.*

Are you, in consequence of having made those voyages, well acquainted with those seas, and with the trade in them?—I have a general knowledge of the trade.

Since you have left the sea-service of the Company, what has been your employment or profession?—A part of my time has been occupied as an East-India merchant, nearly ten years; for the last three years I have declined acting as an East-India merchant, because the trade has not been sufficiently profitable to induce me to employ my capital in that way. The capital which I have employed as an East-India merchant in trading to India, generally, I have since employed as a ship owner.

As an East-India merchant, have you been connected with any house or partner in the East Indies?—I have generally made my consignments to houses of agency there; I have a partner in London who was a resident at Madras for several years, sixteen or seventeen years, a man well acquainted with the detail of the trade at Madras, a Mr. Card.

Do you think from your own knowledge, and the knowledge of Mr. Card on mercantile subjects connected with India, that you would carry on that trade with as much advantage as any other persons in this country?—I have reason to believe that we did carry it on with equal advantage to what any other house in London could have done, because we neither wanted a command of capital, nor did we extend our credit to its full extent.

Wm. Davies,
Esq. extent, and generally speaking, I think we had equal knowledge, and equally good information, with any other house in the city of London.

Can you state from your knowledge of the Indian commerce, whether the market for European goods in that country is generally over or under stocked?—My opinion is, that of late it has had an ample supply; supposing the question to be whether under or overstocked, I should say, that in my opinion it has been overstocked.

Have you during the last ten years exported to India to a large amount?—The house, I am at the head of, has to, what I consider, a large amount.

During that time have you at any time attempted to rival the East India Company in the exporting of the woollens of this country?—I did consign woollens to India, but I discovered that the rate the Company sold their cloths at, was such as to prevent me as a merchant obtaining such a profit as could induce me to pursue that branch of the trade.

Do you mean the Committee to understand that, from finding the profit not sufficient, you have in a great measure withdrawn your capital from this trade?—Yes, because I did not find the trade productive.

Are you of opinion that, upon the present system, the export trade to India from this country may be extended to meet any probable demand?—I think it may; and my reasons for thinking so are, because the Company have given to the public more than ample accommodation for the purposes under the act of 1793. There is a certain tonnage granted from the East India Company to the public since then. In the year 1806 they granted further privileges to the public, though that grant of 1793 has not been fully occupied; the grant was about 3,000 tons per annum, the occupation I think was under 1,200.

Do you know from your experience, as a private trader, whether the Company are liberal or not in granting licences to such traders as apply to them?—I think they have acted a liberal part: they have within the last two years granted many licences, I believe to the amount of twenty-two or twenty-three to private traders, to trade to the Eastward of the Cape of Good Hope.

Are you of opinion that the capital of the East India Company, together with the capital of the private traders employed in the trade of the Indian

Indian seas, is sufficient for carrying on the trade with India?—I am of opinion that it is, in the present state of the trade.

Wm. Davies,
Esq.

Is in your opinion the capital of the East-India Company, together with the capital of the private traders employed in the trade of the Indian sea, fully sufficient to carry on the trade, export and import, between this country and India?—I cannot possibly know the capital that other houses possess, but if you ask me as matter of opinion, I am of opinion that it is.

Is it your opinion that if there were an increased demand, that capital could be easily increased upon the present system to meet it?—I cannot positively answer that; when an East India merchant I could not employ the whole of my own capital in the trade, and I believe others were in a similar state; but that again must be matter of opinion.

Are you of opinion that if a considerably increased capital were applied to the encouragement of the manufactures of India, and they were brought to Europe, they would not probably materially injure the manufactures of this country?—I think that if the exports from India of coarse cloths were greatly increased, that they might interfere with the manufactures of this country. A proof, I had cloths consigned to me from Madras which did pay the duty in England, and were sold in England, a part of which I have now in use in my own house after having been bought from a trader in London; I am speaking of coarse cotton cloths.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Have you carried on your trade entirely with the settlement at Madras, or have you had any commerce at Bengal?—Some of my goods have gone to Bengal, and I have made consignments to Bombay.

You never were a merchant resident in India?—No.

Is it your opinion that, if ships were allowed to trade in the Indian seas, it would be possible to confine them to particular ports?—I presume that the government of India is sufficiently strong to say where a ship shall go to, and where she shall not go to.

Do you suppose that if ships were allowed to go from the out-ports of the United Kingdom, that it will be possible to restrict them when they once get into the Indian seas from going where it suits their purpose best?

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Wm. Davies,
Esq.

—That must be matter of opinion : I have always found the least educated part of mankind the least manageable; and upon that ground, I should presume, that they would not be under the same controul as the captains and officers of the Indian ships, who, generally speaking, are gentlemen and men of education.

If an unlimited intercourse should be allowed with three or four thousand miles of coast in India, having innumerable ports and creeks where vessels might trade, will it be possible to restrain or check the disorders and irregularities likely to arise in such a mode of trade?—I am of opinion it would be expensive to do, and that great difficulties would arise in so doing.

Do you describe a person entrusted with the command of a vessel of not less than 350 registered tons, and of that measurement, a man of that description, uneducated?—I think, generally speaking, they are uneducated men.

What description of persons are in the command usually of India built ships that are sent to this country?—They are not men of equal intelligence to the captains of the regular East-India ships, I think.

Is it your opinion that many or most of the vessels going from the out-ports to India would be disappointed in their expectations, in respect to a sale of their cargoes?—I am of opinion that they would; I am of opinion that the exports from this country to India have more than equalled the demand.

The Witness is directed to withdraw..

Then JOHN WOOLMORE, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

John Woolmore,
Esq.

(By Counsel.) I believe you spent the earlier part of your life in the maritime service in India?—From Europe to India, and a variety of parts.

Did you at any time navigate the Indian seas in the coasting trade, or in the country trade?—Yes.

At

At what period?—From 1782 to 1788.

John Woolmore,
Esq.

About that time I believe you afterwards commanded an Indiaman?—Yes, I did; I commanded an Indiaman two voyages to China.

Since which I believe you have been very largely concerned in East-India ships?—Yes, till within the last two or three years, and then I gave it up nearly.

From that time till within the last two or three years you were largely concerned in it?—Till within the last four or five years.

During your carrying on your trade in India, had you an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the nature of the ports and markets in that part of the world?—I was in a variety of services during the time I was in India, navigating a country ship. I navigated from Bengal to Madras in the rice trade; from Bengal to the coast of Malabar, to Bombay, and from thence again to China, from China back again to Bengal, which I called my home, and from Bengal again down the coast to Pegu on the Malay coast, and to China; other voyages again, from Bengal along the west coast of Sumatra, Batavia, from Batavia along the west coast of Borneo, then across again to the Peninsula, and Malay and China, and from China to Bengal.

Had you an opportunity in that way of exploring the different ports and learning what opportunities there were for the consumption of European articles?—The ports I was pretty well acquainted with, from information as well as from having been at them; but the only new ports I explored, were merely on the west coast of Borneo, which was not generally known to country captains; that was between Banjar Masseen and Borneo Proper.

Did you find any opening there for the sale of European commodities?—Very little indeed; the only European commodities my cargoes consisted of, were a small quantity of cutlery, some fire arms, a small quantity of iron and some steel, of which by the bye they told me they had better steel at Banjar Masseen than I could possibly bring to them.

Did you find a ready sale for those articles?—No, very small in proportion; the chief articles were 800 chests of opium, about £50,000 worth; about £2,000 of piece goods; and from 5 to £600, not exceeding £1,000 worth of a variety of trifling articles. This amount included

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iron,

John Woolmore, Esq. iron, steel, and all other things, except piece-goods and opium; they are mostly supplied with their coarse from China.

Can you state the probability of a market in any of the other ports in India to which you have been?—I do not know, except now we have got Batavia we shall have the market the Dutch had, consisting of iron and coarse cutlery; that is much interfered with by the trade of the Chinese junks from China, they bring the cutlery there, manufactured at China.

Do you consider that the Chinese would in those articles be a formidable rival to the European traders?—The Chinese junks are constant traders during the season to Batavia, and all the Malay ports on that coast; they bring a variety of articles, it is impossible to enumerate them; they bear most resemblance to a general chandler's or a country shop, where they sell articles of all descriptions; they sell articles of all descriptions, from a parasol to a Lascar's knife. I believe there are five or six hundred petty merchants that go regularly down in those junks.

Have you any opportunity of knowing the sale for woollen cloths in Batavia?—No; I had some few pieces of woollen cloths there, they were chiefly fancy articles, but there was no sale; I gave them as presents to the superior Malay people in the island of Borneo, the rajah to whom I sold my cargo, and the superior people; they were chiefly coloured, blue and white, I believe, and red and blue, and a small piece or two of kersey-mère; but there was no general sale of woollens, that I could find, nor did I see them made use of; this applies to the whole coast, including Batavia.

Have you had an opportunity, since you returned to England, to know any thing particular respecting the dealings of the commanders of the ships of which you are a proprietor?—All those commanders were young friends that I brought forward, and the management of their business went through my hands, not as a paid agent but as a private friend.

Can you state from that duty which you discharged to them, the nature of the encouragement there was for the export of British commodities?—I did not find, in looking over their invoices, that there was any thing new; the trade has been on the decline within the last three or four years; the only agency business I have left, is of one commander, of whose ship my brother has the management, and he went out in the last April fleet; he carried out only £2,000, and he used to carry out 5 and £6,000, not exceeding £10,000 worth.

Of

Of British articles?—They were articles shipped from London; there was iron, lead, and things of all kinds, millinery and haberdashery, and thousands of articles, boots, shoes, leather breeches. There was every thing an European wears, either necessarily or for fancy; but the staple articles are generally iron, steel, lead, and some copper. *John Woolmore, Esq.*

Have you any opportunity of knowing the profit that was made on those privileged goods?—Since 1801-2, and more particularly since the Court of Directors have given facility to the extra ships, it has appeared to me from conversation and from the transactions that have gone through my hands, generally to have declined in profit. I know this young man, of whom I have spoken, on his last voyage was extremely angry at not getting the prime cost and expences from his goods; and though I have not had a letter from him, I understand from my brother who has, that he has not come to a good market; but he had only £2,000 worth of property with him as goods.

Have you sufficient general knowledge to say, whether the present mode of supply of European and British goods for the Indian market is adequate to the wants there?—It has appeared to me, I am not engaged in it, that since the East-India Company have given facility for the last five or six years to their extra shipping, it has appeared to me overstocked, if I may draw my information from the sources I have mentioned, namely, from those whose business I have had the management of, as well as from general information, living constantly in the habits of East-Indian society.

Are you acquainted with the nature of the regulations and restrictions that exist by law now to prevent interlopers, or to send interlopers from India?—I have understood that the East-India Company have always had the power of sending any individual home, indeed, when I staid there. I had been an officer of an European ship, and I staid in India, strictly speaking, without the Company's permission, I was left on shore sick at the time, and I certainly paid particular attention to my demeanour, and was particularly careful of my conduct while I was in India, because I was under their directions, and subject to be sent home whenever the government ordered me to be so.

Do you conceive that such a power would be an impediment to an open and free trade with that part of the world?—I should think it would; as an individual very well known to some men of high respectability

John Woolmore, Esq. bility in India, if I were to set up at Liverpool, Bristol, or London, as a merchant, I should not individually want any connection to reside there, having such friends there; but otherwise, setting up here to establish a trade to India, I should; I could not do it satisfactorily to myself without I had somebody resident there on my part.

Should you think it necessary that your supercargoes and officers, and even your sailors, should have the power of remaining there, without being subject to such an authority as you have described?—As far as I can judge from the exterior of India, I should think it necessary, from the general disposition of Europeans, that the governor should have the power of sending any body home he pleased. It has always been a principle of mine, that they should have that power, and if I was a merchant here, I certainly should wish to have somebody to reside there to conduct my business. I know some of the resident agents to whom I might send my cargo; but as an individual here without that connexion, I certainly should expect it. I have left cargoes of country ships at China, when it has suited my purpose, with individuals; I think it possible I might have a cargo in India that I cannot sell, and therefore should have an agent to stay there, who is under my controul and management.

Should you apprehend, that in carrying on a free and open trade to India, such as you have described, from the port of Liverpool or London, that it might be necessary to have your cargo disbursed in different settlements, or in different ports on the coast?—I should certainly consider it for my general convenience, to have the power of going from one port of India to the other; that is, to the ports of Bombay, and Madras, and Bengal.

Would you confine it to the principal settlements?—I should, certainly, as a merchant, wish to have it to every kind of port that I could, I have no doubt.

Wherever your goods were left, should you require a superintendent at the place?—If I entered into the trade really as a merchant of eminence, I should consider it necessary to have agents both at Bombay, Madras, and Bengal.

Have you had any opportunity of knowing the manner in which the Americans carry on their trade?—To India I have not an opportunity of knowing;

knowing; I was at China when the first American ships arrived there; I *John Woolmore*, Esq. was then in a country ship.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then WILLIAM BRUCE SMITH, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) Have you not resided as a licensed free merchant in India for forty years?—I have. *W. B. Smith*, Esq.

In what part of the country did you principally reside?—In the northern part of the Bengal province, on the northern boundary.

Had you opportunities of seeing Calcutta?—Frequently.

Did you visit Calcutta from the interior?—I frequently visited Calcutta.

Was your intercourse, during your residence near the northern boundary of Bengal, principally confined to natives?—Both natives and Europeans.

Had you an opportunity of extensive experience, with respect to the character, habits, and manners of the natives?—Constant intercourse with the natives, and of course great experience.

How long have you been returned from India?—A year and a half; about eighteen months.

In what branch of commerce did you principally employ yourself during your residence at Nautpour?—At first in the timber trade.

Was it in purchasing timber from natives?—In purchasing and sending saul wood to Calcutta for sale.

Had you an opportunity of observing what degree of taste the natives evinced for the use of European manufactures in that part of the country?—But very few of them used the manufactures of Europe, they had no taste for them, they did not suit them.

Did

W. B. Smith,
Esq.

Did you ever engage in any speculation, which enables you to speak particularly to this point?—I did; an investment of European articles were sent to me from Calcutta, I think it was in the year 1793, to dispose of, and none of the natives would take them, and they were returned back again; there was a boat load.

What were the articles?—Wedgewood's wares, glass ware, lanthorn shades, and articles of that description.

Were they exposed to the view of the natives, and recommended to them?—They were given in charge of the native shopkeepers, desiring them to be sold, if possible, or to be returned; and they were all returned, or the greatest part of them were returned.

Do you conceive that that experiment failed from a want of demand among the natives for European manufactures?—Entirely so; native demand for.

Is the scantiness of European manufacture permanent in its nature?—I think it is.

Does the use of European hardware prevail among the natives in that part of India where you have resided?—I have scarcely seen any articles there of that description, even in the markets or shops, for sale.

Do you apprehend that the consumption of European hardware could be particularly promoted in that part of the country?—They make articles for their own use so much cheaper, that I think there would be little demand for European articles.

During the course of your residence in India, did you perceive any particular change in the general manners, habits, and customs of the people?—Very little indeed.

Is it the custom of British gentlemen, whether public functionaries or not, residing in the interior of the country, to employ Europeans of a lower description?—It sometimes happens with gentlemen leaving European servants, but manufacturers of Indigo particularly employ a number of Europeans.

Has it fallen within your observation to know, whether, among the lower Europeans so employed, there exists a disposition to oppress or domineer

domineer over the native people?—It very often happens to be the case if not particularly restricted by their employers.

W. B. Smith,
Esq.

Do you conceive that the frequent exercise of a coercive power on the part of government, to repress such abuses, would produce any unfavourable effect upon the general estimate of the European character on the part of the natives?—As every European resident in the country must have a licence from the government, the punishment would be that of ordering them to the presidency, nothing further.

Do the natives of rank spend much of their superfluous wealth in the purchase of European commodities?—None at all, I believe, except in a very few instances.

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, 13^o 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.

Then Sir CHARLES WARRE MALET, Baronet, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows.

(By Counsel.)—How long were you in the service of the East India Company?—Eight and twenty years.

2 A

In Sir C. W. Malet,
Bart.

Sir C. W. Malet,
Bart.

In what year did you go to India?—In the year 1770.

In what department of the East-India Company's service were you?—
I went out a writer.

To which presidency?—Bombay.

In what parts of the country did you reside between the years 1770 and 1775?—After being some time in Bombay, I had an opportunity of going with Mr. Moore, who went up after the plague at Bussora, to Bussora, touching in my way at Muscat, Gombroon, and Bushire, during the interval of 1775; I likewise visited Surat and Cambay, from motives of curiosity, and to endeavour to make myself better acquainted with the country in which I was come to reside.

Were not you afterwards appointed resident with the Nabob of Cambay?—I think in the year 1774.

During what time did you reside in Cambay in that capacity?—I think I resided there about ten years; but having been suddenly called from the country, and not having any memorandum with me, though I have a regular series of them, I cannot answer exactly to the year.

During the time you resided there, were you alone, or were there any other Europeans?—I had no other Europeans attached to my station; I had occasional visitors.

After having resided that time at Cambay, did you reside also at Surat, and in what capacity?—During the time that I was resident at Cambay, I was appointed Persian interpreter to the settlement of Surat, and during that time I was likewise appointed, by the Court of Directors in England, a member of the council of Surat.

Were you afterwards appointed Persian interpreter to the government and private secretary to the governor of Bombay?—I was.

Were you afterwards sent on any, and what, mission to the Malabar coast?—I was sent upon a temporary occasion to the Siddy of Jizzera, upon the coast of Malabar.

Were you afterwards sent upon any, and what, mission to the court of Poonah, and at what time?—I think it was in the year 1785, that the govern-

Sir C. W. Malet,
Bart.

government-general, at the head of which Mr. Hastings then was, applied to the government of Bombay for its acquiescence in appointing me minister plenipotentiary to the court of Poonah, on the part of the governor-general.

Did not you cross the whole country of Hindostan from Bombay to Delhi, and afterwards to Calcutta?—Subsequent to the treaty of Salbey, Madajee Scindiah, a principal Marhatta chief, had been in the habit of mediating all negotiations and all intercourse with the head of the Marhatta government, the Peshwah, it was therefore thought necessary to conciliate him to my embassy; that he should be waited on by me for that purpose, I was ordered to proceed from Bombay to join him, then being in the north of India; I accordingly left Bombay, went to Surat, and from thence proceeded by land to join him, which I did at Matura, between Agra and Delhi.

Did you proceed afterwards to Calcutta?—After having had a meeting with Scindiah and the King, through the mediation of Mr. James Anderson, the resident at Scindiah's Durbar, I proceeded to Calcutta, having crossed the Doab from Agra to Cawnpore, and thence by water.

