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147
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ON THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

IN THE LAST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT;

AND ALSO THE

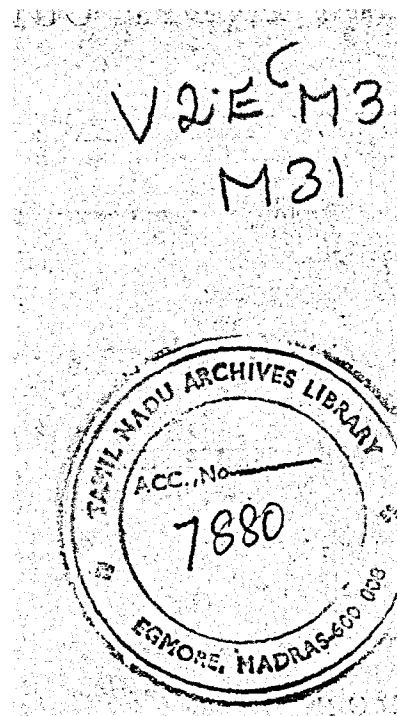
ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS

LAID BEFORE THE SAID COMMITTEE.

LONDON:

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1831.



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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 17° die Februarii, 1831.

Sir HENRY PARNELL, Bart. in the Chair.

THOMAS BRACKEN, Esq. called in, and examined.

1. You are a partner in the house of Messrs. Alexander and Company, of Calcutta?—I am. 17 Feb. 1831.
T. Bracken, Esq
2. How long have you actually resided in India?—Fifteen years.
3. How long have you been returned to England?—About two months.
4. How many large and old-established houses, of the same description as that with which you are concerned, are there in Calcutta?—Five or six of the old houses.
5. Have any new commercial establishments been formed in Calcutta since the opening of the free trade in 1815?—Yes, there have been several; I should think twelve or fourteen.
6. What is the general nature of the business carried on by establishments like your own?—Agency and banking in all its different branches, advances of money for commercial purposes.
7. Do you act as consignees also for shipments of goods from London?—Yes, for shipments of goods from London and the out-ports.
8. To what other countries do your mercantile transactions extend?—China, and all parts of India, America, France, the Persian Gulf, and sometimes to Holland and Denmark; but to a very small amount in the latter countries.
9. Is there any trade to South America?—Very little; that has fallen off very much of late years.
10. Has the commerce to Calcutta increased since your first acquaintance with it?—Very considerably.
11. To what do you attribute that increase?—To the greater facilities afforded by the opening of the trade.
12. Can you furnish the Committee with any statement showing the increase of the trade of Calcutta since the opening of the free trade?—I have a memorandum extracted from a publication which has lately been printed in Calcutta, compiled by Mr. Wilson, in the Company's service. In his capacity of assay-master he was required by the Government to make an inquiry into the quantity of bullion exported from and imported into Calcutta;

17 Feb. 1831. • T. Bracken, Esq. cutta; during that inquiry he had access to the Custom-house records with respect to all other articles of trade, and he was induced to publish a book on the commerce of Bengal. It contains the imports and exports of every description of merchandize, from 1813-14 to 1827-28. I have an extract from that work before me now.

13. Have the goodness to deliver it in.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

IMPORTS and EXPORTS of Calcutta, for the Fifteen Years ending in 1827-1828.

YEARS.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Rupees.	£. sterling.	Rupees.	£. sterling.
1813-14	2,12,00,000	2,120,000	5,39,00,000	5,390,000
1814-15	2,61,00,000	2,610,000	5,61,00,000	5,610,000
1815-16	3,44,00,000	3,440,000	6,66,00,000	6,660,000
1816-17	5,84,00,000	5,840,000	6,99,00,000	6,990,000
1817-18	6,85,00,000	6,850,000	7,81,00,000	7,810,000
1818-19	7,62,00,000	7,620,000	7,09,00,000	7,090,000
1819-20	5,65,00,000	5,650,000	6,95,00,000	6,950,000
1820-21	4,52,00,000	4,520,000	6,71,00,000	6,710,000
1821-22	4,67,00,000	4,670,000	7,79,00,000	7,790,000
1822-23	4,30,00,000	4,300,000	8,71,00,000	8,710,000
1823-24	3,88,00,000	3,880,000	8,04,00,000	8,040,000
1824-25	4,04,00,000	4,040,000	7,75,00,000	7,750,000
1825-26	3,60,00,000	3,600,000	7,60,00,000	7,600,000
1826-27	3,40,00,000	3,400,000	6,80,00,000	6,800,000
1827-28	4,15,00,000	4,150,000	8,73,00,000	8,730,000

14. What is a crore?—A crore is about a million of pounds.

15. What proportion of the trade of Calcutta is carried on with Great Britain?—The proportion with Great Britain is about seven-tenths of the whole trade.

16. Has that been increasing or decreasing since the commencement of the free trade?—It has increased. I think, in the opening the trade, the proportion was about five-tenths; it is now seven-tenths.

17. What are the principal imports from Great Britain and other countries?—Of late years cotton piece-goods and twist, and metals of every description (spelter is now very largely imported), and woollens.

18. Is the consumption of British cotton goods daily increasing among the inhabitants of India?—I think it is, very considerably.

19. Do they get them cheaper than their own manufactures?—Certain descriptions

descriptions of manufactures they do, but not the very lowest kind, at present. I think the very common and coarse cloths they make cheaper themselves; but the middling and better description, for instance, what are called the Dacca muslins, are very much dearer than the Manchester piece-goods.

20. Is that a description much worn by the natives?—Yes, it is used very largely.

21. What description of natives?—Every one that can afford it: chiefly those above the very lowest use the English piece-goods; shopkeepers and persons that possess a little property.

22. Do the lower classes of the Indians wear any of our manufactured produce?—Of late years they have worn a particular kind of cloth, or handkerchief, which has been sent out from Manchester, and which has been sold very cheap indeed; and they get them cheaper than corresponding cloths of their own manufactures made of cotton, and coloured.

23. In patterns, or plain colours?—Sometimes patterns, and sometimes plain.

24. How are they worn?—They wear them over their heads and shoulders, and also round their waists sometimes.

25. With respect to cotton yarn imported into India, is that worked up into low-priced cloths?—It is; but there are different numbers of the twist imported: some is used for the better classes of cloths.

26. Is the import of cotton twist increasing?—Yes; it has increased amazingly within these few years; in fact, it was unknown a short time since in Calcutta.

27. Is it also used in sewing and making up cloths?—As thread, it is; that is of a different description.

28. Is the thread and the yarn the same thing?—Not quite: the former is of a finer description; differently spun.

29. In travelling through distant parts of India, have you met with British goods in the bazaars and market-places?—I have never been much in the upper provinces; but I have been in them and at Bhurtpore, and the western parts of India. I have seen English manufactures exposed in the bazaars or markets there, and also at Lucknow; I have seen imitation shawls in great quantities.

30. Shawls made of what?—Of cotton, I believe.

31. When you saw the shawls exposed for sale, were there Cachmere shawls also?—They were to be procured, but at much higher prices. There are shawl merchants who travel about the country.

32. When did the import of cotton twist first commence?—I do not think there was any great quantity before 1824 or 1825.

33. Can you state the quantity of cotton twist that has been imported of late years?—The work to which I have alluded, drawn out from the custom-house records at Calcutta, states that fact. By this publication, the value of

17 Feb. 1831. cotton twist imported in 1827 and 1828, was about nineteen lacks of rupees; in the following year it increased considerably. Mr. Wilson has not gone so far as that, but I am prepared to state that that was the case. In 1829-30 it fell off again; but for the three years of 1827-28, 1828-29, and 1829-30, the value was about seventy lacks of rupees, making about twenty-three lacks of rupees each year.

T. Bracken, Esq.

34. Do you conceive that the great importation of cotton fabrics from Great Britain has materially interfered with the native manufactures?—Very considerably.

35. Has it produced distress among the weavers and artizans?—Not to the extent that might have been supposed; for the weavers are also cultivators, and they turn their labour from one employment to the other without that shock, perhaps, which might be expected in other countries.

36. Are not the weavers employed in working up the cotton twist from England?—Some of them; but a great many of them have become cultivators.

37. How was the yarn supplied before the importation of cotton twist from England?—By the women chiefly.

38. Was there any machinery applied to it?—None. There are now spinning and weaving mills established in India.

39. With respect to the weavers of Dacca muslins; do you know any thing of their condition, in consequence of this increased importation of British goods?—At first they were thrown out of employment, but most of them turned their attention to the land as ryots, and some of them have been employed by indigo planters, who have spread in that neighbourhood, particularly of late years.

40. Were they of the same class as the ryots before?—The weavers are almost always ryots.

41. Has not the importation of Indian silk piece goods greatly increased since the opening of the free trade?—I believe it has; but I do not exactly know the proportionate increase.

42. Can you state any new articles imported into India from the countries of Europe since the opening of the free trade?—The spelter and cotton twist may be considered the most important. Of late years there has been a large importation of wine, particularly of Sherry, which was a novelty in the Indian market.

43. Spelter is what is commonly called zinc?—It is.

44. What is the Indian name for it?—It is of the same quality almost as tutenague, but not quite so good; that was chiefly imported from China, but has now entirely ceased.

45. To what purposes is the spelter commonly applied?—It is for making pots and pans, and cooking utensils of every description.

46. Are

46. Are those pots worked up in India?—Generally they are, I believe some have been made up in this country, and have sold very well; but I only speak of that from hearsay.

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47. Have not they imported some pots of that kind made of iron?—I do not think I have seen any made of iron, not for the purposes which I particularly allude to, for cooking; the natives prefer brass to any other; copper and spelter and tin together, make the composition.

48. Are the brass pots in great demand with the natives?—They are. There is scarcely a native that has not one of them, and also a sort of a large plate or platter.

49. Will you state to the Committee the staple articles of export from Bengal?—Indigo, sugar, saltpetre, and cotton at one time; but that has fallen off very much, and raw silk.

50. Is grain exported much?—There is a good deal of grain exported to different parts, and at one time large quantities were sent to the coast; that has almost ceased, except in cases of famine. There is a large trade in grain with the Isle of France, which is now almost entirely supplied from India with rice.

51. What is the amount and value of indigo annually exported from Bengal at present?—It is almost difficult to say, it varies so much with the price in the Calcutta market; I should say from two to three millions sterling. It depends so much upon the price here, which of course influences the Calcutta valuation.

52. Can you state the quantity?—That is very uncertain too, but I think the average is about 120,000 maunds a year; sometimes more, sometimes less.

53. To what countries is it chiefly exported?—Chiefly to England, some to America, some to France (the consumption of France has increased of late years), and some small quantity to the Persian Gulf.

54. What becomes of that which goes to the Persian Gulf?—It goes into Persia, and, I believe, into some parts of the Russian territory; there is no very large quantity sent there.

55. Is the firm with which you are connected extensively engaged in the culture of indigo?—Yes.

56. Have you any accounts which show the outlay and returns for any given period?—I have a small memorandum here, showing the result of the operation of fifty-six indigo factories in various parts of Bengal, Behar, and Benares, most of which have been under our agency, or in which we were interested, for the last six years. The gross amount of outlay during that time has been 1 crore and 77 lacks, or £1,770,000, the returns have been 2 crore and 20 lacks, or £2,200,000. The average yearly outlay, without including interest or commission, has been 31 lacks, and 93,000 rupees, or £319,300; the average yearly return has been 39 lacks, 81,000 rupees, or £398,100; the gross profit upon that is 7 lacks, 96,000 rupees, or £79,600.

57. What

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57. What would be the net profit?—I have not got a statement of that, but I should think a deduction might be made of eighteen or twenty per cent. for charges and interest of money.

58. What number of indigo factories may there be throughout the Bengal provinces?—I should think from three to four hundred factories.

59. Have not the natives of India lately begun to imitate the European process of manufacturing indigo?—They have.

60. Have they invested large funds in it?—Yes, largely. There are a great many small factories.

61. Is the indigo manufactured by natives, without European assistance, equal in quality to that manufactured by Europeans?—Certainly not; in general it is very inferior.

62. Are you acquainted with the article called lac dye?—I have seen it; I know very little of it myself.

63. Is not that a recent introduction, as an object of commercial speculation?—Not very recent; as long as my knowledge goes it has existed; it has been used more of late, but the prices have been very discouraging.

64. Is it used for dye?—It is used for dyeing; the colour is an orange-red, I think.

65. Is the firm of which you are a member in any way connected with Europeans engaged in the production of raw silk?—Not now, or very lately; we have been engaged in it, but not to any great extent.

66. Why did you discontinue it?—In consequence of the difficulties we found to exist from the competition of the Company's commercial agents, which rendered it a hazardous speculation.

67. Do you know whether the other great firms in Calcutta are in the habit of making advances to planters and others?—Indigo planters they are.

68. Have they also made advances to those engaged in the preparation of raw silk?—That I cannot state. Generally speaking, the commercial residents themselves are dealers in silk, and have their business transacted in Calcutta by the agency-houses; I do not think it is often that men, not connected with commercial agency, are in the habit of making advances.

69. Is not the great obstacle to that branch of commerce in the hands of the private merchant, that he is obliged to enter into competition with the Company's servants?—Certainly.

70. Do the Company's agents possess any peculiar advantages over the private trade in that respect?—I do not believe they do now. There was a regulation, by which a certain priority of claim was given to the Company's contracts with the ryots, and the people who receive advances; but I think that regulation has been recently rescinded.

71. Was it a right of pre-emption?—No; the one I allude to was, where a native took an advance from an individual, and subsequently took one from the

the Company's agent, the individual could not receive his money or its value back, until all claims on the part of the Company had ceased.

72. Was it rescinded in consequence of repeated applications upon the subject?—It was rescinded in consequence of memorials sent to the local government or the Court of Directors, and they directed that it should be rescinded.

73. Supposing the East-India Company were to cease altogether to carry on trade in silk, is it your opinion that the silk trade of India would increase under the exertions of individuals?—My opinion is, certainly, that it would.

74. Will you state your reasons for that opinion?—I conceive that the mode by which the Company transact their business enhances the price very considerably. They do not enter into it as a mercantile speculation, but as a mode of remittance.

75. Would the quality of the silk be improved if the trade were directed by individuals instead of the Company?—I do not see any reason why it should not.

76. Do the Company carry it on more extensively than individuals?—They do now.

77. Are not the Company and individuals upon equal terms?—Now they are.

78. Then if the Company carry it on more extensively than individuals, how is it that individuals do not now succeed in their speculations in silk, and beat the Company out of the market?—Because, whenever it is known that the Commercial Resident of the Company is in the market, the price is raised beyond what an individual would think it prudent to give. The Company's agent is not so much influenced by such considerations, and he complies with the price affixed.

79. Is it not the case, that with respect to every article of commerce, when the Company's agents are known to be in the market, the price of it rises?—Unquestionably, I think it has that effect.

80. Are you aware of any instances in which the sales in England of articles so purchased by the Company, at an enhanced price in India, have been below the rate at which they purchased in India?—I have no particular instance immediately in my recollection; but I imagine that in many instances, in sugar and silk, they must have sustained heavy losses.

81. Must not that materially interfere with any commercial speculations carried on by the private merchants?—I think it interferes prejudicially with the private merchant, certainly.

82. Would it not tend to derange all the speculations he might form under other circumstances?—I do not think at present he would be inclined, as the system now is, to go into the market as a competitor, from the impression that

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17 Feb. 1831. that he would have to pay a higher price for the raw produce than it would be prudent for him to give.

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83. What effect do you imagine that derangement of commercial speculation on the part of the private trader has upon the natives of India, beneficial or otherwise?—I conceive that at present the native weaver, for instance, or the persons employed by the Company's agents, benefit by the prices that the Company give; they benefit in one way, certainly, because they get a higher price probably than it would be worth the while of a private individual to give.

84. Although some individuals may benefit, has it not a tendency to contract commercial speculations considerably?—I think it has; it acts as a premium upon the particular produce, and enhances its cost.

85. Does not it tend to limit the demand of that production of the country?—I think it does.

86. Do Europeans, in any part of the country you are acquainted with, enter into the culture and manufacture of sugar, or the culture and preparation of cotton?—Not that I am aware of, in the immediate cultivation of it; they purchase it generally in the bazaars. They do not superintend the actual growth of cotton, but they make advances to the ryots, both for sugar and cotton.

87. What, according to your opinion, is the cause which prevents the Europeans from engaging in the culture and manufacture of sugar, in the same manner in which they engage in the culture and manufacture of indigo?—Sugar is supposed to require a much greater dead stock to make it than indigo, and a greater outlay at first. With respect to indigo the outlay is annual, and the buildings are comparatively of small value. With respect to sugar, a large extent of country would be required under the control of an European, and he would have to erect very expensive and substantial buildings, and to erect machinery at great cost.

88. Do you know what the sort of machinery now is by which the manufacture of sugar is carried on?—It is very inferior to the West-India process; but within these late years, I understand, one or two sugar-mills have been sent out from England to India, but I have not seen any sugar that was made by them; indeed, I do not believe they were erected when I came away.

89. Are you aware that a large number of sugar-mills have been sent out to the Mauritius?—Yes, I understand they have, and steam-engines connected with them.

90. Are you acquainted with the process of making sugar in India?—Not personally.

91. Is it grown in large quantities by any individual?—No; I believe each ryot has a certain number of begahs.

92. What

92. What is the proportion of a begah to an acre?—It varies in different parts of the country; in Calcutta about one-third of an acre.

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93. Are there any large sugar plantations in India?—Not that I am aware of; the ryot brings his sugar to the bazaar.

94. Are you acquainted with the nature of the sugar manufacture in any of the West-Indian colonies?—No, I am not. I have seen gentlemen from the West-Indies in India, who complained of the quality of our sugar, and stated it to be very inferior to the West-Indian sugar.

95. Do you know whether the same individual who grows the sugar also expresses it from the cane?—I believe there are two stages; the first process of expressing it from the cane is done by the person that grows it, and he takes it then to another party, by whom it goes through another process; but I am not very certain on that point.

96. Do you conceive, that supposing a greater capital were employed in the growth and manufacture of sugar in India, there might be a much larger quantity grown than is now produced?—I believe it can be grown to any extent; and I have no doubt that if capital were applied to it the quality would be better.

97. Have you any reason to doubt that it would be sugar of as good quality as that produced in other parts of the world?—I think it is doubtful whether there would be any immediate change. I have understood that the sugar-cane itself in India, from bad management, is not equal to the West-India sugar-cane.

98. Would there be any impediment to the introduction of the best species of sugar-cane?—I should think there would be no impediment; but the fact is, that the sugar-cane, as at present cultivated, is held to be inferior to the West-Indian.

99. Supposing it were desirable to extend the cultivation of sugar in India, could large spaces of ground, unoccupied by other cultivations, be very easily found; such, for example, as 1,500 or 1,600 acres, all lying together?—I should think so, unquestionably. I conceive there would be no impediment to obtaining any extent of land, because the present cultivator would be as disposed to sell his field or let his field for sugar, as for indigo.

100. Would it not displace a considerable mass of industry now employed in other cultivations?—So far it would displace it, but for value received; no man would part with his field unless he was paid for it.

101. Is there not a great abundance of land in India to be applied to various species of cultivation, at present unoccupied?—There are great quantities.

102. Supposing the better land to be employed more largely in the cultivation of sugar, could not other species of Indian produce be grown upon lands of an inferior description?—The soil, of course, varies there as it does every

17 Feb. 1831. every where; but there is an immense quantity of land occupied with jungle at present, but which, with a sufficient inducement, people would clear away, and find it available either for wheat or rice, or other products.

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103. You do not then conceive, that supposing the cultivation of sugar and other articles of export were considerably increased by an outlay of capital and the application of European skill, there would, of necessity, be any diminution in the Indian produce, as applicable to the food of the natives?—Certainly not.

104. Are you aware whether any improvement has been made in the cultivation of cotton since the introduction of the free trade?—I believe not.

105. What are the inconveniences and restraint complained of or felt as a burden at present by British-born subjects in India, not being in the service of His Majesty or the East-India Company?—There are several under the early regulations of the Company which have not been repealed yet. I have a list, taken from Mr. Auber's work, which I can deliver in; it chiefly relates to penalties attached to Europeans for being in the country without license, and their being liable to be removed by order of the Governor General.

106. Have the goodness to read it.

[The Witness read the same, as follows:]

"No British subject is permitted to reside in India without a license from the East-India Company: no British subject, even with a license, can go beyond ten miles of one of the presidencies without a new license. A British subject found in India without a license, or whose license may have expired, is amenable to the courts in India, and liable to be punished with a fine of 2,000 rupees for the first offence, and 4,000 rupees for the second offence. A British subject found in India without a license is liable to be sent home, and prosecuted for a misdemeanor before the courts of England, or not prosecuted, as the East-India Company may think proper. British subjects in India, having licenses, are liable to have them cancelled at the discretion of the different governors; and, after two months' notice, to be deemed persons in India without license, and liable to all the penalties of that condition. The Governor General, or other governors of India, are prohibited from granting licenses to British subjects without the permission of the Court of Directors. British subjects, having licenses to proceed to the interior, must be furnished with a fresh license at every removal from district to district. No British subject can engage in the inland trade of salt, beetle-nut, tobacco or rice, except on account of the Company, on pain of forfeiting all such goods and commodities, and treble the value of the same; one half to go to the United Company and one half to the informer. Any British subject found trafficking or haunting the countries or places within the limits of the East-India Company's charter without their license, is liable to forfeiture of ship and cargo and double the value of the same; one fourth-part to go to the informer, and three fourth-parts to the East-India Company. British subjects in India are not permitted to hold lands in property, lease, or mortgage."

I may state, with respect to salt, that before I left Calcutta, the government had issued an order allowing Europeans to purchase salt at their sales at Calcutta, which had not been the case before.

107. Do you know whether those regulations are practically enforced in India?—They have been, in some instances. I believe, in my time, three or four

four persons have suffered under them. I may state, with respect to the regulation, "that no European is allowed to go ten miles from Calcutta without a license;" that that in practice is quite rescinded. The Governor General's own country house is sixteen miles from Calcutta, and gentlemen out of the service are constantly in the habit of going up there. And, in my own person I have frequently gone over the country in various directions, without applying for a license; but still the regulation does exist, and the government is in the habit of advertising this order occasionally. I have before me an order from the general department, dated in 1826, which is as follows:

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Fort William, General Department, August 4, 1826.

"It having come to the knowledge of the Governor that Europeans are in the habit of visiting the Upper Provinces in the prosecution of commercial speculations, or for the temporary purpose of disposing of investments of goods, without having obtained the previous permission of government to proceed to the interior; notice is hereby given, that instructions will be issued to the magistrates of the several districts bordering on the rivers, to stop all Europeans, whether British-born subjects or otherwise, and Americans, not being in the service of His Majesty, or in the civil or military service or employment of the Honourable Company, who may be found in the interior, at a distance of ten miles from the presidency, and unprovided with a passport. Applications for passports are to be made in writing to the Secretary to Government in the general departments, and are to contain the following particulars:

"1st. The name and occupation of the persons applying.

"2d. The time of his arrival in India, and whether with or without a license from the Court of Directors.

"3d. The place or places to which the individual may be desirous of proceeding; and,

"4thly. The general object of his journey.

"By command of the Right Honourable the Vice-President in Council,

(Signed)

"C. LUSHINGTON,
Chief Secretary to the Government."

Now, that appears to have been advertised as a matter of form, because I am not aware of any individual, merely going for pleasure from Calcutta, ever thinking of asking for a passport.

108. Are you aware that advertisements, nearly to the same effect, have been issued at the other presidencies, which appear by the newspapers?—I am not aware of that.

109. Are the regulations more strictly enforced at the other presidencies than they are at Calcutta?—That I cannot speak to.

110. Practically, have not the old regulations preventing Europeans from holding land, been considerably relaxed by later regulations?—There was an order of Government, dated, I think, in February 1829, which was founded upon the same basis as a previous order respecting holding lands for the purpose of the cultivation of coffee. The former applied to persons desirous of cultivating indigo, but it was at the same time encumbered with

17 Feb. 1831. . so many restrictions, that I do not believe there is any instance of a person applying for permission under it.

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111. Was not the permission originally given, rescinded by the Directors?—I am not aware of that.

112. Are there many respectable and industrious British-born subjects now at Calcutta, and other places in the Bengal province, without a license from the India Company?—I believe there are a good many without licenses.

113. Do you imagine that the regulations to which you have alluded, do practically interfere with the conduct of commercial speculations?—I think they interfere with respect to the holding of lands, certainly. Indeed, I know an instance that occurred very recently in India, where, upon a regulation of the Bengal Government, 48 of 1795, very serious injury was sustained by an Englishman being ejected from the possession of landed property, on the sole ground that he was an Englishman; and though he was acting in the capacity of agent for a native, to whom the property belonged, yet it was held, that under that regulation he could not be in charge, though he had a local license to reside in the district; and he was removed. There was a lawsuit about the property, and the possession was given to the opposite party upon the above ground alone, viz. than an English person had no right of occupation whatever, without the express sanction of the Governor General, which in this case had not been given; for it had been thought unnecessary, as the party had a local license to reside in the district. It was thought he might act as the agent of a native proprietor; but it was held that he could not, and he was, by the order of the court, ejected at an hour's notice, and the possession of a very valuable property given over to another party.

114. Is it not essential to the conduct of commercial speculations, that individuals should have free access to the parts of the country where either their goods are to be sold, or where purchases are to be made?—I think so.

115. Have they not thereby the means of ascertaining more correctly the wants of the people?—Unquestionably, by constant motion from place to place.

116. Does any inconvenience arise to British subjects from the necessity of their having to procure a fresh license when they remove to the interior of the country, or from district to district?—I do not think that is any practical inconvenience, because I have never known an instance where it has been refused. The parties are compelled to make references of conduct and character, and there is a fee attached to the license.

117. Do you know the amount of the fee?—It is not large; I believe about 32 rupees.

118. For what period are the licenses generally granted?—That I do not exactly recollect. I do not know whether there is any limited period.

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119. By whom are the licenses granted?—They are granted in Calcutta by the Territorial department.

120. Supposing an individual to be in the Upper Provinces, how does he obtain a license to remove?—He would write down to some person in Calcutta, enclosing a letter from himself, stating who he is, and what he is, and where he may be heard of, requesting permission to remove to another district; and I know of no instance where that permission has been withheld upon a proper application.

121. You stated, that Europeans had been allowed to trade in salt, lately?—They have been allowed to purchase it at the Company's sales at Calcutta. They are not allowed to interfere in the manufacture of salt.

122. Does the same apply to tobacco or rice?—I am not at all acquainted with the tobacco trade, and I am not aware that there is any actual prohibition to deal in tobacco, but Europeans never do engage in it.

123. How is it with respect to beetle-nut?—I am not aware; I believe that is excluded by Act of Parliament; and which Act, upon recollection, applies also to the article of tobacco.

124. By the new regulations about salt, are Europeans permitted to carry salt up the country, and trade in it?—Yes, I understand that is the effect of the regulation; but they must purchase it at the Company's sale in Calcutta.

125. Were not the regulations with respect to the dealing on the part of Europeans in salt and beetle-nut directed originally against the dealings of the Company's servants?—I think so. I believe it is matter of record, that in the early part of the Company's possession of the country, great abuses did take place in the inland trade of the country.

126. Are you aware whether any inconvenience results to the trade from the inability to clear out from the minor ports of India?—I am not personally aware of the fact, never having been upon the coast.

127. Must not the exclusion of British enterprize and capital tend to enhance the price to the consumer, and to diminish the trade which might be conducted if no such restraint existed?—I think so.

128. You have stated, that British subjects are not permitted to hold lands or property on a lease or mortgage in their own names; does this provision originate in the Act of Parliament, or in a regulation of the East-India Company?—I believe the regulation with respect to lands is a regulation of the East-India Company itself; I do not believe the Act of Parliament prevents it.

129. Do you know the date of the regulation?—There are two; one is the Regulation 38 of 1793, and there is a Regulation 48 of 1795.

130. Are you not aware that the Court of Directors, as early as the year 1766, prohibited Englishmen from holding lands, and that such prohibition was

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was chiefly directed against its own servants, who about that time were in the habit of holding public lands, farms, and other sources of revenue?—I think it was; and in a Report of the Committee of the House of Commons there is an allusion to that circumstance, in consequence of a communication from Mr. Barwell, who had wished the regulation modified, so as to admit "Europeans of respectable character" to hold lands.

131. What is the date of that Report?—I think 1783 or 1784.

132. Have you referred lately to the Report?—Yes, I had occasion to refer to it this morning. It goes to the extent of stating, that the regulation was chiefly applicable to the Company's servants, who were men of influence and of power, and who might convert that power to improper purposes; and that it would be an irrational regulation as applied to men who were not in the service.

133. Are the natives in India aware of the restraint and disabilities under which British-born subjects, not in the service of His Majesty and the East-India Company, labour?—Yes, they are.

134. Must not the consequence be, in all transactions between Europeans out of the service and natives, to encourage the latter in a spirit of litigation?—I do not think it goes to that extent, but I think it has a certain degree of prejudicial influence against Europeans out of the service.

135. Are you acquainted with many indigo planters?—Yes, several.

136. Do you consider them as an eminently intelligent and respectable class of people?—I think them a very respectable class.

137. Have you any documents that enable you to speak to this point?—I have not with me any letters; but there were several addressed by the indigo planters, in reply to a circular issued to them by the agency houses in Calcutta, wishing to be informed of the number of begahs in cultivation, and the number of persons employed. From the perusal of the replies to the circulars, and the information contained in the letters, I should say that many of the indigo planters were men of extremely good information.

138. Have you heard that the character of the indigo planters has been aspersed, and that they have been accused of turbulence and ill-using the natives?—I have heard that that has been alleged against them.

139. Do you conceive that that is well founded?—Certainly not, generally. There have been individuals that have committed violences; but as a body, I think the aspersion is not a just one.