Did you afterwards proceed to execute your office of resident at Poonah?—On my arrival at Calcutta I found Sir John M^rPherson in the chair; my appointment was completed under his administration; and I proceeded with the governor-general's orders and credentials by water to Bombay, and from thence to Poonah.

Did you likewise attend the Marhatta army in its motions in the field in the war against Tippoo?—Very soon after my arrival at Poonah, having had an audience with the Peshwah, I proceeded to join the army, the minister being then at the head of it.

How long did you continue to be plenipotentiary, at Poonah, of the English government?—I went there in the year 1786, and remained there till the year 1797, to the best of my recollection.

Were you afterwards in the council of Bombay and governor there?—I had been appointed to the council at Bombay, but on my arrival I did not take my place, intending immediately to proceed to Europe; but some occurrences taking place on the coast of Malabar, that required the then governor's presence, I was desired to take upon me the administration

Sir C. W. Malet, Bart. tion of the government, which I did, for, I believe, about nine months. Mr Duncan was then governor.

By your residence during so great a length of time in the country of India, and in so many various parts of it, have you had many opportunities, and did you use those opportunities, of observing the character, manners, and habits, and prejudices of the Hindoos?—I endeavoured to make use of the opportunities which fell in my way, on principles of duty and inclination, and to make myself a useful servant of the Company.

Do you understand the Hindostanee and Persian languages?—I did understand the Hindostanee and Persian languages.

From your observation of the character of the Hindoos, do you think any, and what consequences, would result from any considerably increased intercourse of Englishmen with them in the interior of the country?—Much would depend upon the description of Englishmen; for instance, if they were well acquainted with their manners, and their habits were pacific, and at the same time under perfect controul, probably no inconvenience might attach to their residence among the Indians.

Supposing them not to be acquainted with the manners of the natives, and under a very strong controul, what do you think would be the consequence to the peace and happiness of the natives of the country?—I think that the manners of the people of India do not only partake of the diversity common to human nature in personal character, but they partake of an extraordinary difference from their various casts of classifications. I think, from the great peculiarities of their general national and personal character, that much difficulty must arise to people that are not acquainted with them, in their intercourse with them, to avoid those differences which I think would be very likely to happen. If it is agreeable to your Lordships, I will give you a recapitulation of the classes of a particular description, with respect to the difficulty of their being reconciled to European intercourse without a knowledge of their characters. There are certain people who you may treat with every kind of indignity and they would submit; there are others who would take fire where no indignity was meant, and the consequences might be very disagreeable.

Can you state any differences among the Hindoos themselves, which would in some instances make it extremely dangerous for persons unacquainted

quainted with their manners and habits to give them even involuntary offence?—Most undoubtedly; even the touching them might give them offence; even the passing by while they are dressing their victuals, and your shade falling upon their cookery, would give them offence; it would even so far give offence as to cause their victuals being thrown away.

In such cases of offence is that class of Hindoos extremely resentful?—Those who assume the greatest purity are the Bramins; and though they may be resentful, yet probably their resentment would not be followed by those strong marks of it which it would be from some of the military classes.

Do you think that if an intercourse were allowed between Europeans unacquainted with the Hindoos, and such Hindoos as you have just stated, it might be attended with considerable confusion in the country?—I think it would be very difficult indeed for Europeans unacquainted with the manners and prejudices of the natives of India, to have indiscriminate intercourse with them without being subject to give occasional offence.

Have you seen instances of such offence given even by prudent men in that country?—I have known gentlemen who have been in the habit of residing in our own settlements, where the submissiveness of the natives in general prepares them to expect the same among the foreign powers, have found a very different reception on going amongst the natives under their own governments. I have likewise known two instances; one of them was a fatal one, the other might have been fatal, but for interference; the first was of a gentleman at Poonah, who had lately arrived in the country, who had got the command of a regular corps in the service of the Peshwah, and upon some rash conduct on his part towards the minister, who likewise commanded the army, on leaving the Durbar tent he was shot in his way home. The other was a woman; she was a Mrs. Hall, but I believe a French woman, who got the command of a corps in the Peshwah's service, and on displaying some hauteur, she was seized and thrown into an hill fort, where I believe she would have been put to death, either by slow means, or by the executioner; but hearing of her situation, I interposed in her favour, and got her released.

Is there a considerable difference between the manners of the natives of Hindostan at the presidencies, and in the interior of the country?—Very material.

Will

Sir C. W. Malet, Bart.

Sir C. W. Malet,
Bart.

Will you state what the difference is, and the cause of it?—There is a difference in their general deportment; there is a more general submissiveness to Europeans, and I suppose they feel that from the protection of our courts they may go to a certain degree of submissiveness without any particular bad consequences ultimately resulting; but that not being the case under the native governments, irritability once provoked may be attended with more dangerous consequences than the anger of a person who received any ill treatment under our own governments.

Have you observed, whether Englishmen upon their first arrival treat the natives, generally, with more contempt than after they are acquainted with their manners?—There is a great deal of difference between them; there is courtesy in one and arrogance in another; it may be from disposition or misconception, but I think, they do not on their first arrival treat them so favourably as after having been some time acquainted with them.

Are you of opinion, that the strength of the British government in India mainly depends upon its justice and moderation with respect to the natives?—I am certainly of opinion, that the firmness and vigour of all government must depend upon its moderation and justice; but I think that justice and moderation is particularly incumbent in India, where so many prejudices are to be encountered; and I think that justice can only be properly directed to its end by knowledge, I mean knowledge of the natives.

Are you of opinion that an influx of Englishmen into the interior, where there are no courts holding criminal jurisdiction over Englishmen, might tend to create discontents, and to shake the allegiance of the natives?—I think that in the present state of India there must always be people evil minded, and ready to take advantage of every opportunity to throw our sway and our character into disrepute; and I think that by improper people being brought in contact with the natives of the country, unprepared for those conciliating measures which knowledge alone can produce, great evil may be produced; and if discontent is engendered, I think it very likely that their fidelity and allegiance may be shaken, and a great evil ensue; for the whole of India, that may be commonly called our empire, is by no means in a state of absolute government by us; it is in a state of controul and coercion; it may be called alliance, but it is alliance of coercion and ascendancy on our side.

Are you of opinion, if such discontents were to take place in the country,

country, as has been stated in your last answer, that the native princes, now in alliance with us, would be ready to take advantage of those discontents, and to act hostilely against us?—I think that an evil mind once produced, the proceeding to hostility must entirely depend upon power.

The power of those native princes you mean?—Yes, because I presume that the inclination would be excited by the evil mind.

If a free trade were allowed by law between this country and India, with restrictions that traders should go only to the presidencies, and enter the country with the licences of the Company, is it your opinion that the government would have great difficulties in refusing licences upon application from such persons?—I think that considerable odium would attach to the government; and I think that probably the obloquy of causing the defalcation of a speculation might be endeavoured to be attached to the power that prevented its being carried to its wished-for consummation.

Do you think that it is probable such traders, not finding a sale for their commodities at the presidencies, would continually apply to the government to go up the country, and to sell their commodities there?—I think it is very difficult to assign any limit to the importunity of cupidity where there is an object, and gain is a strong stimulus. I think it would be very difficult to resist the importunity of people in that situation, where there was a power to grant it.

Are you of opinion that the law, as it at present stands, would be sufficient to enable the governor of India to prevent such persons from going up the country without licences, if their number was greatly increased?—I am not exactly acquainted with their power.

As the law stood when you were in India?—I am not exactly acquainted with the precise clause that precluded the permission of English itinerants. I know very well that there was a preclusion, but as to the precise terms of the clause I do not recollect it; as to the power, I think I have answered it in a previous answer.

Could the government exert that power?—By a proper use of the military force, there is no doubt they could enforce obedience to their orders, because

Sir C. W. Malet,
Bart.

Sir C. W. Malet, Bart. because they have always a strong military force at the presidencies on the spot.

From your observation of the natives of Hindostan, do you think they have either any want, or any desire, for European commodities in that country?—Less, perhaps, than in almost any other part of the world; but there is a considerable latitude may be taken in answering that question; that is to say, at our own presidencies some of the natives have in a certain degree given way to the introduction of many articles never thought of in the interior at Bombay. There is a tribe of people, the Parsees, who came to India, on the first promulgation of Mahometanism, from Persia; they seem to adopt more our luxuries than any of the others, and many of them are of considerable wealth, and can enter into any of those little gratifications, and do do it; as for instance, they drink wine, and enter pretty freely into convivial pleasures; they have their entertainments, and I believe frequently entertain European gentlemen.

Have the mass of the Hindoo population in India the means, if they have the desire, of purchasing European commodities or manufactures; by the mass of the Hindoo population I mean the cultivators of the land?—They certainly do not desire them, it seems a thing quite foreign to their state of society; and if they had the inclination they certainly have not the means; but all their little articles of dress are of a peculiar form and make, and quite out of the idea of any thing we have: nothing we make in this country is applicable to certain parts of their dress.

Does it appear to you that the more opulent Hindoos, who have intercourse with Europeans, have much taste for European articles, or use them much?—In the whole course of my journey from Surat to Delhi, which is through the root of the peninsula, and visiting the principal zemindars and rajahs in my route, I recollect very little of European articles, or European manufactures; I may have seen here and there some glass ware and some specimens of our arms, they are fond of them; but I do not remember seeing a carriage. Broad-cloth you will see, which is used in their saddlery, for their shoes, and here and there you will see it used as a cloak, with a hood to throw over their heads; but all the common people have a thing of their own called a comely, made of wool. I scarcely remember an article of English manufacture, except those I have mentioned, and those are very rare indeed. I carried some articles of European fabric to the Mogul and to Scindia, mostly of cut glass.

If any of the more opulent natives of Hindostan wish for European articles,

articles, have they at present abundance of means of procuring them?—*Sir C. W. Malet, Bart.* Most undoubtedly, through our presidencies; our different presidencies are emporiums, having regular native agents or delolls, and all India has a communication with them. There is scarcely a man of eminence but what has a correspondence with the presidencies through the bankers of India.

According to your observation, was the supply of European articles in India, during the time you were there, fully adequate to the demand for them among the natives of the country?—I believe always, except fire-arms. They would have been very happy to have got a great many more than they did, but I believe they got too many, indeed I am sure they did.

As to all other articles of European manufacture, did the supply in the market appear to be fully equal to the demand?—I believe abundantly so.

If a free trade were opened between this country and India, is it your opinion that the present power which is vested in the local governments, to remove persons engaging in such trade and misconducting themselves in the country, must be continued for the peace of the natives and security of the government?—I humbly conceive that the necessity of it would be increased by the influx of a greater number of those people who originated the necessity of giving the order at all.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Under the impression of the mischief that might arise from improper persons going into the interior, do you conceive that a government, disposed to discharge its duty, would make no distinction with respect to applications for that purpose?—A government I must always suppose to be the seat of discretion, and in its discretionary wisdom I must conceive it would make allowances for different people, and use its discretion in granting or withholding it.

Is it your opinion that a great number of persons would, by permission or otherwise, get into the interior of the country?—I know very well that it is constantly the study, and that many, with the utmost care to prevent, do get in; and when there is a greater influx of Europeans, by the mode to which I presume you allude (the throwing open the trade), there certainly would be a much greater probability of their getting in.

Sir C.W. Malet,
Bart.

If an intercourse should be allowed with three or four thousand miles of coast, and to the islands in the Indian seas, having innumerable ports and creeks where vessels might enter, will it be possible to restrain or check the disorders and irregularities likely to arise in such an intercourse?—I presume that it would be utterly impossible to check them in the first instance, and that the consequence might be hostility with the different parts of the coast, if we chose to take up the cause of those persons.

Will it be possible for the natives to obtain redress for the violences and oppressions that they may suffer from the British traders unless by going to Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay?—They certainly could have no redress without appealing to the ruling power of whatever part of the coast it might happen, wherever the offence took place; in the limits of Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, they must appeal to the government of the presidency.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from eluding the restrictions and limitations, and to trade and go where it might best suit their purposes?—I believe that is answered in the preceding answers, that there would be an increased difficulty in preventing, eluding, them.

Is it your opinion that the East-India Company has usually sent to India as much of our woollen and other manufactures as there was a demand for?—I have always understood that there has been a greater quantity sent out by the Company, in consequence of their desire to increase the manufactures of the country; that they have taken out more than they have really had occasion for, and more than there was a profitable vent for.

Does not the certainty and regularity of payment, and the confidence there is in the East-India Company, give that Company great advantages in all commercial transactions, and in their investments?—The capital and the credit of the Company are I believe indisputable, and stand upon the highest possible ground; but I have never been engaged in any commercial line in the Company's service, my general attention to commerce has been with a political view; therefore I cannot speak more decidedly to that point.

Are the people of India, considering their few wants, their manner of living and habits, likely to consume more of our manufactures than they have hitherto done?—With respect to my general ideas of the commerce of

Sir C.W. Malet,
Bart.

of India, and the genius of the Marhatta government respecting any idea of increase of commerce, I will read you what I communicated to my Lord Cornwallis in the year 1786, and I think the common course of cause and effect has been produced; I do not think there is any probability of increase.

Are the Malays or the natives of the Philippine or other islands in those seas likely to use any considerable quantity of our manufactures?—I am quite ignorant of the customs and manners of the Malays.

Are the people of India liable to change their customs and habits?—I suppose that they are least liable and least disposed to change in their manners of any people in the world. I suppose their present customs must have been from the earliest stage of civilization; the figures upon their excavations have the same dress as at this day.

Has not the East-India Company better means of introducing our manufactures into India than private traders?—Their establishments of servants, their establishments of correspondence, every thing that is connected with the East-India Company, certainly gives them a much greater advantage than any private trader can possess.

Are not the warehouses in our principal establishments in India frequently overstocked with British manufactures, and the markets so glutted as to be often sold greatly below their value?—I think I have already answered that question.

Might not the taking away great commercial advantages now enjoyed by the East-India Company ultimately greatly injure the British interests in India?—In as far as it might have a tendency to undermine the commercial intercourse between the two countries, it might certainly injure the interests of the natives.

Is it your opinion that there is an opening for the employment of a larger capital in the Indian trade than is at present employed in it?—That is a subject that has never come much under my consideration. I believe I had the honour to observe before, that my attention to the commercial concerns of the Company has been in a political light, and not in detail at all.

Is it your opinion, that if ships were allowed to trade in the Indian seas, it would be possible to confine them to particular parts?—I conceive

Sir C. W. Malet, Bart. ceive it to be impossible otherwise than by command and restriction, and then the motions of men when they are at sea are like a bird in the air, it is impossible to controul their going where they please.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then EWAN LAW, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

Ewan Law, Esq.

(*By Counsel.*) You have been in the civil service of the East India Company?—Yes.

On the Bengal establishment?—Yes.

In what parts of India have you been principally stationed?—I resided almost the whole time I was in India at Patna, in the province of Bahar.

How long have you been returned from India?—Thirty-two years.

In what department of the service were you engaged?—In the revenue and government department entirely.

Let it be supposed that an open trade were established between this country and India, and that the Indian coasts, generally speaking, were laid open to the access of British subjects; and let it be supposed further, that the law interdicted such persons from penetrating into the interior of the country, is it your opinion such interdiction would prove effectual?—I conceive not.

Will you state for what reason you conceive that the interdiction would prove ineffectual?—The coasts subject to British government are so extensive, I think it would be almost impossible in any way to prevent, supposing the British subjects to visit different parts of the coasts, and if so inclined, to prevent their having access to the interior; that there would be no direct and physical means of preventing them; it would be impossible so to guard the coast as to prevent it.

Do you apprehend that from such a resort of British subjects into the interior of the country, any consequences might arise inauspicious, either to the welfare of the natives or to the stability of the British government?—I suppose that by the unlimited power of mariners and others passing along

along the coast to land where they pleased, that the inhabitants of those coasts will be subjected to innumerable vexations and excesses, for which they could never obtain any redress; and should they be disposed to enter into the interior of the country, either for the purpose of taking a station there, or to go to the dominions of the native powers, there would be no sufficient or immediate means of preventing them.

From your knowledge of the soil, climate, produce, manners, and usages of India, do you apprehend that the consumption of European commodities is ever likely to be very considerably extended among the native population of that country?—I think it is wholly improbable.

(*By a Lord.*) If an intercourse should be allowed with three or four thousand miles of coast, and to the Islands in the Indian seas, having innumerable ports and creeks where vessels might enter, will it be possible to restrain or check the disorders and irregularities likely to arise in such an intercourse?—I conceive not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then STANLEY CLARKE, Esq. 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, and in what capacity?—Twenty-five years in the Company's service. *Stanley Clarke, Esq.*

In what service of the Company?—In the sea service.

How long have you been a commander of an East India Company's ship?—Fifteen years.

During the course of that service, have you had opportunities of being well acquainted with the Indian trade?—Generally, certainly.

Have not the captains and commanders in the East India Company's service the privilege of carrying out investments themselves from this country?—They have.

Are they in the habit of carrying out investments of English goods and manufactures?—Yes, a general assortment. *Can*

Ewan Law, Esq.

Stanley Clarke,
Esq.

Can you state from your experience in that trade, whether such investments have generally found ready sale, or a heavy one?—That very much depends upon the state of the market at the time. I do not think that much beneficial result is to be expected from an investment out to India, it is more dependant upon the subsequent operations.

In the last answer you have stated, that the success of the East India captains, as to the outward investments, depends upon the state of the market; will you state whether generally the market has been overstocked or understocked with respect to those commodities?—In the course of my own experience I have seldom found the market otherwise than so far fully stocked, that I have derived nothing more than very moderate advantage from my outward voyage to India; my three last voyages were to Bombay, where on the two former my adventure was chiefly in specie, from the apprehension that too large an adventure in goods would not find a market there.

In your experience of the Indian trade, have you found that any, and if any, what new articles have been called for by the demands of the natives there?—I do not recollect any articles that can be called new articles of immediate British produce, that have been called for, unless it has been, in a very small degree, some Manchester goods, but to a very little account could I find vent for them, and they were chiefly taken off by Europeans.

In the event of a free trade being allowed between this country and India, are you of opinion that there would be any increased demand for British commodities and manufactures?—I should think to a very little extent, from the general glut of the markets. I have at this time a letter from a captain of one of the ships that went to Madras in the last season, wherein he speaks of his great apprehensions that he shall sustain a loss upon his investment, owing to a general glut of European articles in the Madras market.

Do you think, from your knowledge of that trade, and from the state of the markets during the time you have been in the East India Company's service, that the capital of the India Company, together with the capital of the free merchants and traders to India, is equal to carry on that trade to its full amount; the whole of the trade, export and import?—Yes, I do; or nearly so.