140. Do you conceive that that class of British subjects has improved in character, or not?—I think it has; there are men of better education now in that line than there used to be.

141. Do the indigo planters in general carry on their cultivation upon their own capital, or upon capital borrowed?—Generally speaking, in the commencement of their career, they borrow capital. In fact, the process is something

something in this way: an indigo planter makes an independence, and then sells his factory; generally, the agent who had been employed by the first indigo planter becomes the agent of the second, and advances the purchase-money. 17 Feb. 1831.
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142. Are there many of the indigo plantations out of debt?—There are more now than there were formerly. Some of the indigo factories within the last six or eight years have got completely out of debt; others have not been so fortunate.

143. What is the interest in general that is paid for loans of money upon indigo plantations?—It depends considerably upon the state of the money-market in Calcutta, but eight, ten or twelve per cent.; at present the rate of interest is high, I believe ten or twelve per cent.

144. Is a mortgage given as security?—Yes.

145. Are there many houses in Calcutta in possession of indigo plantations, in consequence of holding such mortgages?—They are not actually in possession, but they hold the mortgage papers; the planter himself is in possession of the factory; but I believe there are few instances, where there are advances in money to the indigo planters, where an agency house does not take the mortgage in the first instance.

146. Is it probable, in your opinion, that the low price of indigo in Europe will diminish the aggregate quantity of indigo produced?—Certainly. Before I left Calcutta, the expectation of a low price in the home market had induced the agents to withdraw their support from all indigo factories of which the soil was inferior, but which had been brought into cultivation under the stimulus of the high prices that obtained in Calcutta.

147. Are you aware whether it was generally understood at Calcutta, that directions had been sent out by the Directors to inquire into the conduct of the indigo planters?—It was generally understood so.

148. What steps were taken by the Governor General of India with reference to that point?—A circular was issued to the judge and the magistrates of the different districts, to report upon the Europeans in their several jurisdictions.

149. Have you any means of knowing what the result of that inquiry was?—Not any official means. A gentleman high in office in Calcutta told me, confidentially, that the result has been very satisfactory to the characters of the indigo planters.

150. Does not the personal comfort and success in life, of every British subject in India, whether in the service or out of it, residing in the provinces, depend upon the conciliatory conduct and demeanour that he shows to the feelings and prejudices of the native inhabitants?—Unquestionably; a man's own interest would teach him that in India.

151. Have you known any instances in which a contrary conduct has been pursued?—There have been instances.

152. What

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152. What has been the effect upon the individual pursuing that conduct?—I should say generally detrimental to him.

153. Are you not of opinion, that the knowledge which an European has of the power that the Company has over him, is a considerable check to his exercising any such acts as you have described?—I should think that, without that motive, he would be induced to treat the natives well if engaged in commercial pursuits. I should be inclined to think, that a man of very strong passions or infirmity of temper would be withheld by no inducement; but with a reasoning mind, I think the influence of self-interest is sufficient without bringing the other motives into play.

154. Are the indigo plantations generally conducted by agents, or by the parties themselves?—The advances are made by agents, the management of the factory is by the planter. The planter draws upon the agent for supplies of money; that is the only way in which the agent has any thing to do with the factory.

155. Have many of those indigo planters resided a considerable time in India?—Many of them have.

156. Are they chiefly British-born subjects?—I should think the majority of them were; there are a good many Frenchmen.

157. What is the part of the country where the indigo plantations chiefly exist?—Jessore, Kishnagur, and Tirhoot.

158. What is the description of soil best suited to the cultivation of indigo?—It is considered, that those factories are best that are liable to inundations from the Ganges.

159. Does it require a deep alluvial soil?—Not very deep; but the soil is much improved by the sediment that the river brings with it, or leaves rather, after an inundation; but I am not acquainted with the details of indigo cultivation.

160. Are there any Indo-Britons among the indigo planters?—There are some, and as such they have some advantages, by being enabled to take farms and leases in their own names. One of the largest concerns in India is held by a gentleman of the name of Harris, who is an Indo-Briton; in consequence of which he is enabled to hold some very large zemindaries.

161. Have you attended at all to the trials that took place in the supreme court with regard to the ill treatment of natives by Europeans?—I have read several.

162. In those cases in which ill-conduct on the part of Europeans towards natives has occurred, has it generally been on the part of the Company's servants, or on the part of the free traders?—I cannot bring to my recollection the exact proportion of offences committed, but to the best of my recollection there have been very few by either.

163. Has the number of European settlers in Bengal greatly increased since

since the opening of the free trade?—It has increased, but I do not know to what extent; there are several Europeans who come into Calcutta without any license, and they get spread through the interior. 17 Feb. 1831.

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164. Has any inconvenience resulted to the natives from the free resort of Europeans to Calcutta?—I should think not any at all.

165. Do you think any benefit has resulted to them from it?—I think so, unquestionably; wherever there are Europeans, they bring a demand for labour.

166. Are the most intelligent of the native inhabitants anxious for the permanent settlement of Europeans in the country?—I should not say the greatest number were, but the most intelligent are.

167. Have not they expressed it in a petition?—There was a petition in Calcutta, that was signed by a great many very respectable natives as well as Europeans.

168. Can you mention the names of any of the natives?—There is one, a very celebrated native, named Rammohun Roy, and there was a family of the name of Tagores, who are great proprietors of zemindaries.

169. Are they not all persons living in Calcutta?—They are.

170. Is there a counter petition to that?—There is.

171. Do you know anything of the circumstances of that petition?—There were two petitions drawn up at the same time; one for the continuance of the suttees, and the other for the prevention of Europeans holding lands; the same parties were engaged in both petitions. I do not believe the petitioners were called together publicly. I had an opportunity of seeing both of the petitions carried about to the different offices in Calcutta for the purpose of procuring signatures to them from the writers and persons of the lower class; in fact, I saw them in our own office.

172. Do you know with whom either of them originated?—The party who was supposed to have had the most influence in them was a native, who had been a sirkar to Bishop Heber, and had considered himself as having a prescriptive right to be the sirkar of every bishop, but he was turned off, and took offence; he is the editor also of a newspaper at Calcutta, advocating the suttee.

173. What advantages do you consider would result to the improvement of India, with respect to agricultural commerce and the condition of the native population, from the permanent settlement of Europeans, under just and equitable laws?—I think there would be an improvement in the modes of agriculture, and greater habits of industry; the example of Europeans generally being, I think, useful to the natives.

174. Was the first petition you have mentioned signed by any persons out of Calcutta?—It was not circulated beyond Calcutta; but some of the natives that signed it were landholders, some of them having estates 200 or

17 Feb. 1831. 300 miles from Calcutta; people who move about the country, and have their town-houses in Calcutta. T. Bracken, Esq.

175. At what rate of interest have the government of India borrowed money for some time back?—I believe at five per cent. of late years.

176. At what rate of interest have the most respectable firms in Calcutta borrowed money?—Not under eight or nine, or ten sometimes of late years.

177. Can you state any reason for that difference?—I think it is something connected with the want of real property there. Europeans are not allowed to purchase lands, and therefore it is with private security only that they come into the market.

178. What do you suppose is the reason for the rate of interest on money advanced on indigo plantations being so high as twelve per cent.?—There is considerable risk. The actual stock is mortgaged comparatively of small value; even in some instances it is scarcely equal to the annual outlay; and in case of a very unfavourable season, there would be a greater deficiency, perhaps, than the mortgage could cover.

179. At what rate of interest do natives in good credit at Calcutta, subject to the jurisdiction of the King's court, borrow money?—I believe about twelve per cent.

180. What is the common rate of interest between native and native in the provinces not under the jurisdiction of the supreme court?—I have understood it is much higher: I have heard it stated at as much as twenty-four or thirty per cent.; that is, two and a half per cent. per month.

181. Can you explain the reason for the difference?—I can only attribute it to the want of security, the risk.

182. Is there such a thing as borrowing upon the security of real property among European merchants?—In Calcutta there is to a small extent; houses are sometimes mortgaged.

183. Have many of the indigo planters been forced to abandon the business from the amount of their debts?—Some of them have; but I do not think a great many. Some of their factories have been shut up lately, in consequence of the fall of the indigo market of this country.

184. Have the agency houses, in those cases, foreclosed?—It is rarely that the necessity of foreclosure has taken place; the parties themselves have given up possession.

185. Are there any restrictions or regulations that, in your opinion, continue to raise the rate of interest?—I think that, were the capitalist enabled to purchase lands, and to employ his money in the purchase of real property, in the end it would have the effect of reducing the rate of interest, because he would be able to mortgage his landed estate or his property.

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186. Is there any restriction in Calcutta, as to British subjects holding lands and houses?—They hold houses in Calcutta. 17 Feb. 1831.

187. What is the rate of interest between indigo merchants and their agents?—It is about twelve per cent., but it varies; I have known it eight per cent. The agent is generally influenced by what he has to pay; he borrows money with one hand, and lends it with the other. T. Bracken, Esq.

188. Does not the agent, in addition to that, charge a large commission?—He does; two and a half per cent. upon the advance, and two per cent. upon the sale.

189. So that the indigo planter has to pay not only an interest of twelve per cent., but a commission of five per cent. upon all his transactions?—Yes, upon his outlay and his sales.

190. Supposing an European were to borrow money of a native, is there any restriction with regard to the interest in that case?—Yes, twelve per cent. in Calcutta, and all over India.

191. You conceive that if Europeans were allowed to possess land in India, they would be able to borrow at a lower rate of interest than they do?—Yes; it being generally known that they were possessors of landed property, would have the effect of making their security better.

192. Do the natives hold a large proportion of the Company's registered debt?—I believe it has been ascertained lately, that they hold a very small part in proportion of what was supposed. It is chiefly held by Europeans.

193. What system of banking is there at Calcutta?—There is the issuing of bank notes and discounts.

194. Is it under any regulation?—No, there is no regulation regarding private banks.

195. Either with reference to the issues or with reference to the number of banks?—There is no restriction, but there is only one chartered bank at Calcutta. The bank of Bengal is a chartered bank, in which the shareholders are only responsible to the extent of their capital. There are two other banks: there is one general bank, to which there are many subscribers; and there is the bank of Hindostan, with which the house of Alexander and Company is connected.

196. What is the smallest note they issue?—Four rupees.

197. Do they circulate in the country?—They go as far as Chandernagore and Serampore, about twenty-five or thirty miles, but they do not circulate in the villages to any extent.

198. You mentioned, that the rate of interest would probably be lowered, and the facility of obtaining credit increased, if British subjects were to hold lands; do you not know that native landholders borrow money frequently of each other, and frequently of Europeans, at a very high rate of interest, at two or three per cent. per month?—I am not aware that the native possessors of large property pay so high as that. I have always understood that

17 Feb. 1831. that the very high rate of interest was applicable to people without property at all; because I know instances where zemindars have mortgaged their zemindaries, who have only paid eight per cent. and ten per cent. interest to Europeans.

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199. At what rate have you known Europeans borrow money upon mortgage at Calcutta?—At eight per cent.

200. Have any banks failed lately?—The house of Palmer and Company had a bank; but they were not issuing bank notes at the time they failed.

201. Can any house calling itself a bank issue notes at Calcutta?—Yes, there is no legal impediment at present.

202. Do they pay interest upon deposits?—They do.

203. At what rate?—It varies; two and a half per cent. and three per cent. These are deposits liable to be withdrawn at a moment's notice.

204. What is the usual rate of discounting bills?—That varies very much with the credit of the parties; I have known it from six to twelve per cent.

205. In advances, what do they charge?—The bank of Bengal rates are considered the criterion. When I left Calcutta, the houses of tolerable repute had their acceptances discounted at seven per cent.

206. Do you conceive that in their dealings with the natives in carrying on the trade, the Company have now any other advantage over individuals than that which is derived from the amount of their pecuniary means?—I think commercial agents have a great deal of influence in their situation, independently of the command of funds, though the command of funds is probably the most material.

207. You spoke of an old regulation which has lately been rescinded, is this the rescinded regulation you alluded to (*a paper being shown to the Witness*)?—It is; it is a Regulation 9 of 1829, repealing a Regulation 21 of 1793.

208. Have not the Company this overwhelming advantage over private merchants, that they may issue as much paper as they please; and that they have been, within the last two or three years, borrowing money at five per cent., and issuing it without any restriction, and even paying for their indigo investments by issues of five per cent. paper money?—The Company's treasury has been open for the last four or five years for the issue of what we call treasury notes, which in fact are something in the nature of exchequer bills; they bear interest at from four to five per cent.: I believe five per cent. is the rate they now bear. Of course there is no control over the issue of that paper beyond their own discretion.

209. Have not those issues been known to have been made to a very large amount, in payment for investments of indigo, in the last two or three years?—I am not aware that they pay for indigo actually in exchequer notes; but the exchequer notes being obtainable for money at the treasury,

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it has the same effect. A man having a certain sum in cash, has only to go to the treasury, and he can get the exchequer notes, which run for nine months, and they pass from hand to hand as cash.

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210. Have not the Company at the same time been sending home large remittances to this country in specie?—I do not think that last year they sent any specie; the year before they made a large remittance in specie.

211. Are there any banks in the interior, beside the three you have mentioned in Calcutta?—There are no issuers of notes. There are native bankers, who are what are called shroffs, more engaged in discounting than any thing else; they issue bills of exchange, which are called hoondees.

212. Is there much circulation of bills of exchange in the interior?—Very great.

213. For how small a sum are they?—I have seen them for so small a sum as nine rupees. An officer at Cawnpore wishing to remit to Calcutta any sum, can always procure a hoondee from a shroff, drawn upon a shroff in Calcutta.

214. Do those bills of exchange circulate in the country?—Yes; the interior inland business is conducted by hoondees. The great banking houses at Benares have branch establishments in almost all the native cities, and a very large business is conducted by hoondees.

215. What do you suppose is the whole amount of bank note speculation in Calcutta?—At present the private circulation is very limited; indeed, in consequence of Palmer and Company's failure, there was a run upon the private banks, and their issue was in consequence very much reduced, in fact, almost to nothing; but the bank of Bengal escaped pretty well, and their issue I should imagine to be about eighty lacs of rupees.

216. Is there any stamp or duty on bills of exchange?—There is, or ought to be; there is by regulation.

217. Are the provincial bankers chiefly natives or Europeans?—Almost entirely natives.

218. With respect to exchequer bills, can the holders of them demand payment of them at any time?—Only when they become due.

219. Is it the custom to renew them?—Yes; but of course not against the option of the party.

220. Would the firm to which you belong, or any other house of business in Calcutta, prefer employing one of the commercial agents of the Company to one of the ordinary agents?—I do not know that the commercial agents of the Company would be allowed to transact any business for private houses; but we should prefer employing a man of our own.

221. Do you consider the Company's commercial agents skilful and economical merchants, and as such would you employ them in preference to ordinary agents?—I do not think, generally, the system is a good one in which

17 Feb. 1831. which they are brought up; but I have nothing to say against the individuals.

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222. Do you consider the Company themselves skilful and economical merchants?—I should think not.

223. You stated that there ought to be a stamp or duty upon bills of exchange; is that evaded?—Very much.

224. Is it large in amount?—The stamp itself is not very large.

225. Is the bank of Bengal exclusively the bank of Government?—No; there are private proprietors also; the Government hold, I think, three hundred shares.

226. Do they do the Government business?—No, they do not, they are merely a bank of discounts. The advantage they have over private banks is this: the Government passed an order by which the collectors of the districts in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, as high, I think, as Benares, are allowed to receive bank of Bengal notes in payment of revenue; the consequence is, that the circulation of the bank of Bengal is very extensive through the whole of the Lower Provinces.

227. Do the Government use no bank in their transactions?—No; the bank notes received by the collectors in the provinces are remitted to the general treasury in Calcutta.

228. Do they keep any account with the bank?—No private account.

229. Is the Government supposed to be accountable for the bank of Bengal?—That is the impression among the natives; but I doubt whether they are answerable in law, more than to the extent of their shares.

230. Are you not of opinion that the large proportion of the gross produce of the soil which goes to the Government in the shape of taxes, interferes materially with the rate at which individuals cultivating the soil can borrow money?—Of course, any large receipts from the land must interfere with the value of that land.

231. Therefore the risk is much greater to the person lending the money?—Of course.

232. What proportion does the land-tax bear to the gross produce of the soil?—I am not competent to state the exact amount.

233. For what term are the bills of exchange commonly drawn in the Upper Provinces?—They vary from fifty days' date to ninety and one hundred and one days' date; but at fifty days' date most of the hoondees are negotiated in the Upper Provinces.

234. Are there not a few estates at present held by British-born subjects in perpetuity, or on a long lease; and if so, have the goodness to enumerate them?—I only know of one estate that is held by an European altogether

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in his own name, and that I believe is almost a single instance throughout India.

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235. What is the name of that estate?—It is an estate called Fort Gloster, which is about fifteen miles from Calcutta by land; it is an estate of about 800 acres.

236. Do you know the circumstances under which it was obtained?—It was a grant, I believe, originally from Warren Hastings to a Mr. Lambert, in perpetuity, without any Government land-tax; it was granted to Mr. Lambert and his representatives. That is now the property of a firm called Scott and Company; but the manager is a gentleman of the name of Patrick.

237. Do you know the circumstances of that estate?—I have been there often.

238. Is it in a high state of cultivation?—The most part of it is rice land.

239. Do you know whether the proprietor of that estate finds any difficulty in obtaining tenants?—On the contrary, he has rather a difficulty in excluding them; he finds the people anxious to become his ryots.

240. Do those ryots pay direct to him?—They do.

241. Do you know whether there are any estates held in perpetuity in the island of Saugur?—I do not know whether they are in perpetuity, or on a very long lease of 900 years; there are several grants of land which have been cleared, where there is rice growing, and where there is a large population.

242. Do you know any thing of the estates in the island of Saugur?—I have been there. One or more of the members of the firm to which I belong purchased from the Saugur Island Society a quantity of land there; they have been for the last two years clearing it. I went down there about a twelvemonth ago, and passed a day or two in the place. There are about 8,000 begahs of that particular estate cleared, and there are about four hundred families resident on that part of the island. There are other estates which I had not an opportunity of going over, which are rather larger, and I suppose there may be altogether from 50,000 to 60,000 begahs cleared. Saugur is at the mouth of the river Hoogly.

243. Was that at all cultivated previously to the formation of this company?—No. An attempt had been made to clear it by an extensive company, but after expending a large sum, it seemed likely to fail, and they did not like to continue any further expense. Some individuals then applied to the parent society, if I may so call it, for parts of the island, and agreed to continue the clearing.

244. Is it a fertile spot?—I saw no difference between the rice that was produced there and any other.

245. Is it subject to inundation?—Not in the cleared parts now; it was, and that has been the great expense. In 1822-23, after considerable sums of

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17 Feb. 1831. of money had been laid out in embankments, there was an unusually high tide from the sea, which carried every thing away, and created a great additional expense to restore those embankments.

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246. What is the chief production of that land?—At present nothing but rice, and a few vegetables.

247. What is the extent of the island?—I do not exactly know; I should think about six or seven miles long, and a mile or a mile and a half broad in different parts.

248. Has not a large sum of money been employed by different individuals?—A large sum in the first instance, and the result was unsuccessful; then the society almost left the subject, and individuals took an interest in it, and obtained grants of a certain portion of it, and their efforts have been more successful. There are two gentlemen, of the name of Campbell, who are in charge of large divisions of it, who are doing very well.

249. Has there been a fair return upon the capital expended upon it?—Not yet; hitherto the ryots have had the land for clearing.

250. Do you know anything of the cultivation of coffee in India?—I only know it incidentally.

251. Is it in general cultivation there?—No; there have been many attempts made, but they have invariably failed.

252. Have the attempts been made by natives or Europeans?—By Europeans.

253. Do you know in what parts of India coffee is produced?—Of the two plantations I have seen, one is in the neighbourhood of a place called Keerpooy, in the district of Midnepore.

254. Are those plantations both conducted by Europeans?—They were; one was a Spanish gentleman, but I understand they have quite failed.

255. Do you know the cause of the failure?—Various reasons have been assigned; but I believe it is generally supposed that the Bengal sun is too powerful. An attempt has lately been made of planting the plantain tree between the coffee trees: the plantain tree having a very broad leaf, it was supposed that it might act as a protection to it, but I do not know the result.

256. Are you not of opinion, that considering the variety of climate and of situations which exist in our Indian empire, it is probable that coffee might become in some parts a valuable product?—I cannot speak to that.

257. Do you know to what extent coffee is produced in the other presidencies?—Not at all.

258. Is there any other product which you think might with advantage be introduced into India, which is not now generally grown?—I am not aware of any.

259. Does the production of silk require a large capital?—I should think to carry

to carry it to any advantageous result it would require a very large capital. The silk filatures are expensive establishments, and have a great deal of building connected with them for carrying on an improved method of preparing the silk.

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260. Is it at present produced by ryots?—It is; but the Company have been at a large expense in building filatures upon an improved construction.

261. Are the worms fed upon the mulberry trees in India?—Yes.

262. Would it be necessary to plant fresh mulberry trees to extend the cultivation of it there, or do mulberry trees abound to any extent?—I think they abound to a great extent. In many parts of India where I have been, I have seen large fields covered with them.

263. Is the knowledge of the English language extending among the natives?—In Calcutta it is very much, and there are day-schools where the children learn it.

264. Is the Christian religion extending among them?—I do not think there is much extension of that.

265. During your residence of fifteen years in India, do you know of a single instance of the real conversion of a native of India to the Christian religion?—I cannot say that I individually know any person who has been converted; but I have heard a clergyman of the name of Hill say, that he has seen one or two villages in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, in which the inhabitants have shown a disposition to become converts to Christianity. I conceive that the higher class of natives in Calcutta are getting rid of Hindooism, but I do not know that they have adopted any other religion.

266. Are you aware that silks are now imported into India from this country?—Yes, I am aware that they are; piece-goods.

267. And cottons of course?—Yes.

268. What duties are those goods subject to on being imported at Calcutta? I cannot immediately recollect; I think not more than five per cent. *ad valorem*.

269. Are not those goods imported into Calcutta duty free?—I think there is five per cent. charged upon them: it is considered, however, a very moderate duty, whatever it is. I do not believe it is considered as at all interfering with their importation.

270. Is there any duty upon the importation of metals?—Upon metals I do not believe there is any duty, or if any, very slight indeed.

271. Is there not a very considerable improvement going on amongst the younger branches of Hindoos at Calcutta?—They are becoming certainly much better educated, and divesting themselves of many of their prejudices.

272. Do they not generally learn English?—Those of the higher class do. Besides public institutions, there are some few private individuals engaged in teaching children of the higher class.

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273. Do you know whether they have a debating society?—I understand they have.

274. Do the natives show any aptitude for learning the English language?—Yes, the children are quick and intelligent.

275. Do they learn any other language, such as Sanscrit or Arabic?—Some of the higher classes, or those who are intended for the courts of law.

276. Do they show any preference to the English language?—I think of late years they have.

277. Who are the parties, besides the English, who are engaged in commerce at Calcutta?—There are French, Portuguese, Arabs, Jews, Armenians, and also people connected with the eastern islands, and Burmese.

278. Are there many Chinese?—Not many commercial: lately two large ships arrived from Cochin-China, that is the first direct trade that we have had with that country for some time.

279. What would be the condition of Calcutta if the whole trade were left to natives and the East-India Company, to the entire exclusion of British-born subjects?—I think it would dwindle away in the course of time.

280. Was not the island of Saugur entirely covered with forests when Europeans began to cultivate it in the year 1818, and would not it have continued so had not European capital been invested in its improvement?—Certainly an impulse was given by Europeans to some natives to unite in that society; there are now 7,000 or 8,000 inhabitants on the island altogether.

281. Is it not your opinion, that the trade between India and this country is very much limited by the operation of the heavy duties in this country?—On some articles, particularly sugar and silks, and to a certain extent, cottons; but I do not think our cotton is yet sufficiently good to vie with the American cotton.

282. What do you think will be the effect of laying a duty of a penny a pound upon East-India cotton?—There was little or none came home last year from Calcutta, even without the penny; but the increase of that penny will make above twenty per cent. difference against the Bengal cotton.

283. Does not it come chiefly from Bombay?—Now it does; but formerly there were large importations from Calcutta, in 1817 and 1818.

284. Why has the importation of that article fallen off?—From the competition of the American market.

285. Do you not conceive, supposing greater skill were to be employed in the cultivation of cotton, as it is in the cultivation of indigo, that the cotton of India might be very much improved?—I have no doubt it would ultimately.

286. Is there any reason to imagine that it would not be as good as the cotton produced in the Brazils or in the United States of America?—It would

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would depend upon the skill. I believe there is a particular kind of cotton in India equal to any in the South Sea Islands, which I believe is the best, but it is in a part of the country that does not belong to the Company, it is in the neighbourhood of the Silhet hills. It is a very superior description of cotton, and specimens of it have been shown to a gentleman of the name of Finlay, who is employed in the mills near Calcutta, which I understood he stated to be equal to any cotton he had ever seen; but it is at present of very limited cultivation.

287. Is there any cotton in India that grows close to the sea, in the manner that the sea cotton does in Georgia and Carolina?—Not that I know of. It has been attempted in Saugur, but I understood that the expense was so great in protecting it, that it failed.

288. Are you yourself acquainted with the cultivation of cotton?—Not personally.

289. Is there not a good deal of trade between Calcutta and the Burman empire?—It is increasing every year.

290. Can you state what are the articles imported from the Burman empire?—Bullion and teak timber.

291. What metals in general?—Silver.

292. Do you think that the intercourse has increased since the British conquest of Burmah?—I think it has; but it is not a very great trade.

293. Have you been engaged in the trade between Calcutta and China?—Very largely.

294. Is that on the increase?—It is.

295. What are the articles chiefly exported?—Almost entirely opium and cotton; but the Company deal more largely in cotton than private traders now.

296. What is sent in return from China to Bengal?—Almost entirely bullion, or bills on the Bengal government.

297. What do you suppose is the reason that East-India tobacco is not imported into this country?—It is prohibited by Act of Parliament, or the duty is so very high.

298. What is the bullion chiefly imported from China?—Chiefly Spanish dollars; sometimes in sycee silver, but the sycee silver is smuggled.

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Martis, 22^o die Februarii, 1831.

THOMAS BRACKEN, Esq. again called in, and examined:

299. Do you wish to correct any part of your evidence on a former day?
—I made a slight mistake, with respect to the duty on cottons imported into Calcutta. It ought to have been two and a half per cent., instead of five; five is only applicable to the duty on goods imported in foreign bottoms.

300. Exclusive of the vegetable productions of the soil, what other commodities do you apprehend that India is capable of producing, by more extensive application of British capital?—Coal, iron ore in great abundance, and potash.

301. Have you any personal knowledge of those articles?—I have been a good deal interested in coal. The house to which I belong have large mines, in a district called Burdwan, about 130 miles from Calcutta, which are now worked to the extent of about 14,000 or 15,000 tons of coal annually.

302. How long have they been worked?—Not more than about six or seven years in extensive operation. They were established about fourteen years ago by a gentleman, who obtained permission of the Bengal government to search for coals in different parts of India; and on making a report to the Bengal government, they agreed to advance him a sum of money to prosecute the inquiry, if they could get security. The house I belong to became security to government; he selected this spot as being the most eligible for mines. He afterwards died, and the security was called for. We became the proprietors of the mines, by purchase from his executor. At that time there was no great demand for coal, but since the introduction of steam-engines it has been very great indeed.

303. What was the name of the person?—Jones. It is principally used for steam-engines; and it has also been applied lately for the purpose of burning bricks.

304. Are steam-engines in extensive use in India?—They are increasing. There are a good many steam-boats, and engines for different purposes are coming out; the East-India Company buy a large quantity of coal of us for their steam-boats. We send coal for them to Singapore, to Penang, Madras, and Ceylon.

305. Has the navigation of the river been much improved by steam-boats?—As far as regards Calcutta to seaward. The tugs take ships out now with great facility. Formerly it was, perhaps a fortnight from Calcutta to Saugur; now they get down with the aid of steam-vessels in one or two days.

306. Were they not often detained by the freshes in the river?—Yes; the detention arises from the very strong tides and freshes, which the steam-boats enable a vessel to get over.

307. Have

307. Have the government used this coal extensively in their public works?—Yes; we have a contract with the government to supply them at a certain rate for all purposes connected with their marine department, and also for their mint department. 22 Feb. 1831. T. Bracken, Esq.

308. Is the coal-mine conveniently situated for water carriage?—It is on the banks of a river connected with the Hooghley; the bends of the river make the distance from 200 to 300 miles.

309. What distance from Calcutta?—By land it is about 130 miles; and the winding of the river makes it nearly double.

310. Is it in your estimation an extensive field of coal?—Very extensive, I should imagine; as far as we can judge from appearances, it must extend a great way.

311. And of good quality?—It is.

312. What is the thickness of the seam?—The seam we are now working is about nine feet deep.

313. Is it near the surface?—About ninety feet. We have found the present seam so productive, that we have not had occasion to go lower. We are carrying our galleries in every direction.

314. How do you drain it?—With a small steam-engine.

315. What number of people do you employ in working those mines?—From 2,000 to 3,000 people.

316. Of what description are they?—The natives, the ryots; we have only one European in charge. The mine was in a forest, and the people came in from the neighbouring villages. They have built small villages upon the spot, and there is an extensive clearance now.

317. Do you find the natives skilful?—As miners they work very well.

318. What rate of wages do they receive?—From three to four rupees, or 6s. to 8s. per month, according to their merits; some are higher than that, but they are in the situation of overseers.

319. Have they no other advantages except those three or four rupees a month?—No.

320. What is the average rate of wages in that neighbourhood?—I should think from two rupees and a half to three and four rupees, from 5s. to 8s., according to age, would be the highest rate.

321. Of course, the transport of the coal from the mines to Calcutta gives great employment on the river?—We employ a great many boat people. There is only one time of the year when you can bring down coal; the river is shallow except during the rains, and at that time 300 or 400 boats make three or four trips.