Are you acquainted with the eastern islands, and the trade to them?—
I have

I have gone in the course of my voyages to the eastward. I have been to Amboyna and Bally Town, and to some of the eastern streights, but I did not find any facility of disposing of any European articles.

Stanley Clarke,
Esq.

Are any, and if any, what European articles in demand among the natives of the eastern islands?—I really do not recollect any European articles, unless it were a very small quantity of cutlery, given in exchange for poultry and such minor description of provisions for the supply of the ships.

Do you think that British woollens could be disposed of to any great extent among those islands?—I am not aware that they could.

If a free trade were opened between this country and the eastern islands, do you think it would be possible to prevent the smuggling of tea from China, through the medium of ships going among the eastern islands?—I apprehend it certainly would be practicable to carry teas to the eastern islands from China.

In what manner do you think it probable that would be done?—It might be done by the means of Chinese junks, if it were found sufficiently an object to enter upon such an operation.

Is not the very high duty upon tea a very strong temptation to attempt the smuggling of it, both from China and into this country?—Certainly.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Do you believe that teas are now smuggled into this country to any extent?—I should think a very inconsiderable extent.

By whom are the teas sold at Canton?—They are sold by an exclusive class of merchants designated the Hong Merchants.

Is the Committee to understand that the monopoly of the sale of teas is in the hands of the Hong Merchants?—Certainly; under the immediate authority of government they have the exclusive disposal of teas and every description of produce to European traders, for which they are held responsible, as also for the good conduct of those that they immediately deal with.

You

Stanley Clarke,
Esq.

You have said that teas may come from China in junks; is it customary for the coasting ships from Bengal and Bombay to bring teas from China?—For the supply of India.

Are teas carried from China to India in any great extent?—I apprehend principally for the consumption of the European residents in India.

In case of teas being smuggled, in the way you have stated, by junks from China, do you apprehend it would come from the Hong merchants, or from other persons in China?—I do not understand its coming properly under the description of smuggling, that is to say, how far it might be viewed as smuggling from China. There are many outside traders, who sell tea and other articles to a large amount to our officers, for which they pay the Hong merchant for his signature or chop.

Is the monopoly of tea in the hands of the Hong merchants, or not?—I think it is officially understood to be so, though not always so carried into effect.

Would not the Hong merchants prefer selling their teas to the Company's ships in preference to any accidental adventurers?—I think the Hong merchants are very ready to deal with whoever they consider safe to deal with, that will give them the best price.

Is it your opinion, that if the out ports of the United Kingdom were permitted to send ships to the ports of India and the islands, they would be able to dispose of more of our manufactures than are now usually sent there?—So far as my own judgment goes, I should think to a very small degree.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from eluding restrictions and limitations, and to trade and go where it might best suit their purposes?—I should suppose immediately at the ports of the presidencies, that the Company's authority might have the effect of restriction and of limitation; as to the facility of their going up the country, I cannot say how far that might be attended with difficulty.

If an intercourse with licences should be allowed to the ports of India, or even limited to the Presidencies, would it not be difficult to prevent the traders from going where it might best suit their purpose?—I certainly think it would.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then

Then MARTIN LINDSAY, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) I believe you are now a commander of an Indiaman in the service of the East-India Company?—Not now; I have been. *Martin Lindsay,*
Esq.

Have you been any time in the marine service of the Company as a commander?—I have been in the service as an officer and commander from the year 1783 to the year 1795-6.

It is already in evidence that the commander of the Company's vessels in the service of the Company are allowed to trade on their own account, free of freight; I wish to know whether you were in the habit of availing yourself of that privilege?—I was, undoubtedly.

From your experience in that species of commerce can you state what degree of encouragement the markets of India furnish to the exportation of European commodities?—When first in the service, the profits arising from the opportunity which, as an officer and a captain, I had, was tolerable; but since the facility that has been given to the private merchants to carry out goods, the profits arising from the captain's investments has considerably failed.

From your personal experience is it your apprehension that the markets of that country are fully stocked with European produce?—I should imagine it was.

Do you apprehend that a sufficient capital is now embarked in the exportation of European articles to India to supply the market?—I should imagine there was as much capital as could be employed to advantage.

Have you ever made voyages to China?—I have made three voyages to China.

Are you acquainted with the islands of the eastern Archipelago?—The last voyage I went in the Cirencester, I went the Eastern passage; and the course was among the eastern islands.

On the supposition that the export and import trade of India were generally laid open to the ports of the United Kingdom, the China trade being

Martin Lindsay, Esq. being left under the restrictions now imposed on it, is it your opinion that an illicit importation of tea into this country would be likely to take place in a considerable degree?—It certainly would give an opportunity, in the event of a peace with America, that there might be a communication, by American ships, to ships from the outports meeting them in the eastern islands, and there receiving their teas, and through the medium of America, getting to this country; and also by meeting the China junks; though that probably might be more difficult, by not so easily arranging the matters with the China merchants.

Do China junks often sail from the port of Canton to the Eastern Islands?—They frequently come to Batavia; I believe they do not go to what are properly called the Eastern Islands; they do not go far to the eastward so frequently.

Do you apprehend that they might convey teas to the port of Batavia, and there meet the vessels of private British traders?—Undoubtedly they could to Batavia; I have frequently come down with them.

You have stated, that American vessels might be employed as intermediates in the illicit traffic of which you have spoken; do you not conceive it possible that Portuguese ships might be employed in the same manner?—I apprehend they might.

In your apprehension, would not the high duties at present imposed on tea operate as a bounty on such contraband traffic?—I should consider that it would.

Are you acquainted with the character of the population of the Eastern Islands?—During the last voyage I had an opportunity of seeing several of the islands, and found the population considerable.

Are they civilized, or savage and ferocious people?—There are very different descriptions of people; those of Celebes and Borneo are warlike and treacherous; in some of the smaller islands I find them very peaceable and quiet.

Are there not a great number of creeks and bays in the island of Celebes accessible to vessels of size?—I believe there are.

Do you conceive that the ferocity of the people of some of the islands in question would operate as any material impediment to that species of contraband

contraband trade through the medium of the Eastern Islands, of which you have before spoken?—It would certainly render it less convenient, undoubtedly. *Martin Lindsay, Esq.*

Will it operate as an absolute impediment?—Not as an absolute impediment; but it would be attended with considerable increased difficulty.

Are you acquainted with the detail of the commerce in tea, as it takes place in Canton, between the Chinese merchants and traders wishing to export the article?—I am afraid I cannot answer that, except merely by the general belief I have heard in Canton. They are brought by the Company the season previous; and there is a great quantity more tea brought down, which the merchants bring down in hopes of selling to American or any other country ships.

Is the sale of the teas brought down to Canton for exportation exclusively in the hands of a company of merchants, or is it distributed amongst individuals?—Amongst individuals.

Do you conceive that any restrictions at present imposed by the Chinese government on the sale of teas for exportation, would prevent that illicit trade in tea which you have before described as probable?—I apprehend the government of China would not prevent it going from the port of Canton; the only difficulty would arise in settling the business with the merchants. I allude to the business of the junks carrying it down to the Eastern Islands.

Do you think it probable that tea would be conveyed to the bays and coast of the Eastern Islands, for the purpose of illicit importation into Europe, by country vessels from India?—I should imagine, if they were certain of meeting with those European vessels, they would have no objections to bring teas down, receiving freight for the same.

Is it your opinion, that in the event of an open trade with India, vessels resorting from this country to the Indian ports, on commercial speculations, would generally meet with disappointment?—I certainly think they would.

Is it probable, in your apprehension, that the people of the Eastern Islands will ever furnish a considerable demand for European manufactures?—The produce of any of the Eastern Islands at which I have been,

Martin Lindsay,
Esq. been, certainly do not produce any articles that I think could be useful or manufactured in this country, with the exception of a little tortoise shell, or mother-of-pearl, oyster shells and tea.

Is it probable, in your apprehension, that the people of the eastern islands will ever furnish a considerable demand for European manufactures?—In the last voyage which I made, knowing that it was to be late in the season, and that I must go to the eastward, I took out two or three articles which might be useful, and sell to profit, in the eastward. I took out a considerable quantity of check handkerchiefs, made at Glasgow; but when I offered them to the natives, they knew the difference between those of the same kind of manufacture made in India, and I was obliged to bring the greater part back again.

Do you apprehend the taste they discovered on this occasion for European commodities, is a fair sample of their general taste for such commodities?—I found their wish for European articles confined to very few articles, perhaps fire arms would have been one, they would have taken them and our ammunition if I had had them.

(Examined by the Committee.)

You have stated, that in the event of an open trade, you think that vessels resorting from this country to India on commercial speculations, would generally meet with disappointment, what do you conceive those commercial speculations would be?—I should conceive, as a general merchant, he would probably try staples, and all the various articles used by Europeans, such as I myself took out when a trader and commander.

Do you happen to know whether the Hong merchants are not considered as having the monopoly of the sale of teas?—I have conceived so certainly.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then LESTOCK WILSON, Esquire, is again called in; and examined as follows:

Lestock Wilson,
Esq. *(By Counsel.)* In your former examination you stated that you made several voyages to China, and was acquainted with the eastern islands.
On

On the supposition that an open trade was established between the ports of the United Kingdom and the East Indies, and China being left under the restrictions by which it is now controuled, is it your opinion that illicit importations of tea would take place into this country?—I have no doubt that they would, in a degree. *Lestock Wilson,*
Esq.

In what manner do you conceive that such an importation would be effected?—I have no doubt but that private ships would obtain tea easily in India, and of course they would smuggle it if they could; we are all aware that a smuggler is restrained by no law, or cannot well be restrained.

On a supposition that private vessels were by law interdicted from China, through what channels do you conceive they would procure a shipment of teas?—The Malay islands in particular, Manilla certainly, if they went there; in short, the opportunities of their getting tea are innumerable, and the very worst kinds of tea too.

In the event of a peace with the Continental powers, do you apprehend that the illicit importation of which you have spoken would be in any considerable degree increased?—While the duty continued so high as to make it worth the smuggler's while, there is no question about it; it would, I apprehend, become then as it was before the commutation act.

In your former examination you described the character of the Malays somewhat fierce?—They will rob you of property. If you go on shore with a pair of silver buckles in your shoes, they will take them from you; if a man goes ashore with property about him he will be murdered by them; and they will certainly cut your ship off if they can, there is nothing but the greatest caution can prevent it.

You stated in a former answer, that it would be likely for British traders to procure illicit shipments of tea amongst the eastern islands; do you conceive that the predatory and ferocious habits of the natives of those islands would operate as an impediment to the illicit trade in question?—I should not suppose it would at all; ships would go there armed, and they would not think it worth while to rob you of tea; the China Junks are in the habit of trading direct from China to the different islands, and of course they bring their tea.

Can you state whether Chinese junks are not in the frequent habits of resorting to the ports of Batavia from Canton?—They used to be formerly, I have seen several there. I must observe, that Manilla is a much more

Lestock Wilson,
Esq. more facile place for the conveyance of tea than any other, because they can go in both monsoons from China and back again; but as to Batavia, they can only go in six months, and return the next.

Do you know whether there is not a regular export of tea from Canton to the ports of Batavia?—I should apprehend not in a considerable degree; the Dutch of course, when they used the trade, had their own ships to carry it from Canton to Batavia.

Are there not some Chinese colonies settled on some parts of the coast of Batavia?—There are a considerable number of Chinese at Java and Batavia; they are, I believe, the principal cultivators of Java, both in sugar and coffee; they are laborious, and I believe the Malays are naturally indolent.

Are those persons not supplied with tea from the ports of China?—Probably they are.

You are not able to speak definitively on that subject?—No, I am not.

Are you acquainted with the detail of the commerce in tea between the Hong merchants at Canton and traders exporting the article?—In some degree I am, having bought it for my own purposes as a commander.

I wish to know whether the sale of tea is a monopoly in the hands of the Hong merchants, or not?—I apprehend not; you may buy tea from one of the outside men, as they are called; it is very well known that the Chinese authorize a certain number of merchants, who are particularly licensed to trade with Europeans, and that a stranger is more secure in dealing with a Hong merchant, because his debts are guaranteed by the government, than if he deals indiscriminately with people not of that Hong; for instance, the Chinese government have, on the failure of one of those, adopted the principle of paying off his debts; others give you a sort of promise, that is, they tell you, if you contract a debt with an outside man, you must not look to government for the payment of that debt; at least, that is my understanding of the matter.

Is the Committee to understand, that the monopoly enjoyed by the Hong merchants, is generally a monopoly of the trade with Europeans?—I do not think they have a monopoly, because you are not prohibited from dealing with any merchant that you please; there may be some regulations

regulations which we do not know of, by which a man, not a Hong, must trade under the authority of one of the Hong; but that, I am sure, I cannot speak to. Lestock Wilson,
Esq.

Do you conceive that any restrictions imposed by the Chinese government on the exportation of tea, would operate as an impediment to the shipment of teas for those irregular purposes you have described?—I do not apprehend there are any restrictions on the exportation of tea by the Chinese government; they are glad you should export as much as possible. I believe it pays a large duty to government upon exportation, and they wish as much of it should go out of the kingdom as possible.

Can you state what is the quality of the tea sold by the Hong merchants to the Company, comparatively with that of the teas sold by the outside men?—It is a very dangerous thing dealing with an outside man in general. There are some very honest men, but you sometimes get imposed upon; they sell you stuff that is good for nothing; and for security, I should never choose to deal with any other than a Hong merchant; with respect to dealing in the great and large concerns, it would be impossible to deal with any thing else with safety but a Hong merchant.

Are not the teas purchased by the Company at Canton, generally speaking, the best which the market supplies?—I apprehend they are, that is, they suit their investment as they judge the market here requires; they buy teas of various prices, generally the best of its kind, but there are several denominations of tea.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then Sir GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON, Baronet, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) I believe you are a supercargo in the service of the East-India Company?—Yes. Sir George T. Staunton, Bart.

How long have you been in the service of the East-India Company?—Fifteen years.

I believe you accompanied Lord Macartney's embassy to Pekin?—Yes.

Do

*Sir George T.
Staunton, Bart.*

Do you understand the Chinese language?—Yes.

Have you had an opportunity, from understanding the language, and having considerable commerce with that people, of becoming better acquainted than most Europeans are with their character and habits?—I should think that a knowledge of the languages may possibly give me some advantage over other Europeans in those respects.

Are you also well acquainted with the commerce of China?—Not more than other gentlemen residing there; but I conceive myself to have a competent knowledge of the commerce of China.

Can you state from your knowledge of the Chinese, whether or not they are extremely jealous and suspicious of strangers?—I should consider that they are extremely jealous and suspicious of strangers.

Can you state to the Committee any principle of government or subordination which is entertained generally by the Chinese, that renders them peculiarly averse to casual and unconnected trading adventurers?—I should conceive that the principle of responsibility, which is exacted from all persons under that government, would render them extremely averse to a trade carried on without an efficient controul.

Will you state to the Committee to what extent that principle of responsibility acts under the government of China?—In every situation under that government, both of a public and of a private nature, the master of a family is responsible for the inmates of that family, the father for his children, the magistrate for the inhabitants of his district.

In consequence of that principle, does it not appear to you that the Chinese would consider casual and unconnected trading adventurers as in a complete state of disorder and anarchy?—They would judge of them, I should imagine, according to their conduct.

Judging by the conduct of casual and unconnected traders, can you state what regulations have been enacted in China, in former times, to restrain such adventurers?—The trade at Canton is limited to a certain number of persons, who are called Hong merchants, and who are required to be responsible for all foreigners who frequent that port; and they are limited, one to a particular district in that country.

Are

Are they not also prohibited from residence?—They are only allowed to reside while ships are in the port.

*Sir George T.
Staunton, Bart.*

Were not also the ships disarmed upon their arrival?—I understand that that was the practice, but not so within my memory.

Were they not prohibited from any general intercourse with the natives?—They were.

In the actual state of things, have not those severe laws been modified in practice, and in what manner?—They have been certainly modified considerably in practice, so as to render them less oppressive and less burdensome to strangers.

I believe now the ships are not disarmed?—They are not.

And more intercourse is allowed than formerly?—A greater intercourse is tolerated.

Have not actual advances been made at Canton to a direct and confidential intercourse with the servants of the East India Company?—There have been such advances in a late instance.

Is it your opinion that the general causes of the suspicion and jealousy of the Chinese, with respect to strangers, have been diminished or decreased?—As far as concerns their character I conceive it is diminished, as far as concerns their power I conceive it to be increased.

In your opinion, does that jealousy and suspicion of the Chinese people which you have stated, expose our commerce with China to considerable danger?—It is certainly extremely precarious.

Can you state any instances of the actual exclusion of any nation, generally, from the ports of China, or from particular ports of China, at this time?—I understand that the ships of Russia are excluded from all the ports of China, and the English nation is certainly excluded from the port of Chusan, where it was formerly admitted.

Can you state whether such exclusions have taken place in consequence of slight or great provocations?—I am not acquainted with the causes of the English being excluded from the port of Chusan, but I have understood that there was no adequate provocation.

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Do

Sir George T. Staunton, Bart. Do you know the cause of the exclusion of the Russians from the Chinese ports, generally?—I understood it was in consequence of their already enjoying the privilege of trading by land with China.

Do you think the Chinese consider their trade with us as of any great consequence to the prosperity of their country, generally?—They do not profess to consider it so.

In your opinion what have been the causes that have so much ameliorated the condition of the traders to China?—The regulations and general system under which that trade has been carried on, and the superior opinion the Chinese entertain of the character of foreigners on being better acquainted with them.

Do you think that the conduct of the East-India Company's servants has been one of the principal causes, if not the principal cause, of such general amelioration in the condition of traders to China?—I think the conduct of the Company's servants, and the system under which they have acted, is the principal, or one of the principal causes.

Does it fall within your knowledge that the measures and conduct of the Company's servants at Canton have gained them the respect, and esteem, and confidence of the Chinese?—I should think it has in a great measure, comparatively speaking, with their opinion of foreigners, generally.

Has not the unimpeachable good faith of the Company's servants contributed greatly to that effect?—I should certainly think so.

Have not the beneficial effects of the Company's high character in China extended not only to their own officers and licensed British traders, but also to other foreigners, and particularly to the Americans?—I am of opinion that it has.

Will you state in what manner you think that has been effected?—Because (among other reasons) it has induced the Chinese to allow a considerable relaxation in the restrictions upon the trade generally.

Are you of opinion that, at this time, the character of the Americans stands equally high in China, with respect to honour and probity, with that of the Company?—Certainly not.

Are

Are you of opinion that the power of the Company contributes, as well as their honour and probity, to the high respect entertained for them by the Chinese?—I should think that the power and influence of the Company have contributed to the respect that is paid them by the Chinese. *Sir George T. Staunton, Bart.*

Are you of opinion that the Chinese trade is capable of great improvement and extension upon the present system?—I should think that it is capable of a gradual improvement upon the present system, and that to an unlimited extent.