322. Of what description is the iron ore you mentioned?—In the neighbourhood of our mines there is a quantity of exceedingly fine iron ore; but I believe the better kind of iron ore is on the Madras coast.

323. Is

22 Feb. 1831. • 323. Is that easily converted into steel?—Not very easily; but the steel when made is exceedingly good. Some specimens have been brought to this country, and I understand that persons engaged in the trade have allowed that the steel is remarkably good.

324. In what condition is the country in the neighbourhood of the mines?—It is improved unquestionably; inasmuch as there is a great quantity of jungle removed, owing to the villagers settling on and near the mines.

325. To what extent has that removal of jungle been carried on?—I should think three or four miles all round. There is very little land on that immediate spot for the growth of rice; it is a bad soil for that purpose; here and there in the hollows they grow a little, but the general appearance of the country is very poor.

326. Is this part of the country subject to permanent settlement?—I suppose so; we hold it under perpetual lease from the Rajah of Burdwan, he is the zemindar of that district, and we hold it under him. As an illustration of the inconvenience of the Company's regulations, we could not hold it in our own name, though so much capital had been invested; and it was held in the name of a native servant of the colliery; but Lord Bentinck had been applied to, and I understood had agreed that we should hold it in our own name.

327. Is it a perpetual lease?—It is a perpetual lease on paying a quit-rent to the Rajah of Burdwan.

328. Are there any other coal-mines in India except your own?—There is a small one in the neighbourhood of our's; but it is at present worked very little; they have experienced great difficulty in getting the water out of it.

329. Are there any stone quarries?—We have also a stone quarry; there are a great many in parts of the country.

330. At what price is the coal delivered at Calcutta?—It is delivered at about 20s. a chaldron.

331. What is the difference between the price of the native coal and British coal, at Calcutta?—Ships from London and Liverpool often bring coal, but not in any great quantity, and dispose of it at about from 30s. to 40s. per chaldron. The East-India Company sent twelve ships out with coal about three or four years ago, not being aware, I believe, of the existence of these mines; and they had to pay a great deal more; I have been informed, so high as from 80s. to 90s. per chaldron landed in India; it cost them that rate.

332. Were the natives of India acquainted with coal before the opening of those mines?—They must have been acquainted with it, because there was a great quantity of surface-coal in different parts of India; but they had never sunk shafts.

333. Does it crop out in the immediate neighbourhood of the mines?—Yes, you can see it often in patches, but it is of a very inferior kind, slaty.

334. Are

334. Are the natives in the habit of using coal as fuel?—No; very little indeed in Calcutta or the Upper Provinces. 22 Feb. 1831.

335. What fuel do they use?—In the Upper Provinces wood is too dear, and they generally use cowdung made into cakes; in the Lower Provinces they use wood, brought from Saugur and the sunderbunds. T. Bracken, Esq.

336. Are the jungles regularly cut for that purpose?—Yes; there is a certain class that go every year, and bring up wood from the sunderbunds.

337. What is the price of wood at Calcutta?—It is now about 16 rupees for 100 maunds, or 32s. for 8,000 lbs.

338. Have the European inhabitants at Calcutta begun to use coals for culinary purposes?—They have, and we have begun to send it up the country as far as Meerut.

339. Should you be able to supply the upper parts of India by means of water-carriage?—We could, no doubt; but it would be expensive. We have sent it up as high as Meerut, and the carriage was more than the original cost at Calcutta.

340. What is it sold for at the pit's mouth?—We have never sold it at the pit's mouth.

341. Is the iron ore you mentioned in the neighbourhood of the coal?—It is all round that district.

342. Have they begun to work it much?—The natives have always been in the habit of working it there, but we have not had any regular foundries for working it. There has lately been an establishment set up near Madras for that purpose by Mr. Heath, who has obtained the permission of the government to establish a foundry there, for the purpose of making iron, and for the purpose of making steel.

343. What is the quality of the native iron manufactured?—It is very inferior to English manufactured iron, arising from the inferiority of the manufacture.

344. Are you acquainted with any fact which shows the advantage arising from the settlement of Europeans in India, in so far as the settlement of the disputes of natives is concerned?—I have heard of one or two instances, where indigo planters, residing at a considerable distance from the chief station, have been found useful in settling disputes of a slight character between natives; the distance from the station being so great, that they would have been put to a very heavy expense in going there.

345. What was the distance?—I think it must have been about forty miles. The planter was applied to by the natives to settle their little disputes, and he was in the habit of appropriating one or two hours in the course of a week for that purpose. He received the thanks of the gentleman who was then in charge of the district for doing this, as it prevented the necessity of the poor people having to go so far; but this gentleman was removed, and another gentleman

gentleman came who disapproved of it: he said it was an interference with his own duties, and the consequence was that the planter left off, and the natives had to go to the station.

346. Did they go?—They did; but if it cost more to go than the thing in dispute between them, they did not go.

347. How much time did he, the planter, devote to it?—He used to devote two or three hours about twice a week to it. I understood some gentlemen in the civil service have strongly recommended that respectable indigo planters who live at a great distance from stations should be recognized by the government as acting in those places as arbitrators, and as magistrates under certain regulations.

348. Did you understand that great benefit was conferred upon the neighbourhood by his so acting?—I have no doubt that it was of great convenience to the individuals around.

349. Are you aware that there are numerous arbitrators among the natives themselves?—There are; but from the great number of persons that applied to that indigo planter, it appeared as if they were better satisfied with his interference than with that of natives.

350. Have you any acquaintance with the mineral wealth of India, beyond what you are personally concerned in?—Not personally. I understand in the north-western provinces of India copper has been found, and I believe also coals are found in Bundelcund.

351. Has the government begun to place confidence in the Europeans, and to employ them as agents in the management of minors' estates?—Yes; I know one or two instances where a gentleman has been appointed to the charge of a very large estate belonging to a minor: at the recommendation of the zillah court, the government appointed this gentleman to manage those estates; he is a medical gentleman at Bancoorah, in the Company's service; but it was necessary to have a special permission for this purpose.

352. Is it your opinion that the Indo-Britons would be usefully employed in the various departments of government in the higher ranks?—I have no doubt they might be. They have not been generally employed in the higher branches of service, but there are many most respectable gentlemen among them.

353. Do you consider them, upon the whole, as an intelligent class of people?—Upon the whole, I do; but as a body, they have not had many advantages. There are individuals among them, I believe, capable of filling any situation. They are at present prevented from holding the situations of what are called the Company's covenanted servants, and probably, from the want of encouragement, they are not so well qualified as others. In almost the whole of the offices in Calcutta the clerks are native born.

354. Do they hold all offices that a British subject can hold, except such British servants as are covenanted servants of the Company?—They do.

355. Have

355. Have they not the advantage besides of being able to possess land to any extent?—They have; and that has given them great advantage, whenever they have been in the situation of indigo planters, from being able to hold zemindaries. 22 Feb. 1831.
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356. Are any of those gentlemen indigo planters in the commission of the peace?—Not that I am aware of.

357. Would it not be very desirable that many of them should be intrusted with that office?—I think it would. One of the best police magistrates in Calcutta was an indigo planter.

358. Are there not many among the Indo-Britons who are well qualified to hold situations in the commission of the peace?—Unquestionably.

359. Are there not many of them in respectable mercantile situations?—There are.

360. Have you resided any considerable time in the interior?—Not to reside long at any one spot; I have been in the habit of constantly moving about, within 80 or 100 miles of Calcutta, and I have visited the Upper Provinces.

361. Do you not conceive that the indigo planters have the means of ascertaining the feelings, and habits and manners of the people, more than other parties who are in more elevated situations in the country?—They are in closer contact, and they live upon greater terms of familiarity than gentlemen of official rank.

362. Would not that give them considerable facilities in settling disputes between the natives?—To a minor extent unquestionably it would; but they could not devote their time to any very important cases.

363. Are not the natives in general upon a more confidential footing, and more unreserved in their conduct with gentlemen not in the Company's service, than with those that are in it?—The majority are, unquestionably; because they approach them more upon a footing of equality.

364. Is it not true that the Indo-Britons are excluded from all offices of great responsibility and of great emolument?—Undoubtedly they are excluded from all offices of great responsibility and of great emolument.

365. Are they in the same situation in that respect with the native inhabitants, Hindoo and Mohammedan?—In the same. I believe there are no situations which the Hindoo might hold, which the Indo-Briton might not hold; unless, perhaps, law appointments in the courts.

366. When you left India, were not the Company borrowing funds at five per cent.?—They were.

367. Were they not at the same time remitting home bullion to this country?—I do not think they were remitting bullion immediately when I came away; they had been a few months previously remitting a very large sum.

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368. Have

- 22 Feb. 1831. . 368. Have they not sent home considerable quantities of indigo?—They have.
T. Bracken, Esq. 369. Were not the treasury bills which they issued applicable to all purposes as cash?—They were.
 370. Were not those sums so borrowed for the purpose of being remitted to this country?—Part of them, I conclude, were.
 371. Are you aware that they are about to pay off their bonds here bearing three per cent., with that money borrowed at five per cent.?—I see an advertisement that they have called in their bonds at three per cent., with an intention to reduce the interest to two and a half per cent.; but I can scarcely suppose that they are proceeding only upon that ground, otherwise it certainly appears strange to borrow at five to pay off that which bears interest at three.
 372. Are you aware that there are large territorial charges which are paid here?—Yes, I am aware of that by the published papers.
 373. It is presumed that you cannot tell what the money was appropriated to that was sent home?—No, I cannot tell. I only know it was sent home, and their bonds here were carrying an interest of three per cent.

PETER GORDON, Esq. called in, and examined.

- P. Gordon, Esq.* 374. You have commanded ships in the Indian sea?—I have.
 375. When did you first go to India, and how long is it since you returned from thence?—I went in 1810, and I have been returned three months.
 376. In what capacities and situations have you been employed in India?—As a country officer, commander, supercargo, shipowner, and as farmer of the Company's revenues at Ramnad.
 377. Is that the southern point of India opposite to Ceylon?—Yes.
 378. Were you also employed in the island of Saugur?—I was; three months.
 379. Will you state what parts of India you visited?—Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Bushire, Muscat, the Isle of France, Bourbon, the Cape, Batavia, the west coast of Sumatra, Pulopenang, Malacca, Singapore, Pulocondore, Bencoolen.
 380. Have you ever been in Japan?—At Jeddo Bay and at Ochotsk; I have been also in Persia, and along the Coromandel and Malabar coast.
 381. What parts of the interior of the British territory have you visited?—The Carnatic, and Southern Poligar countries.
 382. Have you ever been at Canton?—I have never been there.
 383. Have you been at Ceylon?—Frequently.
 384. And at various of the foreign Indian settlements?—Various, as Pondicherry, Karical, Goa, Sadras, Tuticoreen.

385. What

- 22 Feb. 1831. . 385. What part of India are you best acquainted with?—The cities of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, the kingdoms of Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Shevagunga.
P. Gordon, Esq. 386. Are you acquainted with the languages of India?—Slightly with Hindostanee, Tamul, and Malay.
 387. Have you paid much attention to the commerce of India?—I have.
 388. Has the opening of the free trade of India generally extended the commerce with that part of the world?—It has.
 389. What parts of India have been chiefly influenced by it?—All parts, principally Calcutta.
 390. What has been the effect of the free trade upon the commerce of Calcutta?—It has injured the re-export trade at Calcutta, but greatly increased the import and export trade.
 391. Previously to the opening of the free trade, was not Calcutta a sort of emporium?—It was.
 392. Was not it almost the sole port from which any large commercial enterprizes were carried on?—It was.
 393. Notwithstanding the change that has taken place in the trade, has the whole trade of Calcutta increased or decreased?—Increased considerably.
 394. Can you state to what extent?—I have not the report of the external commerce with me; but I have it at hand, up to 1830.
 395. Have any of the branches of the commercial intercourse of Calcutta suffered from the opening of the free trade?—Yes; the country shipping interest of Calcutta has suffered.
 396. Should you say that the shipping interest of India generally has suffered from it, or only that of Calcutta?—Merely that of Calcutta has been affected by it.
 397. Has not the competition of the ships of Great Britain tended to injure the shipping interest previously existing at Calcutta?—It has.
 398. Did not the circumstance of Calcutta being an emporium arise from the restricted nature of the trade which was carried on with that part of the world?—It did, entirely.
 399. What was the price of freight from Calcutta to England in 1813 and 1814, and what is it at present?—In 1814 I came home in a ship chartered by the Company at £25 a ton; the ship in which I arrived at present is as low as 30s. a ton. I have known freights at 50 guineas a ton on the Company's ships, before the opening of the trade; it is as low as 15s. a ton at present.
 400. Can you give the Committee the effect of the high and low freights upon the price of merchandize?—Every article feels it. The strongest example, perhaps, of import into England is the article of cotton-wool, which

22 Feb. 1831. could not possibly be brought from India at the high rate of £20, or £30, or £50 a ton, and therefore the supply of England with cotton-wool was left entirely to the Atlantic trade.
P. Gordon, Esq.

401. What is the difference of price?—It was formerly about 1s. 3d., and it is now 5d.

402. What was the price of pepper, and what is it now?—One shilling to 15d., and it is now as low as 3d.

403. Do you conceive that the owners of ships have suffered in proportion to the great fall of freight?—They have not in Calcutta; for when they found their ships a losing concern, from their expensive blocks and high capital, they sold off their ships to English shipowners; and the same ships which were sailing out of the port of Calcutta, are now sailing out of the port of London.

404. How are the Company's ports at present supplied with arms and ammunition?—By application to the arsenals of the Company.

405. Can private individuals export arms and ammunition?—They cannot.

406. Has that any effect in throwing the trade in arms and ammunition into the hands of foreigners?—It has; they are supplied chiefly by the Americans, on the west coast of Sumatra, Cochin China, and Siam.

407. Are those required for export to the Eastern Archipelago?—The Americans trade on the west coast of Sumatra, and at Siam and Cochin China, and they procure cargoes which will not be sold for money to English ships, because arms are so much desired.

408. Then none but the Company are allowed to import into the British Indian ports cargoes of ammunition?—None.

409. But the Americans carry on a trade to Sumatra and Siam in those articles?—They do.

410. What interests in India were most benefited by the opening of the free trade?—Europeans procure European articles at a much cheaper rate than they did formerly; and the natives obtain better prices for their produce than they did formerly.

411. Has the opening of the free trade given rise to the introduction of any new articles of European produce into the consumption of India?—It has; spelter especially, and cotton goods also. At the opening of the trade, Calcutta exported to London two millions sterling in cotton piece goods, and at present it receives from England two millions sterling of British manufactured cotton.

412. Do you conceive that the consumption of British piece goods is increasing or decreasing?—Increasing very rapidly in every village of India, and cotton-yarn is increasing very rapidly indeed; it has not been introduced above five or six years.

413. Are

413. Are there any new commodities that have been exported from India since the opening of the free trade?—Many drugs and dyes, especially lac dye and paddy, which is uncleaned rice; lac, in every stage, especially the coarser kinds, as stick lac.
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414. Can you state the amount of the export of lac dye in any year?—It has been to a considerable amount.

415. Was there any exported previously to the opening of the trade?—Very little, if any.

416. Is there any other thing in which a new trade has sprung up?—None others occur at present. There is the export of Banca tin; that has been imported into England direct from the eastward, and also by the way of Calcutta.

417. Has the commerce of Madras sustained a similar increase with that of Bengal since the opening of the free trade?—It has not.

418. Is the foreign trade of Madras, and other parts of the Coromandel coast, considerable?—It is not considerable; it is a mere coasting trade, principally supplying Coromandel rice to Madras for the consumption of that city.

419. Is there any good harbour at Madras?—There is no good harbour along the Coromandel coast.

420. Have the native inhabitants, living under the Madras presidency, begun to consume cotton goods, and other British manufactures, extensively?—They have, according to their means, which are extremely limited.

421. Do you conceive that the inhabitants under the Madras presidency are in less easy circumstances than the natives of Bengal?—The farmers of Madras are much worse off than the cooleys or the porters of Calcutta, with regard to both food and clothing.

422. Can you state the day wages of a cooley at Calcutta?—The wages paid for them are about five or six for a rupee. Europeans pay about 4d. a day for a cooley; but they are under a system of constant advances to the sircars, and therefore the cooley himself receives mere subsistence.

423. What is the price of day labour at Ramnad, where you resided?—For a double fanam, which is not equal to 4d., three stout men or five women to work from sunrise to sunset.

424. Do they work hard for that?—Very hard indeed, much more than the Bengal cooleys.

425. Can you state what proportion their labour would bear to that of Europeans?—Equal to that of Europeans.

426. Do they receive any food besides?—No, they have no other allowance whatever; it is never the custom to give food in India.

427. How are those people fed and clothed?—Before daylight the poorest class

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class make a soup of the leaves of wild trees, at noon the same, and at supper they make their only substantial meal of canary seed, or Indian corn or grain, much coarser than that; and perhaps, once a week they indulge in a meal of rice.

428. What clothing do they wear?—The men wear a strip of cotton cloth between their legs, and the women, round their loins, a small piece of dirty torn cloth, often a piece of gunny bag.

429. Does not the narrow sea, lying off the coast of Madura, between that and Ceylon, abound with fish?—It does.

430. Is that fish used by the natives?—It is, whenever they can get it.

431. Is there any duty paid to government upon that fish?—There is by law; it is a transit duty on its passing the custom-house at Ramnad, but actually it is levied whenever fish is taken, before it is landed, at every village along the coast. By law, it is five per cent. on the valuation; but I have known frequently instances where one-half of the fish was taken away from the people on the pretence of the custom duty.

432. By whom was that taken?—By the farmers of the inland customs and their servants, and by their unpaid servants.

433. Those farmers being natives?—Yes.

434. Are the peasantry of Madras in worse circumstances than those of Ceylon?—Much worse.

435. Is not Ceylon under the King's government?—It is.

436. Are famines or scarcities common in the Madras country?—Scarcities are very frequent, and famines are common also.

437. From what cause arising?—From drought.

438. Is there frequently a failure of rain in that part of India?—Frequently.

439. What is the nature of the commercial intercourse carried on by sea, between the Bengal and the Madras presidencies?—Naturally, it is an export of grain from Calcutta to Madras, and an import of salt from the Coromandel coast into Calcutta.

440. Are you aware of any circumstances which impede this natural trade?—The monopoly of salt in Bengal.

441. How does it operate in that way?—By depriving the merchant of the natural channel of returns.

442. Can salt be produced in large quantities on the Coromandel coast?—It is naturally produced in immense quantities, by solar evaporation.

443. Is that salt of good quality?—It is good strong coarse salt.

444. How is the salt produced in the Bengal provinces?—By collecting the surface earth, and very often ploughing the banks of the river to increase the

the deposit, and filtering the water through it, and boiling the brine into salt. 22 Feb. 1831.

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445. What is the difference of cost between producing the salt at Madras and at Bengal?—At Madras the Company purchase it of manufacturers, as low as three farthings a bushel, and at Calcutta they purchase it at a shilling a bushel.

446. What should you say was the difference of quality between the salt of Madras and the salt of Bengal?—The Madras salt is preferable; but the natives pay a higher price for the Bengal salt, as it is more bitter, and a small quantity goes a great way.

447. Is the production of salt in the Madras territory a monopoly in the hands of the Company?—It is.

448. How are they able to preserve that monopoly?—By a branch of police under the management of the salt agent. The police of the country is divided into three branches, one branch of which is under the management of the salt agent, and it is called the salt police.

449. Does not salt naturally form upon the rocks and shores of the Coromandel coast?—It does, in large quantities, and very quickly; and for the purpose of preserving the monopoly the natives are forced to destroy it. It is one of the services of the salt police to enforce that.

450. Is it possible when salt forms in such masses to preserve the monopoly entirely?—Without a very rigid police it would be impossible; but under existing circumstances, I suppose it is very little indeed infringed by the natives unemployed, and the infringement is chiefly by fraud in the salt officers.

451. Must not the expense of the preservation of that monopoly be very considerable?—It is very considerable, and the Company state that they derive no profit whatever from the price at which it is sold to the ships supplied to Bengal and the eastward.

452. What do you conceive is the object of the preservation of that monopoly?—In aid of the salt system of Bengal; principally to prevent the introduction of salt into Bengal.

453. Is the quantity of shipping employed in the general commercial intercourse between the presidencies of Bengal and Madras increasing or decreasing?—Decreasing.

454. Does that arise from the salt monopoly?—It does.

455. Supposing the monopoly of salt were no longer to continue, would there not be carried on an extensive intercourse between Madras and the Bengal provinces?—Very extensive, indeed; no ship would return empty to Calcutta.

456. How does the salt monopoly operate to decrease the trade?—The salt trade would be much larger; every ship which returned to Bengal would

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P. Gordon, Esq. would touch upon the Coromandel coast, and fill up with salt. One cause of the trade decreasing is the salt monopoly, and the other is the increased cultivation of the Carnatic, which has taken place since it has been in a peaceable state.

457. Were not the Bengal regulations at one time more liberal than they are now with respect to the import of salt?—They have varied considerably. At present it is limited to a certain quantity; and last year a great number of ships on their return from the Isle of France, and other parts, who had calculated on filling up with salt, called, and were refused salt, and they arrived at Calcutta in ballast, to their very great detriment.

458. What would be the natural import from the Bengal provinces into Madras?—They would carry rice into Madras.

459. Is not the Madras presidency, upon the whole, in the habit of importing a portion of its food?—It is.

460. Is not that part of India subject to great droughts?—Very much so.

461. Of course, at periods of drought they require larger importations of grain?—Much larger. Their subsistence, in fact, depends upon Bengal, and in 1824 there was great mortality in consequence of the droughts.

462. In a season of drought, would there not be peculiar facility in producing salt?—Much greater than common.

463. If the trade in salt were free, would not it tend to increase the export trade from Bengal?—It would; they could afford to sell it much cheaper.

464. Are you aware whether the natives have any dislike to salt that has crossed the sea?—I am not aware that they have. They prefer Callanimuc, which is the black salt of the Ganges; but I understand that it is in consequence of its bitter quality, and not from any religious prejudice in favour of salt made from water of the Ganges.

465. Would it not answer to export salt from this country?—It would. It is continued at the present time to a very limited extent, paying three rupees a maund duty (6s. per 82 lbs.), which was intended as a prohibitory duty; but the English salt is so very pure, that even at that price it enters the market.

466. Is not Muscat rock salt imported into Calcutta?—By a treaty with the Imaum of Muscat, every ship from Muscat to Calcutta has the privilege of importing 500 maunds of rock salt, and 1,000 maunds into Bombay.

467. Supposing the salt monopoly to be abolished, do you conceive there would be any export of salt from England to India?—A very great proportion of the supply of Bengal would be from Liverpool and Bristol.

468. Can you state what is the highest price that you have paid for rice at Ramnad?—The highest is 120 pagodas a garce, which is equal to 9,000 lbs. or 10,000 lbs.; and the lowest is 30 or 40 pagodas, or from one penny to

one farthing the pound. I have not bought it at the price I have last mentioned, but it was offered at that in the year 1823, and refused; the variation took place in about twenty months.

469. What do you consider the principal impediments to the growth of the trade of India?—The insecurity of persons and property.

470. Do you conceive that the prohibition on the part of Europeans to hold land considerably affects that trade?—It does.

471. Are there not restraints imposed upon the intercourse between one presidency and another?—Duties are levied, as between foreign states.

472. Is there any duty paid upon the fishing boats?—There is, on the coast of Madras.

473. Is a fishing boat trading from one port to another subject to any duties?—It is.

474. Of what nature are those duties?—Anchorage and clearance; they are under the necessity of taking out a clearance in passing from one village to another, even for a cargo of firewood.

475. What are the nature of the duties which are paid upon its passing from one part of the Company's territory to another?—Transit duties.

476. Are there any paid upon the entrance into a town?—Yes, at the city of Madras; and there is a provincial duty different from the transit duty, in the whole territory at Malabar and Canara; and market duties are also paid throughout the territory, independently of the town duties, which are levied only at the city of Madras.

477. Are there several custom-houses that goods have to pass in going from one part of the country to another?—Many; they are in every village; they are called chookies.

478. Is there not considerable delay arising from that circumstance?—There is a very great delay. No kind of merchandize is allowed to pass any of these establishments without paying a fee, even where duty is not chargeable.

479. Is that a fee regulated by law?—It is not, it is expressly prohibited by law.

480. Are not the bales of goods subject to be opened at each of those places?—They are.

481. How are the bales commonly packed for export?—For land carriage, loosely packed in general; for export, they are screwed and lashed.

482. Does it not happen, that when goods are brought from the interior for export to the coast, they are packed at the place whence they are made up?—Never, I believe.

483. Are the rates of pilotage and mooring charges heavy in Indian ports?—At Calcutta they are very heavy; upon the Coromandel coast, there being

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- 22 Feb. 1831. no river, there is no pilotage, and the anchorage is moderate when applied to large ships, but it becomes very expensive when applied to small ones.
- P. Gordon, Esq. 484. Is there any difficulty in passing the sea customs?—Not in comparison with land customs.
485. Is there not an unnecessary delay in both the one and the other?—In obtaining clearances for ships, I have been six weeks in obtaining clearances for vessels: the vessel has been at Calcutta, nearly unloaded, before the port clearance was given for Madras.
486. Suppose a merchant at Moorshedabad in Bengal wishes to export a quantity of raw silk to Madras, what duties does he pay?—Seven and a half per cent. transit duty, and in a foreign bottom to Madras, I think $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more; and on importation to Madras, 8 per cent. If in an English vessel, I am not certain that there would be an export duty from Calcutta, but there would in a foreign vessel, therefore it would be $15\frac{1}{2}$ or 23 per cent.
487. Supposing a part of the same silk to be exported from Madras to Negapatam in the same presidency, would it be charged with any duty?—By law it would not be charged with any duty, but in fact it would be.
488. Why would it?—It is the constant practice to do so.
489. Do you know what the amount of that duty is?—Eight per cent. upon its export.
490. By whom is that charged?—By the native servants in the custom-house.
491. Are you aware whether that practice is generally known by the collector, or not?—In the southern provinces, at Tanjore and Madura, it is known to exist, and has been represented, but not remedied.
492. How is it at Madras?—I cannot say at Madras.
493. Do you know that a duty would be paid at Madras upon the export?—Most likely it would be paid in the southern provinces, not at Madras, but on its import into Tanjore and Madura.
494. Are you not aware whether that export duty would be paid at Madras, or not?—I am not.
495. But the import duty would be paid?—Such charges have been made to me several times.
496. Are those charges illegal?—They are.
497. Supposing British iron to be exported from Madras to any other part of the Madras presidency, would it pay a duty on its import into the other port?—At Madura it was charged with duty actually 16 per cent. upon its value, though covered by a free pass from Madras.
498. Did you pay that duty?—I did not; I resisted it, and the collector did not enforce the claim; but afterwards he continued to enforce the claim on the natives, and continued it till the time of my quitting.
499. Did

499. Did the natives pay it, although you resisted it?—They did.
500. Supposing the same iron should be sent to Malabar or Canara, would it pay any further duty?—It would, according to the tariff of Canara or Malabar.
501. Are both those places under the Madras presidency?—They are. It would not pay by law; but the tariff by law is allowed to be higher than in the other provinces, for the Act of Parliament passes iron free to India.
502. Would it be revalued by the local tariff?—It would; and by local regulations it does pay a higher duty, although the Act of Parliament passes it free throughout India.
503. What Act of Parliament do you refer to?—I am not certain whether it is the 53d of Geo. III.: it is either by an Act of Parliament, or by an arrangement between his Majesty's Government and the Company.
504. Does the sea and inland system of customs differ at Malabar and Canara from that which prevails in the other parts of the presidency of Madras?—It does.
505. Can you state the reason of that?—I cannot.
506. How long has Canara been in the possession of the Company?—Upwards of thirty years; it was taken from Tippoo Saib, in 1792 or 1799.
507. What number of inland custom stations exist in the district of Madras?—Twenty-one.
508. Is that the whole of the custom-house stations?—It is the whole of the legalized stations; but every one of these, of its own authority against law, has at least five inferior mettoo stations established in it, where they collect duties the same as at the legal stations.
509. Are those stations farmed?—They are; always to natives. By law they cannot be farmed to Europeans.
510. Are the custom-house officers generally servants of the individual who farms the customs?—Always; he employs his relatives and dependents, and any person he pleases under him.
511. Can you state the manner in which the duties are levied from the inhabitants of the country by the revenue farmers?—In every manner they please.
512. Are there not often very great acts of oppression?—The grossest possible, seizing on the natives and punishing them at pleasure.
513. Are the revenue farmers generally wealthy and substantial?—Never. They are always men of straw put forward occasionally by a substantial person, but no person of respectability will come forward as a revenue farmer in his own name.
514. How are the customs generally let to those farmers?—By a bidding at the collector's office, nominally by auction, but any tender is received.

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515. What security do they give?—A security of two names, and an examination takes place; but when a defalcation takes place, which is generally the case with almost every renter, I have known the property of the renter and his securities produce less than 1s. each.

516. Do the natives often complain to the collectors of the exactions of the revenue farmers?—They never complain.

517. Does the system you have alluded to relate to inland customs entirely?—It does; the sea customs are never farmed.

518. Are they superintended by Europeans?—Occasionally.

519. Can you state what number of native officers there are attached to the different stations in Madura?—The single station of Ramnad has upwards of fifty persons collecting.

520. Do you know the number of the custom-house officers of the zillah of Madura?—One thousand.

521. What is the population of Madura?—Under the collector of Madura there are near 1,000,000 souls.

522. Do you know the area of Madura?—I do not: it has 120 miles of sea coast.

523. Are there sea customs established in Madura?—There are four sea customs choukies.

524. Are those sea customs choukies under the management of natives or Europeans?—Natives entirely.

525. How many European officers for the management of the revenue are there in Madura?—One collector of Madura, occasionally a sub-collector of Ramnad, and an assistant to the Collector of Madura; sometimes also, a young man as second assistant: but it is very seldom that they are all resident in the district, and at the time I was there, I believe not one could speak a sentence of the language the greater part of the time.