If we were to break the present system, and to admit the experienced and the inexperienced, the honest and the dishonest, into a participation in the China trade, what, in your opinion, would be the probable consequence?—I should think it probable that disputes would arise, and that additional restrictions would be laid upon the trade; that it would in consequence be carried on less advantageously than it is at present, and that it would be possibly suspended, and might soon cease altogether.

If it did not cease altogether, is it your opinion that under such circumstances it would probably decline instead of improve?—I am of opinion it would.

Will you state what would be the condition of British subjects in China without the Company's authority to protect them?—They would be liable in many cases to oppression, and to vexatious embarrassments in the conduct of their trade in a much greater degree than they are at present.

Is it your opinion, that if a King's consul were established at Canton, he would exercise the same power in protecting British subjects that is at present exercised by the Company?—I am not acquainted with the precise powers granted to King's consuls; but, from the opinion I have of those powers, I should certainly conceive they would be insufficient for the purposes required.

Whatever powers were granted to such a consul, are you of opinion that they would be equal to those exercised at present by the servants of the Company, in protecting British subjects from the oppressions and vexations of the Chinese?—I am not aware that any powers could be granted to a consul that would be equally effectual with the powers already in the possession of the servants of the Company.

Sir George T. Staunton, Bart. Is it your opinion, that it is of the utmost importance, if not of absolute necessity, to the preservation and improvement of the China trade, that it should be continued substantially on the present system, inasmuch as regards the present powers and privileges of the Company?—That is my opinion.

In your opinion, are there not many commercial causes, as well as political ones, that render the opening of the Chinese trade inexpedient?—I think there are several causes of that nature, which operate under the peculiar circumstances of the British trade to China.

Do you think that the Americans, and other foreign traders to China, have been able, in any degree, to enter into competition with the Company in the Chinese market?—It is my opinion that the Company have generally obtained a refusal of the principal articles of China produce, but that the Americans and other foreigners have certainly in some degree entered into competition with them.

Do you mean in the inferior articles?—Chiefly in the inferior articles.

Is it your opinion, that the uniform price of tea is one of the consequences of the present system of carrying on the China trade?—That is my opinion.

Will you state how you think the uniform price of tea is produced by the present system?—In consequence of the East-India Company bidding singly in the market, I should conceive that the prices of tea are retained at a much lower rate than they would if a general trade were allowed.

Are you of opinion, that one of the probable consequences of opening the trade with China would be a rise in the price of tea at Canton?—I think it is highly probable.

Are you of opinion that the Company's trade to China has been of equal or greater proportionate advantage than that of the American or other foreigners?—I am not competent to speak of the profits of individuals; but I should apprehend that the stability and credit of the Company, and the manner in which their trade is conducted, must give them great advantages over other foreigners.

In your opinion, have the advantages that have been derived to this country from the sale of British manufactures and productions in China been

been entirely owing to the present system of carrying on that trade?—*I Sir George T. Staunton, Bart.* should think they are so in a great measure.

Will you state, if you are able so to do, the amount of that sale at present, and in what articles?—I believe in value about a million sterling, chiefly in woollens and metals.

Can you state what you conceive would have been the difficulties of producing such a sale under the system of a free trade?—The prejudices of the Chinese against new articles make it necessary frequently to sell them in the first instance at a loss, and continue to do so until those prejudices are removed.

In the instance now stated, did the East-India Company sell British manufactures for a considerable time at a loss, in order to remove such prejudices of the Chinese?—It appears by the accounts of the East-India Company that they have done so; and I have every reason to believe that they have exported British manufactures at a loss, in the manner so stated.

Have the East-India Company taken any other steps, by means of contracts with the Hong merchants, to force the sale of British manufactures in China?—They annually contract with the Chinese merchants for the disposal of the British manufactures, in return for the teas which they purchase from them.

Do you know whether a taste for British manufactures is now so fully established in China, that the Company trade in them with a profit in respect to themselves as well as to the nation?—They do so, I apprehend, in regard to some articles.

Some articles, you mean, which were originally sold at a loss?—Which were originally sold at a loss, to the best of my knowledge.

Do you mean to include among those articles British woollens?—I mean, chiefly, some particular species of British woollens.

Can you state what the American and other foreign traders export to China?—I can speak to some articles, such as the root called Ginseng, and furs of various kinds; these are the chief articles I recollect at present.

Do

Sir George T. Staunton, Bart. Do not they principally carry out bullion to China?—They have carried out bullion to a great extent.

Have they been enabled to import any European manufactures into China?—I do not recollect that they have; or if they have, certainly to no considerable extent.

In your opinion, is not the great attention paid by the Company to the quality of woollen goods they have exported to China, been one great cause of their success there?—That attention has certainly contributed very materially to the success of the woollen trade in China.

Is not the Company's mark admitted in all parts of China as a satisfactory proof of the quantity and quality of the goods that are so marked?—I have always understood so.

Can you state to the Committee what, or whereabouts, is the annual consumption of tea in this country?—I believe four and twenty or five and twenty millions of pounds weight; and I speak of the average importation from China rather than the consumption in England.

What do you imagine would be the consequence of any great reduction of the quantity, or deterioration of the quality of the teas that are annually imported into this country?—It would no doubt be a considerable inconvenience, as it would amount to a privation of an article in daily use.

What do you think would be the consequence to the Company and to the revenue?—The East-India Company would lose their profit in proportion to the diminution of the importation, and the government would lose the revenue at present raised on that importation.

Do you know whether there is any peculiar nicety required in adjusting the supply of tea to this country to the demand?—The East-India Company's servants do employ great pains and labour in adjusting the supply to the consumption, both in respect to the aggregate and in respect to the different species of tea of which that aggregate consists.

Are you speaking of what is done at Canton?—Yes, of what is done at Canton.

Is not tea an article that requires the nicest care and examination to prevent adulteration?—It does; more than any other article that I know of.

Do

Do you know what becomes of any damaged tea which may be in the possession of the Company?—I have understood it is destroyed; that it is sent down to the mouth of the river Thames in barges, and thrown into the sea; and that the officers of His Majesty's revenue attend on those occasions to see that it is so destroyed. *Sir George T. Staunton, Bart.*

Do you mean that the Company so destroy teas which, if they chose, they might sell?—I have understood that those teas so destroyed might be sold, that is, they would find a sale in London.

If the Company find they have tea of a bad quality, do you know what becomes of it?—I have known many instances in which such teas have been sent back to China, and returned upon the hands of the merchant from whom they were purchased.

Will the merchant take back such tea, and allow the price of it to the Company?—The Chinese merchants have done so in several instances.

Do you think the China merchants would do so to private traders?—I should imagine not; I know of no instance in which they have done so.

Are there not certain kinds of tea the growth and manufacture of which the Company encourage, for the purpose of the general trade, which are separately unprofitable?—Not actually unprofitable, but encouraged in a larger proportion than the immediate profit arising from them would lead to.

In your opinion could it be the interest of individual traders to encourage the growth and manufacture of such teas?—Certainly not in the same degree as it is that of the East India Company.

Will you state in what way the encouragement of the growth and manufacture of such kinds of tea is important to the general tea trade?—Because it is found that a mixture of those teas with other teas, by raising the credit of the article in England, increases the consumption generally.

If a free trade were opened between this country and China, do you think it would be possible for the Company to make any calculation for suiting their tonnage to the supply of this article, or for suiting the supply to the demand?—If there was any considerable participation in the trade to China, it would be impossible for the Company to do either.

If

Sir George T. Staunton, Bart. If a free trade was open with China, do you think it would be possible to prevent, by direct or indirect channels, inferior and damaged teas from coming into the British market?—I am not aware how they could be prevented, under such circumstances, from being introduced into the British market.

If private ships, fitted out from British ports, were allowed to navigate directly to and from the Eastern Islands, is it your opinion that they would indirectly secure to themselves a participation in the tea trade?—I should think they would have it in their power to purchase teas in the different ports of the Eastern Islands.

Are not those seas and islands full of Chinese vessels and colonists?—There are Chinese vessels and colonists to be met with in almost every part of the Eastern Archipelago.

Are you of opinion that the teas, if so procured, would probably be of a very inferior quality to the teas imported by the East-India Company?—I should conceive they would probably be of an inferior quality.

Are you of opinion that it is probable, notwithstanding their inferior quality, that from having evaded either the Chinese or the English duties, or both, they would supersede in a considerable degree the use of the East-India Company's teas?—It would certainly be the interest of the English merchant to import those teas, if he could in any considerable degree evade the English and Chinese duties.

Are not you of opinion that it also would be the interest of such trader to import tea so procured into the ports of British India and other places where there was a demand for them?—Supposing the demand to be similar to what it is in Great Britain, and that the teas bore the same prices, it would certainly be the interest of the merchant to import them.

Do not the high duties upon tea hold out the strongest temptation to smuggling it in every way?—I conceive that they certainly do.

Have you any doubt that if private ships are allowed to trade freely to the East-Indies, that by them tea will be smuggled out of China and into this country?—I cannot speak positively in answer to that question; but I think it probable that teas would be obtained at the Eastern Islands, and smuggled into Great Britain.

(By a Lord.) Do you conceive that the influence of the Company, arising

arising from the exclusive management of the British trade, has not more effect upon the Chinese government than any power that could be conferred upon a consul by the Crown?—I am not aware of any power that could be granted to a consul appointed by the Crown that would be equal in effect to those powers which, directly or indirectly, exist in the Company's servants in China. Those powers which are derived from the management of the trade could not be conferred on a consul; of course his power would not be equal to the power of the Company under the present system.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Then DANIEL BEALE, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) Have you not resided at Canton for many years?—I resided there from the latter end of the year 1787, to the middle of the year 1797.

In what capacity did you reside there?—I was there as Prussian Consul, and in that situation transacted *extensive* business as a merchant, and also as a private agent.

Had you abundant opportunity of acquiring a general acquaintance with the commercial facilities and methods of the Chinese?—Most certainly.

Had you an opportunity of acquainting yourself with the detail of the commerce in tea, which takes place between the servants of the East-India Company and the Hong merchants?—I certainly had an opportunity of knowing and being acquainted with the general commerce of China, and of course of tea among the rest.

Can you generally state of what articles, or of what trade, the Hong merchants have the monopoly, if of any?—There are a certain number of Chinese, licensed by the government, which are called Co-Hong merchants, or security merchants. The East-India Company's concerns, to which I mean to speak now, are so extensive that their business is participated in by all of them, in a greater or less degree. It is usual, in consequence of the division of the trade among them, for the senior Hong merchant to become the security merchant of the first English Company's ship that arrives, the second in rank to the second, and so on in rotation;

Daniel Beale,
Esq.

rotation; so that it happens that a Hong merchant may, when the Company's ships were sixteen in number, secure two of the Company's ships. Those Hong merchants are responsible for the good conduct and behaviour of the captains, officers, and people belonging to the ships; and they are also responsible to the government for the duties of the import and export.

How far do those people possess a monopoly in trade?—I meant, with submission, to reply to the question, by shewing no import or export could take place but in the name of those licensed Co-Hong merchants.

Are those merchants in the habit of granting licenses to other merchants?—Some of the most needy of them I have known grant their faculty of exporting to what we term outside merchants. The outside merchants might sell me a chop of tea, and then he would apply to one of the Co-Hong merchants to ship off that tea in his name.

Do you mean that the Hong merchant is responsible for that outside merchant when he licenses?—I rather think not, certainly not; the purchase is made of an outside merchant; and should it turn out bad, I should have no redress against the Co-Hong merchant, but against the man that sold me that tea; and in general they are of that character, that you trade with them at a considerable degree of risk.

On the supposition that tea shipped at Canton in other British vessels than those legally sent from this country, could find a safe market in Europe, is it your opinion that the teas themselves could be procured at Canton?—Most certainly.

Is it your opinion that they could be procured at Canton in any quantity?—Most certainly.

Are there any other ports in China besides Canton, where teas could be procured under the circumstances described?—I do not believe that there are any ports other than that of Canton, to which Europe ships would be admitted in the kingdom of China; and I doubt, even if they were admitted, whether tea or any other articles for exportation for the Europe market could be found in any quantity, such as to warrant a ship going there under such an expectation.

You have spoken of the admission of European ships into other ports than Canton; on the supposition that an arrangement was made, by which British or European vessels should meet cargoes of tea brought from

Daniel Beale,
Esq.

from China, either in the eastern Archipelago, or in any ports in the eastern seas, are you of opinion that teas could be procured for this purpose from those other ports?—I have no sort of doubt that, upon an arrangement, teas might be exported from Batavia, for instance, which could be procured from other ports than Canton, and I found my opinion upon this circumstance: There are, I am told, from very good information, five China junks of considerable burthen, that now annually leave the port of Amoy, with at least 8000 Chinese that emigrate to Batavia; those junks, exclusive of the Chinese that they convey, carry also China commodities of every kind. Among other articles, tea in small boxes, not adapted for the European market in the present state of it; but no doubt, by a co-operation, tea might soon be had in all respects adapted to the European market.

In your opinion, could teas be conveyed through the same channels to Manilla, Penang, or other stations in the eastern seas?—In the present state, teas in very large quantities might be exported in the country ships trading from the Company's settlements to China, and landed at Penang, Malacca, Bombay, or wherever those ships are bound to, or at any intermediate port in the voyage.

From your knowledge respecting the export trade of Canton, can you state whether the government gain large duties on the articles exported?—Doubtless very large, almost every article exported from Canton is by weight, and a duty is levied accordingly by the pecul.

Supposing cargoes of tea could be illicitly shipped on board of British or other European traders, among the Eastern Islands in general, do you apprehend that such teas could be procured at any Chinese port, and conveyed to the stations so arranged?—By Chinese junks, undoubtedly, by an arrangement.

Do you know whether Chinese junks are not in the habit of resorting from Canton, or other Chinese ports, to other points than Batavia?—To Cochin China also.

Could teas be procured at Macao by British or other European traders?—No; the teas procured at Macao must be first exported from Canton and sent to Macao, in my opinion.

Could such teas in fact be procured at Macao for re-exportation?—In the

Daniel Beale,
Esq.

the present state of Macao, certainly not; but any quantity of teas might be procured at Canton, and shipped from Canton to Macao.

Do you mean to say, that such tea being conveyed from Canton to Macao, there are any preventives to a re-exportation of that tea in European vessels?—I meant to say, that Macao can only be proceeded to by Portuguese and Spanish ships, therefore I consider others as excluded.

Supposing there were British traders at the eastern seas prepared to ship teas for the purpose of illicitly importing them into this country, could not teas be procured at Macao, and brought out in any vessels whatsoever?—They might be brought out by Spanish or Portuguese vessels, doubtless; but by any vessels whatever, certainly not.

You are aware, that coasting vessels from India have access to the port of Canton?—Certainly.

Do you conceive that owners, or commanders, of such vessels might procure teas at Canton, with a view of exporting them to Europe?—There can be no doubt that teas might, as I before stated, be exported in any quantities on board ships; but for such a purpose as that, I do conceive a previous co-operation must take place.

Do you mean a previous co-operation between the persons immediately employed in the exportation from China and other persons, either stationed in India, or at home?—I mean only this, that no person in the state of the trade in which I knew it, were likely to export teas for the purpose you have described, as there would be no purchasers.

Supposing then any arrangements to be made by which such teas could find a purchaser, would the exportation of them in such vessels be practicable?—Doubtless there is not any thing to prevent a country ship from taking any quantity of teas on board according to the present existing regulations.

Supposing that by any arrangement, British traders could ship teas at Goa, do you conceive that there is any preventive to the exportation of teas from China to Goa?—None, because Goa would be in the way of a ship returning to Bombay, and she might deposit any cargo she had at Goa.

You have stated, generally, that on the supposition of an arrangement by

Daniel Beale,
Esq.

by which teas could be illicitly disposed of, they could, in point of fact, be procured from the coast of China?—From the ports of Canton and Amoy on Chinese junks, as there were Chinese junks trading to Batavia; and I also stated Chinese junks to Cochin China. I do not mean to say that a Chinese junk can be sent from Canton to Bombay.

I believe they never go beyond the straits of Malacca?—I believe not; and I have always understood they are not allowed by the government to trade from Canton to Batavia.

Might not an exportation of other China produce than tea take place under the same circumstances?—I have no doubt but every article the produce of China might be exported to Batavia and Cochin-China in Chinese junks; and also by country ships, under the circumstances before alluded to.

Do you conceive that the duties imposed by the British government on teas must generally act as an encouragement to the illicit importation of the article from China to this country?—No doubt, a duty of 95 per cent. is now imposed upon the sale price at the East-India Company's sales, and that must be a great encouragement, when there comes a peace to smuggling, supposing those duties remain. The French, Danes, and Swedes imported large quantities of teas from Canton, many of which were understood to be for the purpose of smuggling; and I should suppose Dunkirk would, as before, become a depot for teas.

Is it within your knowledge, that the quality of the teas purchased by the Company at Canton is, generally speaking, the best?—Every care is taken on the part of the Company to procure the best teas. They have, for that purpose, in addition to the knowledge of their resident supercargo, a tea inspector, that is, a gentleman that has been accustomed to the tea trade in this country, who is resident at Canton, in the Company's service. It is more particularly the department, I believe, of this tea inspector, to class the teas; and his inspection is a considerable check upon the Chinese to prevent fraud and adulteration in the package.

Is not the goodness of the teas purchased by the Company in a great measure secured by the implicit faith which the native merchants repose in their honour?—I conceive that the goodness of the teas is completely secured by the rigid inspection that the teas undergo.

Are not the native merchants from their confidence in the general good faith and commercial credit of the Company, careful to supply them with articles

Daniel Beale,
Esq.

articles of the best quality?—There is no doubt but there are teas of various qualities; the Company give the best prices for teas of the best qualities, and invariably have the refusal of all the teas that come to Canton, by which they have an opportunity of selecting those of the best qualities. I should say, that in addition to the good faith they repose in some of the merchants for supplying them with good teas, that they have also the knowledge of their own tea inspectors in aid of it.

Have not the credit and good faith of the Company induced the Chinese government to cultivate a commerce with this country?—The credit and the good faith of the Company, I should say, have operated in this way, that the Chinese will receive the Company's imports, and will pass them without any material inspection.

Supposing that teas were shipped from Canton, in any of the ways before described, for illicit importation into this country, is it likely that those articles would be as good in quality as the teas now imported into this country?—Most certainly not; because the Company have a check in the knowledge of their own resident supercargoes, and of their tea inspector, whom I have mentioned before.

Are not teas of the worst description easily procurable at Canton?—I have before stated, that the Company have the opportunity of selecting all the prime teas that are brought to Canton, of course what remains must be of an inferior quality.

Is there not a regular communication, by Spanish vessels, between the port of Amoy and Manilla?—I understand a Spanish ship every year goes from Manilla to Amoy.

Is there a regular communication maintained by Spanish or Portuguese vessels between Macao and Canton on the one hand, and Manilla on the other?—Spanish ships come from Manilla to Macao, and I believe also that Portuguese ships go from Manilla to Macao, and return.

Is there not a regular export of Chinese product from Macao to Manilla?—Yes.

Do teas, or silks, or nankeens form any part of that export?—I should say silks and nankeens more generally than teas.

(Examined

(Examined by the Committee.)

In an early part of your evidence you mentioned, that if you had a concern with the outside merchants, the Hong merchants would not be responsible; is the Hong merchant responsible to the Chinese government for any act done in his name by the outside merchant?—The Hong merchant is merely responsible to the Chinese government for the duty on the teas exported.

Therefore, if any tea was smuggled out by an outside merchant, under the name of a Hong merchant, the Hong merchant would be responsible?—I do not understand the question. I put it, that if I purchase teas of an outside merchant, that man must apply to the Hong merchant to ship or export those teas in his name; the Hong merchant has nothing more to do with it.

Are you acquainted with the value of the cargoes of ships filled with teas, and sent from the port of China; can you form any estimate of it?—I cannot now, without having laid before me the particulars of the contents of that cargo, and that cargo would vary according to the greater or less quantity of silks or nankeens of which it would be composed.

You have no notion of what they consider the value of the cargoes of their ships?—I have no immediate recollection, and I would not give an answer which would have any tendency to mislead. Every cargo coming from China has a regular invoice, which forms part of the Company's documents.

Supposing the confiscation of a ship of 350 tons registered admeasure-ment, with her cargo, to be the consequence of any tea being found on board, would not such a risk be greater in proportion than any prospect of advantage from such smuggling adventure?—I should say yes; the value of such a ship and cargo would be greater than any prospect of advantage.

You were understood to say, in a former part of your examination, that the whole of the concerns of the India Company at Canton were carried on under the direction and government of the supercargoes there; do you know, of your own knowledge, how those supercargoes are paid?—Yes, by commission.

What is the amount of that commission?—That I cannot state.

Daniel Beale,
Esq.

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Daniel Beale,
Esq.

Do you know, of your own knowledge, of very large fortunes indeed being usually made by the supercargoes in the regular mode of their conducting that business?—I have heard it stated; I do not know it of my own knowledge.

Can you form any belief upon the subject?—I believe that the commission of the chief supercargo at Canton amounts to the sum of 7 or £8,000 annually.

Do you not conceive then that private traders could carry on that trade without allowing so high a commission to the persons employed therein?—I must state that it would take a series of fifteen years, I believe, before a gentleman, going out as a writer in the Company's service, can arrive to the situation of chief supercargo; during which time he grows up from youth to manhood in knowledge, and in acquiring the confidence of the Chinese. I am certain that no number of merchants can carry on such an extensive trade as is carried on by the East-India Company, as the Company's concerns are now generally managed at Canton. I illustrate my position in this way: the Company's imports of tea last year were made upon 19 ships; I assume that those 19 ships were each of them the burthen of 1,200 tons. The export of tea from Canton by the Americans was 25 ships; and I assume that those 25 ships were about the burthen of 300 tons each; it shews me that four fifths of the whole tea exported from Canton was made by the East-India Company. Now, had that export of tea been made by the Americans, or by any other people carrying on trade upon the same principles as the Americans do, in ships of 300 tons, there would have been no less than 76 ships to do that which 19 effect. The cargoes of the 19 ships were purchased by one individual set of men, but had they been divided into 76, there would have been 76 supercargoes and 76 captains, and so in proportion; and from them I infer that it is done cheaper by the East-India Company.

Do you know whether the teas exported by the Americans from Canton are generally equal in quality to those exported by the East India Company?—I should say not; certainly not; the Company having an opportunity of selecting the best teas in the first instance.

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 Mercurii, 14^o 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.

Then CHARLES CARTWRIGHT, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) Are you the accountant-general to the East-India Com- C. Cartwright,
pany?—I am. Esq.

And have been so for some time?—Many years.

Will you state to the Committee what are the annual pecuniary obligations of the East-India Company?—That is a very broad question; it is almost impossible for me to answer it. If you mean to ask me what I imagine is the probable amount that the Company will require in England as a remittance from India, I will state that.

Will you state that amount?—In the first place, much will depend upon the quantum of the Company's exports. If the exports should be interfered with by the private traders, of course the Company must reduce their exports. The Company have hitherto exported to about the amount of a million nine hundred thousand pounds a-year, or some such thing; it is probable they will not now export more than a million and a half, or perhaps less than that; but whatever they export must come back; the bills of exchange drawn on them will be uncertain. The interest upon the Indian debt is remittable to England; what the annual amount of that may be I cannot state; but circumstances may arise that may require the whole, and adding to it the remittance allowed to the commanders and officers of their trading ships, the amount may be one million five hundred and eighty thousand pounds a-year. There will be the

C. Cartwright,
Esq. the pay to the military officers, here in England, two hundred thousand pounds a-year, the passage of the military to India has amounted to £150,000 a-year; for some years the political charges general in England amounted to £230,000; the pay office general, on account of recruiting, is estimated at £300,000 a-year; whether it has been quite so large a sum as that, I cannot take upon myself to say, but it is now estimated to amount to that; in future, the interest upon the Carnatic debts may amount to £136,000 a-year; it has not amounted yet to that sum, but probably, as soon as the commissioners have liquidated the whole of them, they may amount to that; the interest on the sinking fund, on the loan of £2,500,000, which requires an annual sum of £242,820 for the interest upon the debt and for the redemption fund; those several items amount to £4,338,820.

Will you state what are the means the Company have to discharge those obligations?—The means certainly must be the surplus funds of the Company in India, the sale of the outward cargoes in the surplus funds, of course I reckon the sum that India saves to herself by transmitting the interest on the debt to England, the profits on those returns, and I am not aware of any other source.

You include the China trade?—Yes.

Do not you include any surplus revenue?—Of course.

If any great defalcation of the Company's trade should take place, either by the illicit importation of China goods, or by a diversion in the trade of piece goods to the outward ports or illicit trade therein, what do you imagine would be the consequence to the Company?—A falling off of the Company's trade, and even supposing no alteration should take place in the trade, I question whether it would be possible for them to invest the sum of £4,338,000, so as to remit it profitably to this country; it has not been so in my time; for I believe, since I have been in the Company's service, they never have sold four millions cost in the year; indeed in the last nineteen years the total cost of the goods imported amounts only to fifty-five millions, which is a little short of about three millions a-year.

Have you been enabled, from your knowledge of the India trade, to form any opinion as to the consequence of transferring the piece-goods trade to the outports for exportation?—There are gentlemen here that can answer the question better than me, but I conceive it will be very detrimental in every view of the case.

Will

Will you state the manner in which you conceive it will be detrimental?—In this view; inasmuch as dividing the places of sale, I conceive, will reduce very much the price of the article, because we know when there is only one article to be sold in one place, that all the parties who want that article must resort to that spot; and where the thing is sold by public auction, as is the case with the Company's sales in London, the goods sell much higher than they could, I conceive, by any other mode of sale.

Do you think that it would disturb the regularity of the Company's sales?—There is no question but it would, certainly; and, I conceive, you cannot extend the consumption of piece-goods at all; and therefore all that goes to the outports, and are sold there, must reduce the Company's sales here. I think there can be no doubt about that.

Do you think that the regularity of the demand of the sale of the Company will be more affected in the time of peace than in the time of war?—I should conceive they would be most affected in a time of peace, because we should have a larger demand for the goods than latterly has been, because the disturbed state of Europe, in consequence of the war, has prevented the Company from selling hardly any goods of the description; except this last year, we have not sold a third part of our usual quantity.

Have you, as the accountant general of the Company, examined the account of the profit and loss of the Company upon the India and China trade the last nineteen years?—I have it in my hand, it is signed by me, and of course it was made out by me; and I believe it to be correct, as far as my judgment goes.

Will you state to the Committee the profit or loss upon those trades separately during that time?—The profit upon the India trade I make to be £2,192,267; upon the China trade £18,527,110. The profit so assumed, it is necessary I should inform the Committee, is without reckoning interest upon the capital employed in it, but interest is deducted from the whole at the foot of the account; it is necessary that I should inform your Lordships that there is an item in this account, which is the losses at sea. It is proper to observe, that the losses upon the India trade, in this whole period of nineteen years, appear to be £5. 12s. 1d. per cent. upon the cost of the investment; upon the China trade it is only £1. 16s. 2d. per cent.; now the difference is £3. 15s. 11d. per cent. It is also proper I should state why it ought not to form an item in this account: if you are to look on it as an account of profit and loss, and to be

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governed

C. Cartwright,
Esq.

C. Cartwright, Esq. governed by it upon future occasions, I conceive that the additional loss upon the India trade is in consequence of political use of the ships; they are diverted from their regular course, which has been the cause of their returning to Europe out of season and at extra risk. Now supposing that you take that £3 15s. 11d. per cent. away from this charge, and taking five per cent. upon the India trade, which amounts to £1,256,000, there will be a charge of £302,000 to be deducted from this profit of £2,196,267; but as there is an item deducted from the India trade, the loss on law tonnage, which ought not to become a charge upon the trade of India, there will, instead of a deduction, be an addition to be made to this profit of £2,192,000 of £137,000; therefore supposing that the cost of the Indian imports shall be charged with the interest upon the cost, there still would be, upon this assumption that I have stated, a profit of upwards of £2,300,000.

Do you know that it has been stated that the Company are losers upon their India trade?—I have heard so.

Are you confident that that account is erroneous, and that the account you have last stated is correct?—I believe it is.

(*By a Lord.*) When you say you believe it is, is it supposing that statement admitted which you have now made?—Yes, it is, and I believe the statement to be correct.

The witness delivers in the account referred to, which is read, and is as follows:

[See Account annexed.]

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then

[Referred to in page 220.]

ESTIMATE of the PROFIT or LOSS upon all Goods sold by the East-India Company, from the Year 1793-4 to the Year 1811-12 inclusive; distinguishing India and China, and specifying the Invoice Price, Customs, Freight, and Charges respectively; also the Sale Amount and the Amount of Profit on Outward Trade, and calculating the Invoice Price at the Exchanges of 2s. the Current Rupee, 8s. the Pagoda, 2s. 3d. the Bombay Rupee, 5s. the Spanish Dollar, and 6s. 8d. the Tale.

		INDIA.							CHINA.							GRAND TOTAL.									
		Prime Cost of Investment or Goods.	Customs.	Freight.	Charges of Merchandise, calculated at 5% per Cent. on Sale Amount.	Total Cost and Charges.	Amount Sale of Goods.	Profit on the Trade.	Profit on Outward Trade.	Prime Cost of Investment or Goods.	Customs.	Freight.	Charges of Merchandise, calculated at 5% per Cent. on Sale Amount.	Total Cost and Charges.	Amount Sale of Goods.	Profit on the Trade.	Profit on Outward Trade.	Prime Cost of Investment or Goods.	Customs.	Freight.	Charges of Merchandise, calculated at 5% per Cent. on Sale Amount.	Total Cost and Charges.	Amount Sale of Goods.	Profit on the Trade.	Profit on Outward Trade.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1793-4	-	1,220,106	584,792	289,563	117,257	2,211,718	2,345,151	133,433	54,305	1,336,739	41,284	418,028	125,729	1,921,780	2,519,594	592,814	62,553	2,556,845	626,076	707,591	242,986	4,133,498	4,859,745	726,247	116,858
1794-5	-	1,288,050	571,074	290,673	130,571	2,280,377	2,611,522	331,145	27,734	1,595,493	27,322	372,346	143,072	2,138,233	2,861,422	723,189	70,645	2,883,552	598,396	663,019	273,643	4,418,610	5,472,944	1,054,334	98,379
1795-6	-	1,821,512	744,569	581,214	177,164	3,324,459	3,543,236	218,777	54,756	1,408,087	25,802	472,487	148,636	2,055,012	2,972,664	917,652	129,025	3,229,599	770,371	1,053,701	325,800	5,379,471	6,515,900	1,136,429	25,731
1796-7	-	1,708,379	856,204	556,669	169,777	3,291,029	3,395,564	104,535	51,514	1,285,768	20,341	521,074	133,417	1,960,597	2,668,346	707,749	11,975	2,994,144	876,545	1,077,743	303,194	5,251,626	6,063,910	812,284	49,539
1797-8	-	1,025,204	384,442	422,644	104,873	1,937,163	2,097,468	160,305	100,531	1,292,803	18,589	601,413	128,895	2,041,700	2,577,890	536,190	9,911	2,318,007	403,031	1,024,057	233,768	3,978,863	4,675,358	696,495	110,442
1798-9	-	2,019,265	1,154,876	777,903	233,169	4,185,213	4,663,390	478,177	121,073	1,601,606	43,727	763,404	182,614	2,591,351	3,652,283	1,060,932	8,456	3,620,871	1,198,603	1,541,307	415,783	6,776,564	8,315,673	1,539,109	129,529
1799-1800	-	1,665,689	429,312	651,173	178,234	2,924,408	3,564,694	640,286	47,725	1,830,569	7,439	786,507	189,749	2,814,264	3,794,982	980,718	8,138	3,496,258	436,751	1,437,680	367,983	5,738,672	7,359,676	1,621,004	55,863
1800-1	-	2,013,975	201,817	837,423	198,940	3,252,155	3,978,800	726,645	46,410	1,783,254	7,334	697,474	180,819	2,668,881	3,616,381	947,500	15,807	3,797,229	209,151	1,534,897	379,759	5,921,036	7,595,181	1,674,145	40,603
1801-2	-	1,425,168	140,402	451,920	154,344	2,171,834	3,086,943	915,109	39,341	1,669,103	9,963	723,510	176,970	2,579,546	3,539,404	959,858	10,015	3,094,271	150,365	1,175,430	331,314	4,751,380	6,626,347	1,874,967	29,326
1802-3	-	1,133,526	71,337	499,900	114,463	1,819,226	2,316,384	497,158	23,464	1,741,007	6,822	719,660	187,863	2,655,152	3,753,252	1,098,100	10,121	2,874,533	78,159	1,219,560	302,126	4,474,378	6,069,636	1,595,258	13,343
1803-4	-	1,187,707	71,460	549,376	111,820	1,920,363	2,236,396	316,033	41,419	1,771,947	5,985	732,112	181,483	2,691,527	3,629,677	938,150	12,596	2,959,654	77,445	1,281,488	293,303	4,611,890	5,866,073	1,254,183	15,452
1804-5	-	1,088,400	68,268	371,355	97,651	1,625,674	1,953,026	327,352	16,014	1,559,286	7,962	618,720	165,375	2,351,343	3,307,495	956,152	4,755	2,647,686	76,230	990,075	263,026	3,977,017	5,260,521	1,283,504	20,769
1805-6	-	1,335,860	70,966	532,023	112,622	2,051,471	2,254,899	203,428	55,888	1,706,225	7,629	644,556	187,035	2,545,447	3,740,699	1,195,252	12,007	3,042,085	78,595	1,176,581	299,657	4,596,918	5,995,598	1,398,680	33,881
1806-7	-	986,310	47,471	443,258	73,604	1,550,643	1,472,074	78,569	35,264	1,677,652	7,484	659,497	185,452	2,530,085	3,709,046	1,178,961	12,697	2,663,962	54,955	1,102,755	259,056	4,080,728	5,181,820	1,100,392	32,567
1807-8	-	887,119	36,048	542,117	65,510	1,530,794	1,310,215	220,579	71,943	1,688,470	1,389	721,437	192,338	2,603,634	3,846,756	1,243,122	40,472	2,575,589	37,437	1,263,554	257,848	4,134,428	5,156,971	1,022,543	112,415
1808-9	-	1,013,740	57,189	418,070	87,887	1,576,886	1,757,754	180,868	39,364	1,722,000	7,951	746,622	199,414	2,675,987	3,988,267	1,312,280	69,893	2,735,740	65,140	1,164,692	287,301	4,252,873	5,746,021	1,493,148	109,259
1809-10	-	1,240,315	63,727	508,977	112,708	1,925,727	2,254,164	328,437	78,274	1,487,060	18,501	687,168	186,154	2,378,883	3,723,116	1,344,233	99,193	2,727,375	82,228	1,196,145	298,862	4,304,610	5,977,280	1,672,670	177,467
1810-11	-	963,429	56,833	411,230	97,383	1,528,875	1,947,653	418,778	86,775	1,564,915	3,085	851,161	200,760	2,619,921	4,015,207	1,395,286	131,110	2,528,344	59,918	1,262,391	298,143	4,148,796	5,962,860	1,814,064	217,885
1811-12	-	1,110,909	64,916	359,513	106,063	1,641,401	2,121,261	479,860	65,268	1,569,497	8,103	793,449	185,014	2,556,063	3,700,285	1,144,222	52,403	2,680,406	73,019	1,152,962	291,077	4,197,464	5,821,546	1,624,082	117,673
Then	-	25,134,672	5,675,703	9,495,001	2,444,040	42,749,416	48,910,594	6,161,178	1,057,062	30,291,478	276,710	12,530,627	3,280,589	46,379,406	65,611,766	19,232,360	449,919	55,426,150	5,952,415	22,025,628	5,724,629	89,128,822	114,522,360	25,393,538	1,506,981

† The Figures marked thus † denote the Amount of Loss on the Trade.

* Bengal Books not received.

Turn over

INDIA TRADE.

Profit on Sales brought down	£	6,161,178
Do. Outward Trade Do.	£	1,057,062
Profit on Stores consigned to India, and issued from the several Departments at the Invoice Cost, which is 10 per Cent. above the Prime Cost	£	497,272
	£	7,715,512
Deduct Payments made in India and in England, on account of the India Trade, viz.	£	
Commercial Charges in India, not added to the Invoice*	£	3,251,592
Loss upon the Law Tonnage	£	439,063
Losses at Sea, upwards of 5½ per Cent.	£	1,409,195
Half the Profit on Spices allowed Government in the Settlement of Accounts	£	423,395
	£	5,523,245
Profit, after deducting Payments in India and in England, which are presumed to attach exclusively to the Indian Trade	£	2,192,267

CHINA TRADE.