526. Are the abuses as frequent in the sea customs as they are in the land customs?—They are not, not being farmed.

527. You were understood to say, that you had more than once paid customs illegally exacted, and that by native servants?—I have.

528. Did you make any representation to the government of that exaction?—I did frequently to the Madras government, also to the collector of Madura.

529. At what period was the latest?—Several representations are contained in this pamphlet which I have in my hand. The latest representation which I remember to have made was dated the 16th March 1828, to the principal collector of Madura.

530. Did you ever make any representation to Government about the customs?—Many to the Board of Revenue prior to 1828.

531. What

531. What answer did you receive?—Different answers, which are contained in this pamphlet.

532. What was the general substance of the answers?—In one case there was an offer of remission of the amount which had been exacted; but it was so inadequate to the injury I sustained, that I declined receiving it.

533. Have any measures been taken to remedy the evil?—None. I know, to the contrary, that every thing goes on on the old system.

534. What is the book to which you have just referred?—It was printed in Calcutta; it is intitled "Official Correspondence," detailing the disputes which have taken place between myself and the Madras government.

535. You stated that the transit of iron throughout India was allowed to be free by some Act of Parliament, or by some arrangement between his Majesty's Government and the Company; on what authority do you make that statement?—On the public regulations issued at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, about the time of the opening of the free trade, admitting the British staples duty free, metals, woollens, and naval stores.

536. Is that regulation not carried into effect?—It is not.

537. Have you ever had occasion to make any representation as to the non-execution of those regulations?—Frequent representations to the Madras government, to the Board of Revenue, also to the Governor in Council at Madras, and to the collector at Madras.

538. What is the nature of the answers you have received?—Not satisfactory.

539. Did they admit your construction of the regulation?—There can be no dispute, it is so plain. I shall be happy to lay the whole correspondence before the Committee.

540. When you spoke of the insecurity of persons and property, to what did you particularly allude?—Every person can be transmitted at the pleasure of each government, and his property of course is ruined by his transmission.

541. You spoke of the exportation of Banca tin; is any tin exported from the territories which have been purchased from the Dutch a few years ago; from Malacca?—Sallengore produces tin, but I cannot speak positively on that subject with regard to Malacca.

542. You stated, that sixteen years ago the price of pepper was 1s. to 1s. 3d. a pound, and now it is 3d.; are you aware of the duty now paid upon East-India pepper?—I am not, but I considered those prices to be the prices of pepper in bond in both cases.

543. Are you not aware that the duty now paid is the same as it was then?—I am not.

544. Are you not of opinion, that although the cotton manufactures of this country are greatly cheaper than those of India, yet that the India manufacture

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manufacture is greatly superior; that it wears better and lasts longer?—The manufactures of India are of every degree of durability. Of course, the most durable are exported to England; flimsy manufactures will not bear the expense of transit, but in India, cloths of every texture are made for the use of the natives.

545. Whilst the natives of India are in the state in which you have described them on the Coromandel coast, is it of much importance to them whether there is a free trade or not to England?—Their condition cannot be worse than it is at present.

546. Would they remain in the same miserable condition, provided the restraints which at present exist with respect to trade and settlement in India were removed?—They would, if the same revenue system is enforced.

547. What is the state of health and bodily strength of those inhabitants on the Coromandel coast?—It depends a great deal on their caste. The Mussulmen are as stout a race of people as we ourselves are; the lower class of Hindoos are small people and very weakly indeed, and very short-lived: it is rare to see a woman above thirty years of age.

548. Have you had many opportunities of becoming acquainted with the interior of India?—In the district of Madura I have been living entirely among the natives, never seeing an European for months together; and also I have been much in Tanjore.

549. Is not the situation of the natives at the different presidencies greatly superior to that which you have described in the interior?—In the cities it is very superior; and they would flock in crowds to the cities to work as coolies, but they are prevented by the police: they are seized, and sent back to till the lands on which they were born.

550. Is the territory of Madura fertile?—It is, when watered; its fertility depends entirely upon watering.

551. What are the chief products of that territory?—Grain, cotton, tobacco. By grain I mean rice and coarser grains, in large quantities.

552. Is sugar grown there?—It is not: I am not aware that it could be grown in the district of Madura.

553. Is artificial irrigation carried to a considerable extent there?—The whole cultivation is more or less by means of artificial irrigation; either by embanking the field to save the water which falls upon it, by leading the water from rivers, or by saving it in tanks.

554. Are there extensive tanks in Madura?—There are.

555. Are they of recent or of ancient construction?—Of ancient construction.

556. Are they under the management of government?—Entirely.

557. What

557. What sort of repair are they in?—The worst possible; merely to serve the purpose of a year.

558. Supposing that branch of rural economy were more attended to, would not the fertility of Madura be greatly increased?—Greatly.

559. Are the works for irrigation in the province of Madura equal to those of other countries of Asia which you have seen?—Not in their present state.

560. How are they with reference to those of Persia?—Inferior.

561. Have you visited the province of Tanjore?—Frequently.

562. Is that fertile?—It is the most fertile district of India, next to Burdwan.

563. Does that arise from its irrigations?—The soil is of good quality, but the fertility depends entirely upon the supply of water.

564. What is the amount of the difference between the value of land that is irrigated, and land that is not irrigated?—The whole value of land depends upon the supply of water, the lands are of no value whatever unless watered; every land which can command water is of some value. I have known the most valuable gardens in Persia cut down, merely because the water-springs failed.

565. Do you conceive that in all parts of India irrigation might be carried, by a proper expenditure of capital and skill, to a much greater extent than it is now carried?—To a much greater extent.

566. For what species of products is irrigation required?—Particularly for rice; and even what are called dry grains require a degree of irrigation.

567. Are there not considerable streams that fall from the ghauts?—There are.

568. Are they properly economized?—They are not.

569. Is there, or is there not, a large field for the application of capital in economizing the water that falls from the higher lands?—An immense field.

570. Have you any knowledge of the system of irrigation in any other country except India?—I have seen it practised in different countries of Europe; Spain, France, Holland, and Flanders.

571. Have you any practical knowledge of the subject?—I have never been employed with land, except on Saugur Island, where our whole existence depends upon embankments.

572. Do you think there are many improvements in irrigation which you have seen practised in other countries, which might advantageously be introduced into India?—Many.

573. What is the amount of the land-tax taken by the government in the district of Ramnad?—It is considered as one-fourth of the gross produce of dry cultivation, and one-half of the gross produce of lands which command water,

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22 Feb. 1831. water, but in garden cultivation, such as fruit trees, it is fixed by an agreement; that is the legal demand.
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574. What is the practical exaction?—To leave as little as possible for the subsistence of the people; they have no appeal: the collection is left in the management of native servants, who always leave as little as possible. The collection is made by small instalments during the whole course of the harvest. It is extorted by every torture possible, especially by means of the kittee, which is a couple of sticks between which the fingers are placed. This is a torture inflicted by every peon at his own discretion.

575. To what period do your observations apply?—Up to 1828.

576. Is it then the fact, that a much larger sum is extorted from the unfortunate ryot than that which he would have to pay by law?—There is no administration of the law; there is an agreement made, to which he must submit, with regard to the cultivation, and he has not only to pay his own rent, but in case any of his neighbours are defaulters, there is an assessment upon those who can pay, continued even for two or three years.

577. Is the assessment permanent or periodical?—The assessment of the kingdom of Ramnad is called a permanent zemindary assessment; that is, the Company have made an agreement with the zemindar of Ramnad for a fixed sum annually, which is not to be exceeded; but they have set aside the zemindar of Ramnad, and put their own officer in to collect the revenues, and no agreement is made with the natives, who are the actual farmers of the land; the assessment on them is not permanent; it is considered that the zemindar may make his own assessment with them at his pleasure, but the actual zemindar is the Company's officer.

578. Do you know the reason why it was taken from the zemindar?—By a forged will. The king of Ramnad was imprisoned at Trichinopoly for his cruelty to his subjects; but in the Southern Poligar war, in 1801 or 1802, it was supposed he was about to make his escape to join his subjects then in arms; he was accordingly sent to Madras, and imprisoned, and he died in prison. Mr. Lushington had appointed the king's sister as successor. He had one daughter, and on the death of the sister it was pretended that the sister adopted one of her slaves, and suits were commenced in the different courts of the Company between this adopted slave and the daughter of the king. It was appealed to the King of England in Council, where it has been upwards of ten years, and now remains as unlikely to be decided, I understand, as on the first day; and in the meantime the princess is a beggar in the country, sometimes without any allowance from the Company, living with a neighbouring zemindar. The slave who was adopted died; and it was pretended, that at his death he left a will, adopting a nephew, a son of his sister; and I have understood from the government officers, that this will was witnessed by the collector of Madura, who for many months had not been in the district, and consequently could not be at the death the time the will was dated.

579. When

579. When did this happen?—It was about the year 1818 that the government first sent a native collector to Ramnad, the time when the management of the zemindary was assumed, and the native servant was placed in the management of it by the Company. 22 Feb. 1831.
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580. Do you state these facts of your own knowledge?—I have had correspondence with Shivagamynatchiar, the princess. She did not state these things to me, nor have I seen her, but I know her to be in that state from my own knowledge; but the facts I have stated are what I know to be true, from what I have seen and heard: it is a thing of public notoriety, and spoken of daily.

581. Is that a solitary instance of oppression?—No, all the neighbouring kingdoms present similar instances.

582. Have you heard of any such proceedings having occurred at Travancore?—When I was at Allapee, in 1812, I either saw the gallows of the minister, or heard that it had stood there a few days or weeks before, but I think the gallows was then standing, and the remains of the fort in which he attempted to defend himself against the English.

583. Do you know whether the amount of the revenue of Madura is greater now than it was a few years ago, before these transactions took place?—Under the native government it must have been better cultivated and more productive than at present, judging by the remains of the public works, the churches, the palace and the waterworks.

584. Do you know the amount paid by the zemindar to government for Ramnad?—I think the amount of the permanent settlement is 119,000 star pagodas annually.

585. Do you conceive that a larger sum than that is extracted from the ryots?—Much larger; at the time of the settlement it was considered to be two-fifths or three-fifths of the gross collection of the zemindar.

586. Do you know whether the land is valuable in that province for sale?—It is not saleable.

587. Do you know the value of the landlord's rent under the permanent settlement of Bengal, that is, what land would sell for subject to the taxes?—From ten to twenty-five years' purchase, by the public auctions; but in Madura it is not saleable at all; there land is a service, not a property.

588. Do you understand land to be a saleable article in any part of the Madras presidency?—Scarcely.

589. Supposing a farmer of the land revenue to fall into arrear, how can the government recover the amount?—By seizing his personal property, his implements of husbandry, his cattle, and his slaves, which are disposed of at public auction.

590. Do you know how the settlement is made with the ryots in Madura; is it an annual settlement by the collector?—At Ramnad, the revenue police, who are native servants, go round the villages, and fix as they can,

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591. Do they go round at any particular period of the year?—They go at the time of the settlement, previously to the commencement of the cultivation, about June.

592. Does the head man of the village undertake for the whole, or does he settle with each individual ryot?—I cannot say particularly, but I think with each individual ryot. There is a list of each man's land, and the amount he has to pay drawn out; it is an annual arrangement with the ryots.

593. Does the land revenue attach to the produce of fruit trees?—It does. The people are separately assessed; and the trees in each village are numbered occasionally by persons who are sent round to take an account of every tree in every village, and each tree is assessed at a certain rate.

594. What are the staple products of exportation from the Madras territory?—Cloth, salt, chanks.

595. Where are those articles exported to?—Cloth to most countries; to America, England, South America, the Gulf, and the Red Sea; the salt to Bengal only.

596. Is salt exported from Madras to the Eastern Archipelago?—It is occasionally, when permitted by the Company.

597. Does it require an express permission to export it?—The Company holds all the salt in its own hands, and sells it for exportation to the eastward; it is a monopoly on the part of the Company, and no person may deal wholesale in salt.

598. Is there not a mineral alkali which is produced at Madras?—There is an abundance of it in the province of Madura; it is called Caramutti: it naturally forms on the surface of the earth.

599. Has it been sent to Europe?—It has, but it was unprofitable; it was of too weak a quality, not sufficiently refined.

600. Supposing the duty to be less in the ports of Britain, could it then be imported here with advantage?—I am uncertain.

601. What use do the natives make of it?—In washing, and the manufacture of soap.

602. Has it been exported to Ceylon?—It is continually exported to Ceylon, for the manufacture of soap and for the purposes of washing.

603. Is any of that soap exported from Ceylon to England?—It was exported in large quantities, till a protecting duty was laid on in England.

604. Is there a manufactory of soap at the Danish settlement at Tranquebar?—There is, and there is a considerable export of that soap to all parts of India.

605. Is

605. Are indigo and cotton exported from the Madras provinces?—Cotton is, and indigo in small quantities. 22 Feb. 1831.

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606. By whom is the indigo manufactured?—Principally by the French in Pondicherry.

607. Is it indigo of good quality?—Very inferior to that of Bengal.

608. Can you state the difference between the process of the manufacture of indigo at Madras and in the Bengal provinces?—In Bengal it must be manufactured from the leaf within a few hours after it is gathered, but at Madras the leaf is allowed to ferment a month or six weeks.

609. Is there any indigo manufactured by natives at Madras?—A considerable quantity of what is called the mud indigo, which is the stalks and leaves mixed up altogether, for the use of their own manufactures.

610. Is the best indigo produced from the leaves alone?—The whole is produced from the leaves: but by the European process that kind of refuse is separated from the water, but what is made by the natives is mixed up with the leaves without being separated.

611. How is the Company's investment of cotton procured at Madras?—By means of Commercial Residents.

612. What is the district it is chiefly drawn from?—Principally from Tinnevely, which is to the westward of the Madura district.

613. Are you acquainted with the circumstances of that province?—I have been in Tinnevely.

614. Are the revenues paid in kind at all, or is the cotton purchased by Commercial Residents?—I am uncertain.

615. Do you know the annual amount of the Company's investment of cotton?—In 1823, when I was in Tinnevely, the investment was 8,000 bales.

616. What is the amount of the bale?—I imagine 250 pounds weight, half a candy.

617. Where was this sent to?—It was sent to Madras, and from Madras in the Company's ships to China.

618. What is the original price of the cotton?—I do not know.

619. Supposing the State to take one half the gross produce of the soil, in the case of indigo and sugar, do you consider that the manufacture of indigo and sugar could be beneficially carried on under such a system?—It could not; it requires too much capital to be subject to such a system.

620. Has the commercial resident at Tinnevely any thing else to do than to furnish the investment of cotton?—In 1823 he had nothing else to do except to furnish 8,000 bales of cotton.

621. What is the amount of the salaries and commission of the establishment?—I think about half a lack of rupees a year, £5,000.