Profit on Sales brought down	£	19,232,360
Do. on Outward Trade Do.	£	449,919
Do. on Consignments of Merchandize from India	£	403,020
	£	20,085,299
Deduct Payments made on account of the China Trade, viz.	£	
Difference between the Rate of Exchange at which Bills have been drawn on the Company, and the Rate used in the Calculation of Profit	£	1,007,308
Losses at Sea, upwards of 1½ per Cent.	£	548,881
	£	1,556,189
Profit, after deducting Payments made, which are presumed to attach exclusively to the China Trade	£	18,527,110

Total Profit - £20,719,377

Total Net Profit, India and China, brought down	£	20,719,377
Add Profits, of which no Separation can be made, whether applicable to the India or China Account, viz.	£	
Charges and Profits on Private Trade	£	2,769,315
Interest on the Annuities	£	701,682
	£	3,470,997
Deduct Commercial Payments in England, of which no Separation can be made, viz.	£	
Surplus Commercial Charges general, beyond the Rate per Cent. deducted in the Calculation of Profit on the Sales	£	1,544,399
Freight Outward, and Remuneration to Commanders of worn-out Ships	£	800,373
Advances of Freight to Owners of lost Ships	£	659,910
Dividends on Stock and Interest on Bonds	£	14,896,287
	£	17,900,969

Ultimate Surplus Profit, 1793-4 to 1811-12 - £6,289,405

* The whole of the Commercial Charges in India, not added to the Invoices, are included in this Account, but a Reservation is claimed as to such Part of these Charges as may be supposed to attach to the several Boards of Trade in the Management of the Salt, Opium, and other Branches of a Territorial Nature.

Accountant's Office, East-India House,
the 23d February 1813.

(Errors excepted.)

CHAS. CARTWRIGHT,
Accountant General.

Then ROBERT BROWN, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) Have you had extensive dealings in cotton piece-goods from India?—I have. *Robert Brown, Esq.*

Do you know what is the ad valorem duty imposed on piece-goods sold at the sales of the Company?—They are divided into three classes, the first is the article of muslins, which pay on importation 10 per cent., and £27. 6s. 8d. per cent. for home consumption; the second is the article of calicoes, which pays £3. 6s. 8d. per cent. on importation, and £68. 6s. 8d. per cent. for home consumption; the third comes under the denomination of prohibited goods, which pays merely a duty of £3. 6s. 8d. per cent. on importation, and are not allowed to be used in this country.

When goods are sent to the sales at the India House, in what manner is the value to which the duty is proportioned ascertained, is it by an estimate, or by the actual sale of the article?—Invariably by the actual sale at the Company's candle.

Do you conceive that it would be easy or practicable to set an accurate average value on Indian piece-goods, in any other manner than by their actual sale?—I conceive it would be impossible to affix the value without an actual public sale: and I ground that opinion from an experience of seven and twenty years in the examination of the goods, and an attendance at the Company's sales during that period.

Will you state what are the circumstances, in your experience on the subject, which have particularly led you to form the opinion just stated?—The circumstances are connected completely with the competition at the East-India Company's sales, which induces the buyers, from an opposition to each other, to give at times a difference of 10, 15, and I have known even 40 per cent. between the prices at which the article was estimated, and the prices produced.

Have you with you any patterns cut from the same lots in the Company's warehouses, which will enable you to illustrate more particularly your last answer?—I believe I have, although I do not believe those patterns will go quite so much to this point as they will do on other parts of the subject; I think that the price currents will shew that deviation even more distinctly than the patterns I have in my possession.

Will you in any manner illustrate the difference between articles apparently

Robert Brown, Esq. rently of the same quality?—There is in the article of mulmuls, some which were sold at the last sale of March for 19s. 2d. per piece, and others sold at 90s. per piece; there are a great variety of similar things; there is the article of seerhaudconnaes, some that sold at 38s. 6d. per piece, and others that sold at 103s.

What are the differences in price in articles of the same class?—I believe I explained that by saying that I have known instances where there has been a difference of from 30 to 40 per cent. upon the same articles, and of similar quality.

Besides the difference of price in articles of the same classes, have you known differences of price in articles of exactly the same quality?—I have, but certainly not to the extent mentioned in the former answer; I have known differences in articles of the same value and the same quality, from 10 to 15 per cent. at the same sale.

In the ordinary sale of articles of the same class, do very great differences of price take place?—In the ordinary sale I should say not; there are cases in which in the same sale, from particular circumstances, that variation does take place, but in a general way certainly not.

[The witness produces two patterns of calicoes, which are inspected.]

Having produced two patterns of calicoes of the same quality, that sold at the same sale, will you state what were the prices at which they respectively sold?—There is a variation of from 10 to 15 per cent. in the two articles.

Is that an uncommon case, or has it frequently fallen within your experience?—Certainly not a common case; but it is a case that occasionally happens.

Have you frequently known great variations to happen, though less than that you have stated in this particular instance?—I have known it occasionally.

When ad valorem duties are imposed on goods sold elsewhere than at the sales of the Company, do you know in what manner the duties are ascertained?—The principle, I believe, is this; that the merchant gives in his valuation, and if approved by the collecting officer, the duty is paid on that valuation.

What

What security is there against the fraudulent valuation of the article by the importer?—The officer is at liberty to take those goods upon payment of the same price that they are valued at, with an addition I believe of ten per cent. *Robert Brown*, Esq.

Supposing it to be allowed that piece-goods should be imported into the out-ports for exportation, do you conceive that ad valorem duties could conveniently be collected upon the article?—I conceive they could not be collected, with justice to the revenue, in any other way than by a public sale; and even by a public sale, at the out-ports, it would be very easy for a combination to be formed so as to pay the duty upon a less price than the actual value at the sales of the Company of the same articles precisely.

In your apprehension, will there be any danger that, on the supposition before made, goods taken out of the warehouse for the purpose of exportation will be smuggled back again for the purpose of home consumption?—I should think a very great danger; and so much have the commissioners of customs been afraid of it, that although for a short time they allowed white piece-goods, to which I particularly allude, white India calicoes, to be sent from London to the out-ports for exportation, they rescinded that order about eighteen months past, and now only allow coloured goods to be sent for exportation, which, in consequence of being prohibited, if they were smuggled out of the vessels, were seizable wherever they could be found. White East-India calicoes being allowed to be used for home consumption, upon the payment of a certain heavy duty, would not be seizable in case they were found in the hands of the merchant or dealer.

From your general experience, can you state whether the cotton goods manufactured in this country have attained to the perfection of the India fabrics?—In many cases I conceive that they very much surpass them.

Do you mean that the fine piece-goods of India are surpassed by the British piece-goods?—No, I do not; certainly I mean the common and the middling qualities.

Are there any species of Indian piece-goods with which, in your apprehension, British cottons of apparently the same quality could not sustain a competition?—Is it meant by that to ask me in point of price, or in point of quality?

Are there any species of Indian piece-goods with which, in your apprehension, British cottons of apparently the same quality could not sustain a competition?—They have certainly been very successfully imitated; and,

Robert Brown, Esq., as I stated before, the British goods have in some cases surpassed the others.

Supposing that India piece-goods were to attain a considerable degree of home consumption, would the finer sorts of them prevail over any British fabrics of the same kind that could be brought to contend with them in the market?—If you mean the finer description of piece-goods to be imported without the payment of duty, they would certainly interfere very much with British goods; but it would be with the coarser goods, if the duty was evaded, with which the interference would be by far the greatest in my opinion, in consequence of the low price at which those common piece-goods are sold at the Company's sales; and the greater price of the same description of goods of British manufacture, at present the duty is so heavy, amounting to £68. 6s. 8d. per cent. for home consumption, that very few, if any, sold for the home market.

Supposing that India piece-goods in any great quantity were fraudulently introduced into the home consumption, do you conceive that they might interfere with the cotton fabrics of this country, in spite of the expence with which the fraudulent introduction of commodities must necessarily be attended?—I think they would interfere very greatly, and that the saving in the point of duty would amply compensate for the expence of smuggling them.

Can you state the difference between the price which British white calicoes from the manufacturers fetch per yard, and that at which Indian white calicoes of nearly the same dimensions and quality sold at the March sales of the Company?—From a calculation I have recently made, I find that the difference is from 30 to 60 per cent., that is to say, that goods at the last March sale sold by the East-India Company at from 30 to 60 per cent. less than the same qualities, widths, and descriptions could be bought from the manufacturers.

(Examined by the Committee.)

What is the reason that the danger of relanding piece-goods is greater from the outports than from the port of London?—In my opinion there would be a greater facility of getting the goods exported from the outports than from the port of London.

Why do you suppose so?—I have known instances wherein the prohibited goods have been taken out of vessels in the River Mersey, goods put on board under the principle of being exported to Africa.

Do you believe no instance of that sort ever happened in the port of London?—

London?—I never knew but of one instance of the kind, I certainly have known of one. Robert Brown, Esq.

You stated in your evidence, that you judged of the smuggling which would take place on re-exported goods when they were exported from an out-port in consequence of a smuggling which took place on a transit of goods sent to the out-ports from London, do you consider that the same risk of smuggling existed when goods were exported from the out-ports for exportation as upon the transit of goods from the port of London?—I apprehend there is no risk whatever in the transit from London to the out-ports, the checks are so numerous that it becomes a matter of almost impossibility to smuggle during the transit; the danger, I apprehend, arises in the export from the out ports.

Will you state why the same checks should not be applied to the transit from the out-ports to the ports of London, as are effectually applied to the transit from the port of London to the out-ports?—I can see no reason whatever why the same checks should not be applied.

You state that you do not consider there is any risk in the transit to the out-ports, will you state why the Commissioners of the Customs stopped the permission, in your opinion?—That will be for them to state, I can only state the fact.

Do you know what proportion the home consumption of India goods bears to the export of those articles?—I am not able to state the precise proportion, but speaking generally, I should say that the quantity sold for home consumption does not exceed one tenth of that which is exported, but I do not mean to be quite precise.

In the greater variations you have stated to have existed in the same sale in March last, between goods of the same class, were the goods that bore the higher price to which you have referred, purchased for home consumption or for re-exportation?—For re-exportation.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then JAMES CAZENOVE, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) I wish to know whether you have been in the habit, in times

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James Cazenove, Esq.

James Cazenove, Esq. times of peace, of purchasing piece-goods for continental consumption?—
I have so.

Can you state whether the Company ordinarily give notice of such piece-goods as they intend to put up at their sales?—They are in the habit of doing so about three months at least before the sale.

Do they state of what description the goods are which they intend to put up to sale?—They do.

Has this practice facilitated the consumption of piece-goods on the Continent?—No doubt it has.

Will you state in what manner?—As soon as the Company have made a declaration of the goods they propose putting up to sale, a printed declaration thereof is sent by the foreign merchants to their correspondents abroad, time enough for them to receive the orders of their correspondents, which are proportioned to the different quantities and qualities of the goods that are declared to be for sale by the Company; and in many instances the magnitude of the sales engage foreigners to come over themselves; and invariably, when foreigners have come over, it has increased not only the quantity of East-India goods purchased at the sales, but British manufactured goods.

Would the course of dealing which you have described be consistent with an arrangement which should permit the sale of piece-goods at the out-ports by private contract?—I should not conceive that it can be carried on with the same advantage, either to the London merchants or with respect to the quantities of goods purchased, as in the present mode that is adopted.

Would the course of dealing which you have described be consistent with an arrangement which should permit the sale of piece-goods at the out-ports by private contract?—I understood the question to mean, whether the same quantity would be exported or bought by the foreign merchants, were the goods to be sent to the out-ports as well as to the port of London.

Whether the Continental trade would be as well managed under that plan as under the present system, was the question?—I should certainly think not; because when the foreign merchant receives the declaration of the periodical sale that is to take place, he orders what he wants in consequence of that declaration. When he comes over himself, he has the advantage

James Cazenove, Esq. vantage of seeing the whole mass of goods to be sold under one roof; if it were spread in the out-ports, he would not, most likely, come over himself, because he would lose a great deal of time; and when the foreigner does come over himself, it is observed that he invariably purchases more than he would have merely sent his orders. I before stated, that the magnitude of the sale engaged foreigners to come over, which would be greatly diminished, of course, in the port of London, if there were to be sales at all the out-ports; a foreigner could not have time to spare to go and visit the out-ports to make his purchases; it would be totally impossible.

In your opinion, would the Continental consumption of piece-goods be diminished by a system which should admit the out-ports to a trade in piece-goods?—I can hardly form an opinion upon that question.

Do you conceive that the sales of piece-goods by the East-India Company, would be materially affected in consequence of the circumstances which you have described?—If the goods that are in the out-ports are to be exported from thence to the Continent, after having paid an ad valorem duty, (which will be very difficult to ascertain in the out-ports in an equal manner as if it was raised, or if the goods were valued in London,) I suppose that the goods in the out-ports might be exported into the foreign market at a lower rate than we could export them from the London market; if that is the case, the sales in London would be affected by it.

Do you mean that they would pay less duty at the out-ports, or do you mean that the ad valorem duty would be evaded?—I mean, that they would pay less duty.

In a former answer you have stated, that foreigners who have been induced to repair to this country in consequence of notices of the sale at the India House, have become purchasers of other British goods; have such persons at the same time contracted their purchases of Indian goods?—That has not struck me as having been the case.

(Examined by the Committee.)

What reason have you to suppose that the import into London of those piece-goods would not be sufficient to afford the foreigners an adequate selection?—In times when the sales have been of less magnitude than they often are, foreigners have not come over; and one may always judge that the magnitude of the sales engages the foreigner to come and suit himself, which he could not do was he not to be acquainted with that great variety of goods that are to be put up for sale.

James Cazenove,
Esq.

Are there not other reasons than merely the purchase of the India goods, if meant with a view to the assortment of his purchases, that induces him to come to London, and not go to the out-ports?—Their first object is to come to the Company's sale, with respect to those foreigners with whom we are in the habits of being connected.

If the duty on goods to be exported from London is ascertained in the same manner as at the out-ports, why should the London merchant export at a greater disadvantage than the out-port merchants?—From the very great difficulty in putting any valuation on piece-goods, in consequence of their very great variety and quality.

If the duty on piece-goods to be exported from London is ascertained in the same manner as at the out-ports, why should the London merchant export at a greater disadvantage than the out-port merchant?—If the duty can be ascertained in the out-ports in the same manner as in the port of London, I do not conceive that the London merchants will be under any disadvantage. I conceive that if the declaration of one merchant is as fair as another, there would be no disadvantage for the London merchant.

You have stated that foreign merchants preferred the port of London?—I believe they have no other choice.

If foreign merchants do prefer coming to the port of London for their India purchases, would not an adequate proportion of the import trade connected with the out-ports be returned to the port of London in preference, to meet that demand?—I conceive it to be a natural consequence of not being able to sell in one place to bring it to another where it can be sold.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then WILLIAM ROE, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

William Roe,
Esq.

(By Counsel).—I believe you are Chairman of the Board of Customs?—I am one of the Chairmen.

Have you in obedience to the commands of the Lords of his Majesty's Treasury, had occasion to consider the proposed measure of opening to the out ports of this kingdom an import trade to India, with reference to the effect it might have on his Majesty's revenue?—I have in common with the

William Roe,
Esq.

the rest of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs had various references upon the subject, and after due inquiry and deliberation, and obtaining all the information we could from the most competent officers, we have made two reports thereon to the Lords of the Treasury, which are now blended in one.

Have you the means of knowing that in spite of all the precautions which are now taken, and the India trade being confined to the port of London, that the smuggling of teas and India goods has taken place during the last five years to a considerable degree?—From the returns of our officers, and the accounts we have had prepared, it does not appear that smuggling has taken place to the same extent, which accounts are annexed to the report.

Have you had the means of knowing, through the same channel, that large seizures of such goods have been made, both in the port of London and at the out-ports, during the period last mentioned?—Seizures have been made at both, and they are specified for the respective years in the account which is annexed to that report.

In the event of the import trade from India and the Eastern Islands being opened to the out-ports of this kingdom, are you of opinion the danger of smuggling would thereby be greatly increased?—I apprehend that the danger of smuggling would be increased.

Do you apprehend it would be increased in any considerable degree by such an event?—I am not prepared to say to what degree, but allude to the answer to the former question.

Supposing the same event of the opening of the import trade before mentioned to the out-ports, would such danger of smuggling be considerably increased whenever peace is restored?—I apprehend the danger would be somewhat increased.

Would it not be increased, in the event of peace, by the ships arriving singly and at uncertain times?—It appears to me it would.

Would it not be increased, in the event of peace, by the reduction of the number of vessels employed by the Admiralty?—It might be somewhat increased, I apprehend, from that cause.

Would it not be likewise increased, in the event of peace, by there being no convoys, and the ships being delayed for the purpose of smuggling; I mean the ships to the out-ports?—I apprehend it would.

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William Roe,
Esq.

In your opinion, have the most effectual means for preventing smuggling been already taken under the advice and authority of the Board of Customs?—Various means have been taken, and some special ones recently; but it is the constant habit and practice of that Board, from time to time, to resort to such measures as they find fit, for the suppression of smuggling.

In your opinion, derived from your experience, to what registered tonnage would it be most advisable to restrict ships trading to India and the Eastern Islands for the prevention of smuggling?—Considering that such vessels would have more means of smuggling from draught of water and other causes, I think it would be proper to restrict it to four or 500 tons; I mean burthen, and not register tonnage.

Do you think that the duty upon those articles imported from India or China, which are at present ascertained according to the value or sale price, can be collected at any out-port without incurring the hazard of a great defalcation of the revenue?—It would be difficult, as it appears to me, to adopt any mode equally beneficial with the one adopted at present.

Is the Committee to understand, by your last answer, that in your opinion the open and public manner in which such goods are at present exposed to sale by the East-India Company afford the revenue a much greater degree of security than can be obtained at any out-port?—It appears to me the best mode for securing to the revenue the highest duty upon the article.

Does the present mode appear to you the best calculated for preventing combinations among the buyers?—It appears to me to have a tendency to that effect.

Does it appear to you that the present is the best mode of encouraging purchasers from the Continent, by the quantity and value of the goods that are sold at the East-India Company's sales?—As far as I am enabled to judge, it does appear to me so.

Does it appear to you that very great security is likewise afforded by the account of the prices being kept both by the officers of the Customs and of the Excise, and the Company, at those sales?—I apprehend that security is afforded by such accounts; but I see no reason why that same
correctness

William Roe,
Esq.

correctness might not be afforded by any other mode of account, or by the same system, if adopted.

Are you of opinion that it would be highly dangerous to the revenue to charge the ad valorem duty upon such goods to a rated duty?—I believe it would be very difficult to find any means of a rated duty which would answer the equal end of an ad valorem duty, touching certain articles.

Would it, in your opinion, be prejudicial to the revenue and to trade to form an average rate of duty upon such goods, by taking the average value of their sale prices at different periods?—It would, I apprehend, be injurious and difficult to find any mode of so doing.

Can you state in what way that injury and difficulty would arise?—From the great variety of the articles, the great diversity in the price, and the impracticability, or at least difficulty, in forming an average which would not lower the duty to injure the revenue on the higher article, and to load the lower one with the duty which it could not sustain.

Would not the consequences which you have just stated, in your opinion, tend to the reduction of the importation?—To the reduction of the importation of a lower article I conceive it would; it would favour the higher.

Are you of opinion that every effectual provision which the Board of Customs could devise has been already made for the protection of the duties upon tea, and for the protection of the Company's exclusive trade in that article?—I am not aware immediately that any further measure could be adopted.

Supposing the amount of the trade from India and the number of the ships to be the same, would there, in your opinion, be more or less danger of smuggling, if the trade were confined to the port of London, or divided between the port of London and any of the out-ports?—It appears to me it would rather have a tendency to be greater, if so divided.

Are you of opinion, that in the event of an extension of the import trade from India to the out-ports, the danger of smuggling would increase in proportion to the increase of the trade of the out-ports, and the number of their ships employed in it?—I am not prepared to give any definite answer to that point; it appears to me it might rather have a tendency to increase it.

In

William Roe,
Esq.

In the event of the import trade from India being extended to the out-ports, are you of opinion that there would be danger to the manufactures of this country by the illicit introduction of prohibited articles, which might supplant such manufactures?—I apprehend, as far as any increased smuggling should take effect, that it would have that tendency.

Is there, in your opinion, any security against smuggling in ports having wet docks, not surrounded with walls, that does not apply to ports without wet docks?—I am not aware that there is.

Do you know that it is the opinion of many officers of the Customs, that ports so circumstanced afford less security against smuggling?—I beg leave to refer to what is stated in our report, and to add, that the opinions therein given were the result of special references to the different officers of the different out-ports in the kingdom, and the most intelligent officers in the port of London, upon the points contained in the two sets of queries contained in the letter of the Lords of the Treasury, and the other references made by them.

Will you state what are the regulations and measures that have been adopted by the Commissioners of the Customs to prevent illegal practices on the arrival of the East-India fleets?—The general regulations are these: As soon as the Board have any intimation of a fleet being upon the point of arrival, directions immediately issue to the collector and comptroller of certain out-ports, and to a description of officers called the inspectors of cruizers in the service of the Customs, and to the system of land and water guard of all descriptions, to be on the look-out for the arrival of such fleet, and to take every measure for the prevention of improper practices, either on land or water, from such fleet so arriving; that the first cutters that fall in with them are directed to take them under guard, and to attend upon them till they are relieved by some other cruizers, and in this mode they are guarded until they arrive at their final destination, the river Thames; that in addition to this measure, within these two or three years, the Board, as soon as they have any reason to expect the arrival of a fleet in the Channel or in the Downs, dispatch certain superior officers from the port of London with a certain number of inferior ones, with a view, if possible, to be in readiness before they arrive in the Downs to place the officers on board as a guard, in order to prevent all improper practices between their thus arriving at the Downs and their final arrival and delivery in the East-India docks.

If the import trade to India were open to the out-ports, and carried on by their

William Roe,
Esq.

their single ships, would it be possible that the same system of watch and guard could be applied to ships of the out-ports?—I apprehend it would not be easy to devise and apply any similar and effectual system.

What, in your opinion, would be the difficulties?—The arrival of single ships in that dispersed mode which is stated, would in some measure preclude it, and the want at present of that system of official guard at different out-ports, would not afford the same means of applying such a system. I beg to observe, that the question being put generally as to out-ports, and the official system of establishments of the different ports being very different in extent and efficacy, unless some specific ports were named, I do not apprehend that I have the means of answering the question fully.

In your opinion, could the system of watch and guard, which you have stated as now taking place with respect to the East-India Company's ships, be applied to any out-ports that were to trade in ships arriving singly and at different periods?—If the Board were apprized of the time and arrival of such a ship at such a port, it certainly might direct means, perhaps not so effectual, for guarding her upon her arrival.

Am I to understand, that you are of opinion that the practicability of taking such means would depend upon the Board knowing previously the time of the arrival of such ships?—The Board might vest in the officers of the port a discretion to exercise such measures as might be thought fit by the Board, or the delay might be fatal to the measure or plan of the Board.

Are you of opinion, that if the import trade from India were opened to the out-ports, that there would be any great increased danger to the revenue from the fraudulent re-landing into the country East-India articles entered and shipped for exportation?—That danger would, it appears to me, depend in a certain degree upon the ports to which the system was applied.

Are you of opinion that there would be more or less danger of such re-landing, if the import trade of India were extended to any of the out-ports, or continued as it now is?—I am rather inclined to think the danger would be rather greater if extended to the out-ports, than as it now stands.

Are the dangers of such re-landing increased by the peculiar circumstances

William Roe,
Esq.

stances under which Europe has lately been?—I am not aware of any very material increase; there are some points in which I think there is an increased danger.

Has there not been a relaxation of provisions and regulations of a material nature, particularly in the reduced tonnage of the exportation vessels?—The tonnage of the exportation vessels has been reduced on certain occasions under special directions, and I should apprehend the danger in vessels of small description is greater than in vessels of the legal and prescribed tonnage.

Have not the certificates of landing goods upon the Continent, in order to clear the bonds, been dispensed with?—I believe it has, in various instances, been impracticable to obtain them under the regulations prescribed by law, and they have been dispensed with.

Do not the causes that have been stated in the two last questions afford additional and forcible reasons for apprehending increased danger to the revenue from opening the East-India trade to the out-ports generally or partially?—Under the reduced tonnage, which it has been thought necessary under the circumstances of Europe to allow, it might possibly have that effect; but with respect to the other point, I see none that is; the returning certificates might be obtained as well at the out-ports as at the port of London.

In your opinion, if the import trade from India were opened to any of the out-ports, would not the danger to the revenue at each port be in proportion to the greater or less facility or delay in the outward navigation from that port?—I apprehend, where there were any local impediments frequently arising to the vessels leaving the port, some dangers would certainly thence arise.

Do you think there would not be greater facility of smuggling from ports that could easily convey goods to Ireland?—As far as Ireland is concerned, there might be some facility of greater danger.

Are you acquainted with the ports of Liverpool and Bristol?—Very little with Bristol of late, I knew it very well once; I was only once at Liverpool, and then for two or three days.

From the present situation of the port of Liverpool, is it not your opinion that it affords much greater facility for smuggling than the port of London,

William Roe,
Esq.

London, with reference to East-India goods?—My apprehension of the dangers of smuggling East-India goods is, from the time of the arrival in the Channel, and transit along the coast, and the navigation up rivers until they come to the mooring of the port of the ultimate delivery.

When the vessels of Liverpool are actually arrived, and lying in the port or docks, is there any thing there to prevent smuggling from the vessels themselves?—That is so general a question, it is hardly practicable to give an answer; I take for granted they would station officers there, as they do in all other ports, to prevent smuggling; it is their duty to do so, to prevent improper practices in that port.

(Examined by the Committee.)

Do you apprehend, as Commissioner of the Customs, that pending the war the new free trade proposed to India would return in single ships to the out-ports?—I apprehend that vessels would, for their own safety and security, endeavour to seek and avail themselves of convoy.

Then the Committee wish to be informed, the trade obtaining convoy, whether the regulations which are now in practice, respecting the convoys which arrive belonging to the East-India Company, could not be applied to the trade to the ports of Liverpool and Bristol?—I do not think it could with equal energy; it might in some degree, but I think not with equal effect.

Could it not be applied with equal effect, provided a greater number of vessels were appointed for that service?—Not unless an additional number of officers were likewise appointed at those ports.

In the supposition of an intention to smuggle on the part of the homeward bound ships from India, after free trade is admitted and peace restored, do you not conceive the facilities to smuggle are more numerous if the said ships were all bound to the port of London, than to the out-ports that are provided with such securities as are stated in the resolutions proposed by Parliament?—I do not see reason to suppose such greater facility.

Have you not reason to believe that smuggling has been carried on to a considerable extent by the officers in the Company's ships?—There has been considerable smuggling by the inferior officers, and with some of the

William Roe,
Esq.

the superior ones there has been smuggling; I think it is less than it was.

What are the articles in which that smuggling has principally taken place?—In a variety of articles; bandanas, silks, calicoes; there may be some tea, but I am not aware of a great deal of tea; lately muslins, and a variety of articles.

Do you mean silks from China or silks from India?—From both China and Bengal; I cannot distinguish. There is a list in the account of all articles seized.

Do not you know that the officers of the East-India Company's shipping have been very generally concerned in illicit trade?—Very much; we have had frequent prosecutions; that is the only way in which we know it officially, from the seizures made and the prosecution carried on.

You have stated that in the port of London there are greater facilities for preventing smuggling than in the out-ports; do not you also know there are greater facilities to the smugglers to carry smuggling into execution in the port of London than there are in the out-ports?—I am not aware of such greater facility, and I think it is hardly possible to make a comparison; because as all the import trade comes to London, the great system of smuggling must be in London, and there is no means of making that relative statement which your Lordships allude to.

Do not you think that where the great system of smuggling is established, in all probability smuggling will be carried on with greater success?—As all the ships, when they have passed along the coast, and whatever smuggling may have taken place there, must come to the river Thames, I apprehend that must be the theatre for smuggling.

When the trade is divided and shared in different ports, can the smuggler afford to arrange the same system that he is known to have arranged while it is confined to the port of London?—I apprehend that wherever there is facility for smuggling, that the smuggler will, as far as he can, avail himself of it, and that there will always be found smugglers to smuggle.

Is not the system of smuggling established in the port of London attended with great expence on the part of the smugglers?—I am not prepared to answer that question; I am not aware of it.

From

William Roe,
Esq.

From your situation as a commissioner of the Customs have you not had an opportunity of seeing that the smugglers must have a very extended connection along the coast for the purpose of smuggling?—They must certainly have connections along the coast, or they would not smuggle along the coast; they are brought to London, most of the articles that are so smuggled along the coast.

Can these extended connections be systematically established but at a large expence on the part of the smugglers?—I am not aware of the nature of those systematic plans for smuggling; I believe they have been very much broken lately as to general smuggling. I think the result of the information we have lately received is to that effect.

Does that apply exclusively to the port of London or to the out-ports?—To smuggling along the coasts in different parts of the coast.

Do you conceive that the danger of smuggling is in proportion to the extent of coast after the ship touches the land before she arrives at the port?—I apprehend that is one of the dangers, and a material one.

Is not a ship exposed to pass a greater extent of coast coming from India and bound to the port of London than coming from India and bound to the port of Bristol?—I am not prepared to answer that question, it is a question of distance; I have stated that from the Downs they are guarded, and therefore I should take that out of the danger.

Do not you believe that the smuggling which you suppose is carried on by the Company's officers frequently takes place between the Downs and London?—I believe it does, but it must be by the corruption of our officers if they are put on board.

Do you happen to know whether smuggling of teas in this country is carried on to any extent by the Americans?—I am not prepared to answer that; I believe there was smuggling at Liverpool.

Do you know whether smuggling was so carried on or not?—There is a return annexed to those accounts which states where they have been seized on board American vessels.

In any view you can take of the subject, have not the Americans had as great a facility of smuggling as ships that might be bound from India and China

William Roe,
Esq.

China to certain of the out-ports?—I see no particular reason why they should have had less; they are boarded in the same way; but I am not prepared to answer that question correctly.

The Committee wish to know whether of late, during warfare, the ships returning from India, under the convoy of Americans, must not have had greater difficulty than the ships returning from India without?—I see no grounds to suppose that.

Do you not know that the articles of cotton, indigo, and sugar are liable to a rated duty, and not to an ad valorem duty?—I apprehend they are.

Do you not know that the only articles from China and India upon which an ad valorem duty is collected, which can be deemed of any real consequence to the revenue, are piece-goods and tea?—I apprehend they are the most material articles.

In what sized vessels is smuggling usually carried on?—That is a question I am not enabled to answer; in all sorts of vessels; at present I apprehend it is carried on in small vessels, by boats, by small luggers, by vessels going from shore to shore to meet vessels, and principally at present by bringing over and sinking articles, as far as spirits are concerned.

Do you conceive, that if the confiscation of a ship of 350 tons registered admeasurement, with her cargo, should be made the penalty on teas being found on board, would render it worth a merchant's while to risk such a smuggling adventure from India for that purpose?—It would certainly operate as a very essential and great check upon such an adventure; but still we find that merchants ships are sometimes rendered liable to seizure for smuggling transactions.

Has it come officially to your knowledge that teas to any considerable extent have been smuggled in here from the United States?—It has not come to my knowledge.

Do you conceive that an ad valorem duty could not be equally accurately collected upon piece goods, with the collection of it upon other articles upon which it is at present collected in that way by the declaration of the party?—I should find a difficulty in answering that question.

Do

William Roe,
Esq.

Do you conceive there is any difference, and if so, what?—Piece-goods are a very general term; I think there is always a difficulty in the collection of an ad valorem duty by a declaration of the party, and the officer very frequently is compelled to take the articles, because he apprehends them to be under valued; frequently to the injury of the Crown.

Would not the officer have the same facility in taking the goods under the declaration of the party, supposing that principle to obtain with respect to piece-goods, as he has with respect to other articles at present?—If an officer was equally competent to know the value, and if the ten per cent. upon that value would cover the Crown from loss, I apprehend it would be so.

You have described the precautions that have been taken by the Commissioners of the Customs upon the arrival of an Indian fleet; would it be practicable to take the same precautions, supposing the arrival of ships from India bound to London, in single ships?—They would not apply.

Do you conceive that there is no danger to the revenue in the re-landing of East-India goods on their re-export from the port of London?—A considerable danger I think.

You referred to smuggling by officers of the East-India Company, has it fallen within your knowledge whether that smuggling has been carried on by captains and by mates?—Principally by inferior officers, and sometimes by mates, and I believe there have been cases where captains have been guilty of such practices.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then GLOCESTER WILSON, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) I believe you are a Commissioner of the Customs?—I am. Gloucester Wilson, Esq.

Have you had occasion, in consequence of the commands of the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, to consider of the proposed measure of opening to the out-ports the import trade from India, with reference to the effect it might have upon His Majesty's revenue of Customs?—I was present at the drawing up one of the reports, and I signed it.

Do

Glocester Wilson
Esq.

Do you know, from your situation as a Commissioner of the Customs, that in spite of all the pains that have been taken to prevent smuggling, and the Indian trade being confined to the port of London the smuggling of teas and India goods has actually taken place, during the last five years, to a considerable amount?—I know that there has smuggling taken place; I think we have made a report of what the amount has been; I think it has been about £10,000 a year.

Do you know that large seizures of such goods have been made during the period last stated, that five years, both in the port of London and at the out-ports?—I think at the port of London principally; I think not very large seizures at the out-ports.

In the event of the import trade from India and the Eastern Islands, by which I mean the Eastern Archipelago, being opened to the out-ports of this kingdom, are you of opinion that the danger of smuggling would be greatly increased?—I think it was an opinion of our practical officers that it would be increased; I think the Board have so reported.

Do you think that that danger would be increased upon the restoration of peace?—I think it is the opinion of the Board, but that they have some doubt upon that subject. I think it is the opinion of the practical officers, in general, that it would be increased.

Can you state upon what grounds that opinion is founded?—I think principally upon the vessels coming separately, and upon there being fewer of the King's cruisers that would be likely to examine them.

Would it not be an additional reason for that opinion, that there being no convoy, the ships would delay their passage for the purpose of smuggling?—Yes, that is one of the reasons mentioned, I believe, in the report.

Do you think that the most effectual means for preventing smuggling have been already taken, under the advice and under the authority of the Board of Customs?—Of course; if we were aware of any other, it would have been our duty already to have represented them.

In your opinion, to what registered tonnage would it be advisable to restrain ships trading from India and from the Eastern Islands, for the purposes of preventing smuggling?—I am not myself very competent to answer that. We have recommended 400 tons, if I am not mistaken; but

Glocester Wilson
Esq.

but I think some of the officers have said, that 400 tons would be necessary at a distance from the ports, but that small vessels were better guarded in the ports. That for the sake of security before they arrived, a large tonnage was highly essential, but that in the ports smaller would be perhaps better guarded.

Is it your opinion, that the duty upon those articles imported from India or China, which is at present ascertained according to the value or the sale price, can be collected at any out-ports without incurring the hazard of a great defalcation of revenue?—If they were to continue to be collected as ad valorem duties, there certainly would be great difficulty, and there would be great difficulty in changing to a rated duty.

Are you of opinion that the open public manner in which such goods are at present exposed to sale by the East-India Company, affords the revenue a degree of security it is impossible to obtain at any out-ports?—I do not know about the impossibility at an out-port; I think it is attended with good consequences in the port of London as it now is, and I should certainly think there would be a great difficulty; but with respect to the impossibility, I certainly can answer no further, than that it would be attended with some difficulty to arrange it.

Can you state to the Committee the securities that are derived to the revenue from the present system; I mean the exposing of goods to open sale by the East India Company?—I am not competent to do that myself, otherwise than as I recollect the report of our officers. I believe it is considered to be by securing a greater number of purchasers by the notoriety of the time when the sale takes place, and giving an opportunity to foreigners to come over in the time of peace.

Do you think that it would be dangerous to the revenue to change the ad valorem duty upon such goods into a rated duty, either in London or in the out-ports?—I cannot consider my own opinion upon that, as an opinion that could have any weight; I certainly could not conceive a way in which it could be easily done; but that would be a matter of arrangement, if it was necessary.

Are you competent to give an opinion, whether it would be prejudicial to the revenue and to trade, to form an average rate of duty upon such goods, by taking their value upon their sale prices at different periods?—It certainly would be an entirely new system, and I should think would be

Glocester Wilson
Esq.

be attended with some inconvenience; with this, that articles of small value would perhaps cease to be imported.

Supposing the amount of the trade from India, and of the number of ships engaged in it, to be the same, do you think there would be more or less danger of smuggling, if the trade was confined to the port of London, or if it was divided with the port of London, or if it was divided between the port of London and any one or more of the out-ports?—The opinion of the Board, I believe, is that the danger would be greater.

Is it likewise the opinion of the Board, that that danger would be increased in proportion to the increase of the trade of the out-ports, and the number of their ships?—I believe I understand the question to be more than in proportion to the increase of trade, because, if there was an increased trade, and a proportionate increase of smuggling, I should not have felt myself at liberty to say, that the smuggling was increased.

Do you mean that the smuggling would be actually increased though not proportionally increased?—I understood the opinion of the Board to be that it would be more than proportionally increased.

Do you think that, in the event of the import trade from India being extended to the out-ports of this kingdom, there would be danger to the manufactures of this country, by the introduction of illicit and prohibited articles that might supplant those manufactures?—I am not competent to form a further opinion upon that, but that there might be an increased opportunity of smuggling, and of course of bringing in prohibited articles, or articles that might interfere with the manufactures.

It is already in evidence that regulations and measures have been adopted by the Board of Customs to prevent illegal practices upon the arrival of the East-India fleets, is it your opinion that that same system could take place with respect to the out ports if the import trade were open to them?—It would seem to require that all the import trade should be obliged to come up the Channel; supposing that all the ships were obliged to enter the Channel I think it could be extended, but it would increase the expence by requiring officers to be sent further on.

Do you think that if the import trade from India were opened to the out-ports there would be any increased danger to the revenue, by the fraudulent re-landing, and the introduction into this kingdom, or the kingdom

Glocester Wilson
Esq.

kingdom of Ireland, articles that had been entered and shipped for exportation?—In as far as there would be a chance of an increase of smuggling, if there was a greater facility of smuggling there would be a greater facility of re-landing.

Have there not been lately some peculiar circumstances in the situation of Europe which have increased the danger of re-landing?—There have been some which may have increased it; and there may have been some which may have given facility to the re-landing.

Do those causes, in your opinion, afford additional reasons for apprehending increased danger to the revenue from opening the import trade to the out-ports, either generally or partially?—I hardly know what reasons are alluded to.

The reasons alluded to are the reduced tonnage of the exporting vessels, and the dispensing with the certificates of landing the goods; do you think those are reasons which have given facilities to re-landing, and which would be also additional reasons for apprehending increased dangers to the revenue by opening the East-India trade to the out-ports?—If they were continued, certainly.

(By a Lord.) Do you conceive that there would be a greater difficulty in collecting rated duties at an out-port than in the port of London?—No, certainly not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then ROBERT NICHOLAS, Esq. is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

(By Counsel.) I believe you are one of the Commissioners of Excise?—I am. Robt. Nicholas,
Esq.

Has your attention been recently directed to the effect which may probably be produced in the revenue by the establishment of an open trade between the ports of this country and India?—Yes, it has.

Have you reason to believe that any considerable quantities either of the Indian or Chinese goods have, within the last five years, been smuggled into this country?—I have understood considerable quantities have been smuggled

Robt. Nicholas, Esq. smuggled in the Downs; I mean to advert to a part of our report, in which we have said a great quantity of teas were seen floating in the Downs, but I have not known of any considerable quantity being smuggled into the country.

Has any quantity of tea been smuggled from the ships of the Company within the period before mentioned?—I am not aware of any great quantity; the reports of our officers do not speak to a large quantity.

Do you mean that the quantity smuggled has been small in proportion to the quantity consumed?—Extremely small.

So far as any smuggling has taken place from the ships of the Company, can you state whether that smuggling has taken place before their entrance into the Thames, or during their transit up the river?—I should think before their entrance into the Thames.

Are you able to state whether the complete filling of the Chinamen with goods belonging to the Company has operated as a preventive to the illicit importation of tea?—I am not able to speak to that; I have no knowledge of it.

Do you conceive that the regular discipline established on board the Company's ships may have operated as such preventive?—I have no knowledge of that.

Is it your opinion that the publicity of the sales at the India House has conduced to prevent the illicit use of the article?—I do not entirely understand the bearing of the question.

Is it your opinion that the restriction of the Company's ships to the port of London has conduced to prevent the illicit importation of tea into this country?—Certainly I think so.

Let it be supposed that the import trade from India were laid open to the out-ports in general of the United Kingdom, under a reservation however of the China trade to the Company; let it be supposed also that ships from this country could procure somewhere in the eastern seas an illicit lading of tea, all other things remaining the same; would the danger of illicit imports of tea into this country be then materially greater than it is at present?—If tea was part of the loading of the ship that was permitted to be brought to the out-ports, I have no doubt but that there would

would be an increase of smuggling. The other articles of excise are very few; I think they certainly would be more open to smuggling at the out-ports than if they were confined to London. *Robt. Nicholas, Esq.*

Supposing that vessels from the out-ports were not legally allowed to import tea into this country, supposing that in point of fact they could procure cargoes of tea in the Eastern seas, could those teas be clandestinely landed on the coasts of this country?—I should think they would be more likely to be smuggled, because the restrictions that might be advisable would not be so easily applied in a variety of small creeks and islands as they would be at any one great place of depot.

If tea could be procured by vessels from the out-ports in the eastern seas, would not the danger of smuggling be, on the whole, increased?—I should think it would, unless particularly guarded.

What are the particular securities which, in your opinion, might be devised against the dangers in question?—We have conceived that some alterations in the manifest act would very much guard the revenue from fraud.

Do you consider the manifest act as highly operative in the prevention of smuggling?—Yes, I do, certainly.

Has it fallen within your experience to know that the outsides and marks of packages of goods are often made to correspond with the manifest, while the contents of the packages are incorrect?—I have no knowledge of it, except from reports which have been presented to me as presiding at the Board of Excise; and innumerable instances have happened of improper marks having been detected.

Do you conceive that a manifest could serve any effectual purpose, unless it were authenticated by the custom-house or British consul at the port or place where the lading was made up?—I do not think it could.

Supposing, then, that vessels voyaging to India procured illicit shipments of tea at ports where there is neither consul nor custom-house, do you conceive that to such a case the provisions of the manifest act could be made applicable?—Unless some person, constituted as a consul would be, was at either of those ports, I apprehend it could not be made applicable.

Supposing

Robt. Nicholas,
Esq.

Supposing vessels to take up their cargoes in the eastern seas on coasts where there is neither consul nor custom-house, would it be expedient to provide, that on their way homeward they should touch at some intermediate port, where the cargo might be officially examined, and an authenticated inventory made out?—As far as I have been able to collect information from practical officers, I conceive it would be inconvenient, to a degree that would obstruct commerce, to unload the ship at any of those intermediate ports.

Do you conceive that if smaller vessels than the ships of the Company were admitted into the trade between this country and India, the danger before-mentioned of smuggling would be greatly increased?—I apprehend that it would.

Would you recommend a limitation of the size of vessels employed in the Indian trade from the out-ports, beyond a particular measurement or burthen?—I should recommend to the size of at least four or five hundred tons.

In time of peace, are not vessels of a much smaller burthen employed in conveying goods from America to this country?—I have no knowledge upon the subject.

In the report of the Commissioners of Excise, notice is taken of the out-ports in which the warehousing system is established; can you state what those ports are?—I am not sure I can mention the exact ports; they have been authorised at different times; but such an account could be furnished from the board very readily.

The English ports, described in the report of the Commissioners of Excise as most eligible for a participation in the Indian trade, are Liverpool, Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Dover, and Hull; are there not several of the out-ports in which the warehousing system is established, besides those mentioned in the enumeration?—There are several.

Do you mean to imply, that there are several ports in which the warehousing system is established, and which do not furnish an adequate security against smuggling?—I know of none which does furnish a security against smuggling; none of the out-ports in their present state.

Do you conceive it practicable to furnish any considerable number of the out-ports with docks surrounded by walls twenty feet high?—I have never

Robt. Nicholas,
Esq.

never been myself at any of the out ports to view them as a Commissioner of Excise; but the officers under us have been sent at different times to the different ports, particularly of the establishment of the warehousing system; and I know it was their opinion that such docks might be established there; and that at Bristol it was an oversight, its not being thought of before the whole new arrangement there was executed.

Could that plan, at most of the out-ports mentioned, be carried into effect, without a very considerable expence?—I am not competent to answer that question.

Is it within your knowledge, that within the remoter coasts of this island a very considerable quantity of smuggling takes place, in spite of the utmost precautions that can be adopted against it?—Certainly; I conceive that the remoter part of this coast, to vessels approaching the port of London, would be the furthest point of Devonshire or Cornwall.

Does a considerable quantity of smuggling take place in the eastern or western coast of this island, within your knowledge?—I do not think there does.

Do not the precautions against smuggling prove more effective, when conducted under the immediate eye of the Board, than on the more distant coasts already mentioned?—I think the nearer our officers are to the Board who direct them, the more vigilant and careful they are.

Would not a vessel, proceeding from the English Channel to the port of Hull, have as many opportunities of smuggling in her way, as vessels proceeding from the Channel up the river Thames to Blackwall?—I should think she would have more opportunities of smuggling.

Do you conceive that there is any considerable danger of smuggling in the river Humber and in the port of Hull?—I have never been at Hull; but the report of our collector there has considered Hull by no means as secure.

It is stated in the report of the Commissioners that the Bristol Channel is peculiarly favourable to clandestine trade?—I should think it was particularly so.

Can

Robt. Nicholas,
Esq.

Can you state from what circumstances?—From the length of river before the ship approaches the legal quay.

In what manner would you recommend that a vessel clearing out from India, and on her return, arriving off the coast with an Indian cargo, should be guarded to the port to which she may be bound?—I have no sort of knowledge on the subject; if I were asked under what restrictions that vessel should sail, whether she should pursue her course without stopping at any other port, I should be able to answer it; but I know nothing of a proper guard for ships coming from India till they reach the limits of our cutters.

(Examined by the Committee.)

You are Chairman of the Board of Excise?—Yes, I am.

Of course then you have seen all the different reports made by your officers on this subject?—I am acquainted with the different reports that have been made by our officers.

Do not you know that an officer under the Board of Excise, in consequence of the smuggling that has been carried on by the Company's officers, recommended that they should be paid in money instead of being allowed privileged tonnage?—Certainly; I think in two reports.

Does the revenue officer who signs the manifest see the goods that are contained in that manifest actually loaded in the vessel?—I rather think he does not.

Then, according to the present practice under the manifest act, the officer signing the manifest only knows what is on board the vessel by the declaration of the captain?—I apprehend so.

Supposing a vessel taking in a cargo, we will say in the eastern islands, and that provision should be made in the manifest act for that vessel's going to any port, say Java or Prince of Wales' island, or any other port, and there declaring the contents of her cargo, and there obtain a manifest, would not that manifest be as effectual as it is according to the present practice in the West Indies?—I should think it would.

Supposing the penalty attaching upon the vessel of 350 tons registered measurement, was the confiscation of ship and cargo, upon any teas being found

Robert Nicholas,
Esq.

found on board, would you think it worth any merchant's while to enter upon a smuggling adventure from India for any prospect of advantage he could obtain from such a measure?—I think not.

On what part of the coast of this island do you believe there is the greatest quantity of smuggling carried on?—I should think the greatest smuggling was between Dover and this port; between Dover and the port of London.

Is that of goods shipped for the port of London?—I apprehend it is chiefly of teas, and the articles I before alluded to as excisable articles imported from India, namely, wine, coffee, rum, and arrack.

Then is the Committee to understand that the principal smuggling which now takes place in this island is in East-India goods bound for the port of London?—I think so.

You have said you are of opinion, that if a free trade were to take place to the out-ports, there would be a greater facility of smuggling teas than there is at present?—Yes, I think so.

Do you think there would be a greater facility of smuggling teas in British ships of 350 registered tons, than there would be by American ships of a smaller burthen approaching the coast?—Supposing the India ships to be controuled by a manifest, and by other regulations, I conceive that the American ships would be most injurious to the revenue.

Has it ever come to your official knowledge, that any considerable quantity of teas has been smuggled in here from the United States of America?—No, I have no knowledge of it.

Have you had any opportunity of knowing whether there are any considerable quantities of teas go from America to Canada?—No, we have no official means of knowing.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Then JOHN VIVIAN, Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

John Vivian,
Esq.

(By Counsel.) You are, I believe, solicitor to the excise?—I am.

Let it be supposed that the import trade from India were laid open to the out-ports in general of the United Kingdom, under a reservation of the China trade to the Company; and let it be supposed further, that ships from the out-ports could illicitly procure tea somewhere or other in the eastern seas; do you conceive that the danger of illicit importation of tea into this country would then be greater, and how much, than it is at present?—I think it would be greater, but the excess it is impossible for me to state, even by conjecture; that, I apprehend, would depend upon the number of ships employed in it, because it is not possible to superintend the many ships with the same degree of accuracy that you can superintend the few.

On the supposition that a very considerable number of ships were employed in the Indian trade, do you apprehend that the danger of smuggling would be very considerably increased?—I apprehend my former answer to be an answer to this question; I certainly think that it would.

Do you conceive that any security could be devised which should prove completely effectual against the danger described?—To devise a complete security would be extremely difficult. Indeed, none of the securities that we have at present in the law are adequate to the end for which they are intended. We still find smuggling exists, but it certainly would be possible to devise some regulations that might check it considerably.

What, in your opinion, would be the particular security against the clandestine running of teas on shore from vessels bound to the out-ports?—There could be no security, I apprehend, but that of the officers watching the ships: if the tea should not be a part of the cargo, it would not be included in the catalogue of the cargo, consequently there would be nothing to direct the attention to what should be expected to be delivered out of the ship when she arrives in port.

Could any security against the dangers in question be equally put in force on parts of the coast of the United Kingdom, very remote from the metropolis?—Yes, officers might be stationed at any place upon the coast; and in proportion to the extent of officers, in the same proportion would the revenue be more or less secure.

On

John Vivian,
Esq.

On the supposition that the officers attached to the Excise should not be considerably increased in number, do you conceive that the security mentioned in the last question could be effectually applied on the remoter coasts of the island?—Wherever there are few officers stationed, there certainly would be opportunity of smuggling in the tea; and if officers were to be stationed every where, it would require a very considerable increase indeed to the present establishment.

(Examined by the Committee.)

In what part of this island do you apprehend there is the greatest quantity of smuggling at present?—It is difficult to say, because there have been considerable alterations with respect to smuggling, in consequence of the new acts for Guernsey and Jersey; but I apprehend myself that the smuggling of salt between this and Ireland, is one of the greatest smuggling calamities we sustain at present.

Do you think that if there was from India a free open trade to the port of London, that that would greatly increase the smuggling to this island?—I should think it might; my reason for so thinking is, that a great company is not so fit an instrument for smuggling as an individual, or any association of a few individuals, inasmuch as the company has not the same motive that an individual has; the management of the affairs of a great company (the East-India Company for instance) must be confided to few hands, therefore the motive is not so cogent; if they were disposed to smuggle, the profits of that contraband trade would be distributed among a great number of individuals as well as themselves; but a great company is not so fit an instrument in itself for smuggling, because they cannot perform the manual operations of it themselves, but must conduct the business through a system of organization of different officers, who must all be parties in this contraband trade, having ultimately no interest in it themselves, whereas individuals certainly could effect those purposes with simply the aid of the captain and his officers.

Do not you know that the officers in the Company's service have performed the manual operation of smuggling with great dexterity?—Oh, certainly.

In the event of the free trade taking place to the port of London, are not you apprehensive that the smuggling would take place, not only immediately near the port of London, but all along the coast in the way to London?—I should apprehend that it would take place, not only immediately

John Vivian,
Esq.

diately near the port of London, but in particular in the chops of the Channel, as the sailors call it.

Supposing a free trade is granted to the port of London, and a free trade to the out-ports, on the supposition that the same number of ships came under the same regulation as the other, do not you conceive they would be attended with as much danger in encouraging smuggling as the others? —I should think that would not be the case, because in London and its environs we have a better establishment of officers; at the same time, by altering the establishment of officers in other ports, you might put it on the same footing of security.

If you are chiefly apprehensive of smuggling taking place, in the event of a free trade, in the chops of the Channel, would not that danger be equally incurred by a free trade to the port of London as by a free trade to the out-ports?—Undoubtedly.

Is there not a certain degree of security will be derived to the revenue from the circumstance of the ships conducting the free trade being of the burthen of 350 registered tons or upwards?—Of course the larger the ships are, the greater will be the security, because the fewer objects that are to solicit the officer's attention the more he will attend to them, and the fewer officers will be required.

Do not you think there would be greater danger to the revenue from small American vessels proceeding to the coast than from larger British vessels coming to the coasts in the event of the trade being opened?—American ships, undoubtedly, would have the same opportunity of smuggling that British ships have, but British ships come to this country as their domicile, or for other objects of merchandize; if there should be other objects to bring the Americans here for other parts of their cargo, they would be on terms of equality.

But would not smaller American vessels have an advantage over the larger British vessels in smuggling?—The smaller the vessels certainly the more likely they are to escape.

Does not the revenue also derive a security from the British vessel having a manifest on board, which it has not in the American?—So far as the manifest goes it does, but I never can consider the manifest as that adequate security which it has been supposed to afford; my reason for so thinking is this, that, as the manifest act is constructed, a man is not generally

John Vivian,
Esq.

rally bound to one manifest, he may make as many as he pleases; a captain may approach his coast, and smuggle out one quarter of his cargo, he might then make out another manifest or catalogue (which is the same thing) of his cargo minus so much as he had smuggled; when the vessel therefore came into port, or was boarded by an officer, his cargo would agree with the manifest; and in the same way he might make a third, fourth, or fifth, according to the smuggling success of his voyage.

Is the Committee to understand that it affords no further security except in so far as it is a declaration of what the captain chooses to say is his cargo?—I conceive not, with this exception, that if an officer boards him at any distance from the coast, the captain delivers a copy of that manifest to that officer, and which would prevent his subsequent smuggling. I should, however, add, that even where disagreements are found between the manifest and the cargo, they have great facility in raising pretences to account for it, by stating that in truth that part of the cargo was never taken on board, the ship sailed in a great hurry, or some pretence which nobody in this country can contradict; and in that way they account for the disagreements.

If ships from India were bound to touch at any particular port on their way, and there make a declaration of their goods which might be sealed up for delivery here, would not that afford a certain degree of security against smuggling?—Most undoubtedly it would.

Is the Committee to understand from you that according to the present practice a ship clearing out from the island of Jamaica bound to London, the captain is not compelled under the manifest Act to deliver an account of his cargo to the Custom-House officer at Kingston?—Certainly.

Does not that Custom-House officer sign that?—Certainly, if you are speaking of places where we have custom-houses it is a different thing: in what I have said upon the subject of manifests I meant those coming from foreign ports, not those where we have custom-houses.

From your knowledge of the practice of smuggling, do you conceive that any given extent of coast in this island is so well adapted, or so likely to be made use of, for carrying on an illicit trade from India, taking into consideration the population of the southern parts of this country, and the opposite coast of a foreign country, as the distance between the Land's End and Dover?—I think not. I think, if I refer to past experience, I may venture

John Vivian,
Esq. venture to say, that is the coast where the smuggling is generally conducted, being immediately opposite to the coast of France, and Guernsey, and Jersey.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

The Counsel for the East-India Company stated, that they had concluded the evidence in support of their case.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee to the first day of meeting after the recess at Easter;

The same is agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