622. Does

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622. Does that include all the charges of the merchandize?—Not the invoice charges; it is exclusive of carriage and freight and packing.
623. Are the Company's commercial agents under the Madras presidency allowed to carry on trade on their own private account?—They are.
624. Do they act as agents for private merchants?—They do.
625. What agency do they charge to private individuals?—Mr. Heath, at Salem, charged fifteen per cent. on account of the advantages of the Company's establishment which he enjoys.
626. What advantages do you consider he possessed?—He is as a magistrate over the manufacturers.
627. Did he dictate the price to the persons selling it?—Entirely.
628. Was there any other charge of brokerage besides the fifteen per cent.?—No other charge.
629. Have you paid that yourself?—I have paid it; not to Mr. Heath, but to a person who was protected by him, who had the use of his establishment.
630. What charge for similar agency do private merchants make at Calcutta and Madras?—At Calcutta, two and a half per cent. for the provision of piece goods, and at Madras five per cent.
631. Do you know what was given to the producer for the articles so purchased?—I do not, I have merely the bill I was charged; but I know nothing of the manner in which the goods were procured, they were procured at a considerable distance from me.
632. Do you know whether the cochineal insect is bred in the Madras provinces?—It is collected in the southern provinces.
633. By whom is the cochineal prepared?—By the natives entirely.
634. What is its quality, as compared with that of Mexico?—Very coarse and inferior.
635. Do you know how the cochineal insect was first introduced into Madras?—I understood it was introduced by a doctor on the Madras establishment, about thirty years ago.
636. Is it a finer red than the lac dye?—It is; the lac dye is a substitute for cochineal.
637. Do you consider the Company's commercial agents as skilful and economical?—I do not.
638. Should you be disposed to employ them, provided you could get any body else to do your business as agent?—Not unless they possessed superior advantages to private agents, as magistrates.
639. You mean the power of dictating the price?—Entirely so.
640. Are the Company's commercial agents at Madras active, or have they

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- they much duty to perform?—They have little or nothing to do; it is considered as a pension branch of the civil service.
641. Are they very numerous?—They are not, they do not exceed ten persons.
642. Do you think the Company themselves are good traders?—I think not; no sovereign, I believe, ever traded to advantage.
643. Did there exist, in the province of Madura, any British-born subjects engaged in commerce, agriculture, or manufacture?—None, except myself.
644. Are there any in the neighbouring provinces of Tanjore or Tinnevely?—None.
645. What number of British-born subjects, of the description alluded to, may there be throughout the Madras provinces?—Twenty, chiefly shopkeepers, exclusive of persons in the service of the Company.
646. What is the reason why so many British-born subjects, not in the service of the Company, are engaged in agriculture and manufacture in the province of Bengal, as compared with the provinces of Madras?—Because the supreme government have systematically been favourable to interlopers.
647. In your opinion, is the presence of such persons as indigo planters a detriment to Bengal, or not?—I think they are the greatest advantage which Bengal enjoys at present.
648. Are the laws and regulations against the free settlement of British-born subjects in India more rigorously executed under the Madras government than under the Bengal government?—Much more so, and still more rigorously at Bombay.
649. Will you state the ground upon which you conceive that to be the case?—I have frequented Bengal for upwards of twenty years, without ever being interfered with in the slightest degree; I never was asked where I came from, or where I was going to. I was at Bombay once, merely as a passenger in a ship touching there on her way to Calcutta, and was sent for to the police office and strictly questioned. No country officer is allowed to sail out of Bombay without having free mariners indentured; in Calcutta, one person out of a hundred never has been possessed of free mariners indentures.
650. Were you allowed to continue at Bombay when you went there?—I had no purpose of continuing, but I should not have been allowed to continue.
651. Can a British-born subject, without a passport, travel through the presidency of Madras?—No, he cannot.
652. What is the nature of the passport he gets?—These are the passport regulations of the Madras government—[*producing the same*].—It is directed that his route shall be on the sea-coast. Only the principal officers of government

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ment can grant passports, which are to be countersigned at every station where he arrives. He is on no account to be allowed to go beyond the sea-coast; neither may he have a passport as a resident in any part of the Madras territory, but merely as a traveller.

653. Is it granted for a limited period, or unlimited?—The period is not specified. Occasionally it is said, till the period of his return, without specifying the number of days; and it is visited at every village by the native watchman and native police officer.

654. Do natives require passports to move about?—They do not.

655. Are there often vexatious delays?—I have been delayed several days in procuring a passport: I have been arrested and sent back twenty or thirty miles, merely because my passport was not countersigned, though I had taken leave of the collector in the morning; and was not aware of the regulation; and another time I sent for a passport, and the collector wrote back that he had lost his passport-book, and was obliged to give me a piece of paper written, which he assured me would answer the purpose.

656. By whom are those passports countersigned?—By the principal officers of government, who alone are authorized to grant passports, as collectors and commercial residents and commanding officers.

657. Having a passport, are you allowed to move from the residence of one collector to the residence of another collector?—Yes, and then to have the passport countersigned.

658. But it is inspected by the native officer of the village?—It is.

659. Have you experienced much delay in that inspection, in your case?—A good deal of annoyance and unpleasant interference.

660. Is there any thing paid for the passport?—Nothing.

661. Are those regulations adhered to strictly?—In the year 1828, under pretence of those regulations, I was imprisoned and marched to Madura, sixty miles into the interior, and imprisoned two months.

662. Will you state the particulars connected with that transaction?—I was at Ramnad; a native servant called on me for my passport, though I was not travelling, but residing. I reported the circumstance to the magistrate of Madura, sixty miles distant; the Assistant magistrate replied, that unless I could produce an authority for being in the district, it was his order that the law should be enforced. I was marched to Madura, attended by above a dozen persons, armed men; I was detained at Madura two months. I then proceeded to Madras, to bring an action against the collector in the supreme court. I took counsel's opinion, a copy of which is in the pamphlet I have delivered in; the counsel said, that in the defective state of the law as applying to India, I had no means of criminal prosecution against the magistrate. I applied to the Madras government, but received no answer from them; I went up to Bengal, and applied to the supreme government frequently during two years; after two years' application to the supreme government at Calcutta

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cutta, I was referred to the Court of Directors. Immediately on my arrival in this country, three months since, I applied to the Court of Directors, and have not yet received any answer to my application.

663. You stated, that you went from Madura to Madras; did the collector allow you to go without any application to the Madras government?—Immediately that the collector had reported my arrest to the Madras government, the Madras government ordered that I should be released, and the armed peons were taken off from me; till that time four policemen were constantly in my room, but still I was detained; and whilst a prisoner, he sent a fresh summons, and they forcibly dragged me into his court to answer to a set of interrogatories, which I would not answer.

664. Who was the collector?—Mr. Rous Peter, at Madura.

665. Is the collector still living?—I understand he has destroyed himself, in consequence of some investigation into his affairs by the Madras government.

666. Will you have the goodness to read the counsel's opinion?—It was a case submitted to Mr. Lewis, a barrister, and clerk of the Crown at Madras:

“Mr. Lewis is requested fully to consider the foregoing case, on the part of Mr. Peter Gordon, and to advise that gentleman whether any and what criminal prosecution can be sustained by Mr. Gordon against Mr. Rous Peter, for the arrest and imprisonment of, and arbitrary conduct towards Mr. Gordon, as above detailed, and the steps by which copies of warrants and proceedings may be procured, if it is not a criminal case.

“OPINION: *Ex parte* Mr. Peter Gordon.—I have read the accompanying case, which is one of as much unjustifiable oppression as any I have ever yet met with, and one, I should say, as much calling for the interference of the government, by inquiry at least into the conduct of one of their servants, as well can be imagined. That there has been the most unwarrantable abuse of authority on the part of Mr. Rous Peter, is evident; and that he has made an almost obsolete regulation of government subservient to his own private purposes, is equally so, by the arrest and detention of Mr. Gordon's person, at a time and under circumstances which render justification totally impossible. The government of Madras, it would appear, in complete abandonment of its own regulations as respected Mr. Gordon, thought fit to accept of him as a renter, he rendering the enormous sum of about 100 rupees a day; a circumstance fully known to Mr. Peter, the farms rented being in his district. Mr. Gordon, it would appear, resided generally upon the farms, going backwards and forwards to Madras, Calcutta, and elsewhere, for a period of three years, as it suited his purposes and occasions, in all which time Mr. Peter, who must necessarily have had advice of Mr. Gordon being a renter, never once interfered with his personal liberty, or instituted any inquiry to discover whether Mr. Gordon was or not a British subject within the 53d of the late King; neither do I think it was competent to him to have done so, unless he had assumed an authority paramount to the government itself. The moment, however, that one of Mr. Gordon's contracts is determined with the government, for it appears there is another one still existing, and before Mr. Gordon has time to adjust his affairs consequent to his contract in Mr. Peter's district, he is, without previous notice to depart, seized, and placed in a state of rigorous confinement, and subjected to personal insult. Mr. Gordon is however ordered, upon his own remonstrance to the Governor in Council, to be liberated, and Mr. Peter

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is directed to ascertain the fact whether Mr. Gordon is a British subject within the meaning of the Act above quoted; and this fact it pleases Mr. Peter to endeavour to come at by personal interrogation of Mr. Gordon himself, who is further imprisoned, and dragged, in violation of every principle of law and of natural justice, in custody of armed peons, before Mr. Peter, to answer his interrogatories. I cannot conceive for one moment that the government could or would sanction such a course of proceeding as Mr. Peter seems to have pursued; and I think it may fairly and in justice to the government be presumed, that Mr. Peter has misstated the case to the government; if the government has refused inquiry into Mr. Peter's conduct, and redress for his misbehaviour. Although I repeat that Mr. Peter's acts are most unjustifiable, I might safely add scandalous, yet I regret to say that I do not know of any criminal process which can reach him, in the defective state of the law as applicable to India; and I am of opinion, that no criminal indictment could be sustained against him alone, though he would be answerable, heavily so, I should say in a civil action, for the injuries he has inflicted on Mr. Gordon. Mr. Gleig seems to be mixed up with this transaction in a way which certainly does him but little credit; and I think it may be collected from the general statement, that he and Mr. Peter were acting in that degree of undue concert together, that I am decidedly of opinion they might be indicted for a conspiracy, and would be so properly indicted, if the facts alleged to have taken place in respect of a member of Mrs. Miller's family, at Ramnad, could be established, or that that lady could be induced to disclose all the facts within her knowledge; but without the aid of the testimony of Mrs. Miller, and her daughter, I cannot hold out any hope of redress to Mr. Gordon, even to this extent, notwithstanding all he has suffered. In closing this, I cannot avoid again repeating the advice I formerly gave Mr. Gordon, of making a temperate but urgent remonstrance to the government on the injury and degradation he has suffered, accompanied by a request that the government will furnish him with copies of Mr. Peter's and also Mr. Gleig's correspondence with government on the subject of Mr. Gordon's arrest and detention, and the causes assigned for it, and also for copy of that letter written by Mr. Gleig to Mrs. Miller. I feel almost confident such an application would succeed. If it did, Mr. Gordon might be put in possession of evidence which might materially assist him in the attainment of justice, and enable him to benefit the public generally by the exposure of a system which evidently requires reformation, as his own case but too strongly proves.

"Madras, 1st May 1828."

(Signed)

"ROBERT LEWIS."

667. Do you know whether the regulation which the counsel describes as nearly obsolete, is still in force?—The passport regulations were evidently made for a state of war. I left Madras immediately after this, and I have not been at Madras since.

668. Have you a copy of the case upon which that opinion was given?—I merely submitted the correspondence which took place between myself and the magistrates, as contained in this pamphlet, "Official Correspondence."

669. Did you make any application to the government of Madras?—I did.

670. Did they institute any inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Peter?—When this book was published at Madras, I understood that a commission was sent down to inquire into the state of the Madura district. I had previously stated, that in the cash balance of Mr. Peter there was a deficiency

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of £100,000: to investigate this and other charges, a commission, I understood, was sent down to the Madura district, which he could not meet, and therefore destroyed himself.

671. Have you made any application to the authorities in England since your arrival?—Directly I arrived in England, I went to the India-House and saw the Secretary, who directed me to make an application in writing; I have called there frequently since, and have been promised an answer.

672. What was the date of your first application?—The 26th of November, in the last year, and I was at the Examiner's office about a week ago.

673. How long were you resident at Ramnad?—Five years.

674. What were you engaged in?—In farming the revenues.

675. Under whom?—With the collector of Madura, and I was also in communication with the government.

676. When did Mr. Rous Peter die?—In 1828, a few months after this took place.

677. Was any inquiry instituted into the circumstances of the case by the government of Madras?—There was a correspondence, which I have never been able to see.

678. Had there existed any causes of private difference between you and Mr. Peter?—There was much correspondence between us. The first was about the duty on British iron; from that time, there was frequent correspondence with respect to custom duties, the assistance I was entitled to receive from government in support of my farming, and the opposition I received instead of assistance.

679. Where had you been in the intermediate period between the date of these occurrences and your arrival in England?—Two years I was applying to the Bengal government, and the day I got an answer from the Bengal government I embarked for England, before the written answer arrived, as soon as I received a verbal answer referring me to the Court of Directors in England.

680. Had you any other object in Calcutta than that of awaiting the result of your application to government?—Obtaining employment. I resided in Calcutta. I was idle the greater part of the time, and was constantly applying to government whenever I could; part of the time I was very ill.

681. How were you employed during that period?—I was three months in Saugur Island.

682. During all that period were you in the habit of making applications to the government, and obtaining no answer?—No answer till very lately, when I went personally and obtained an answer.

683. To whom did you apply?—Both to Mr. Bayley and Lord Bentinck. The two first applications were made to Mr. Bayley's government, and immediately afterwards to Lord Bentinck, who arrived in July 1828.

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684. Who was the governor at Madras at the time?—Mr. Lushington during the whole time.

685. Did you suffer considerable loss from this interruption to your business at Ramnad?—As nearly as I can estimate it, £100,000.

686. In what way?—In the total ruin of the farms. Instead of having assistance to carry on those farms, I experienced constant opposition.

687. When did you take the farms?—From 1823; but the disputes were in 1825.

688. When you estimate your loss at £100,000, do you mean a loss of property actually realized, or a loss of profit which you might have made?—It is a vague estimate: it was a destruction of capital, and a loss of all that might have been realized by the farms for which I was paying a rent.

689. What was the amount of the rent you paid?—I think 80,000 rupees a-year for Tinnevely farm, and 27,000 rupees a-year for the Ramnad farm, 11,000 for the Chia farm, besides other mercantile engagements which I had.

690. Were you not aware that your occupation of those lands was contrary to law?—Not when I took them. I did not occupy lands, I farmed revenues.

691. When was it you took the farm of the revenue?—It was taken in 1823 by the House of Scott & Company in Calcutta, who sent me as their agent to inspect all their concerns in Southern India, and I returned to Calcutta, and then entered into fresh engagements with the government at various periods. In July 1824 I took the farms of Ramnad for three years, and then the next year I took the farms of Tinnevely.

692. From whom did you take those farms?—From the Madras government, and from the collectors of Tinnevely and Madura. Before I entered into any thing, I was in correspondence with the Revenue Board, through the agency of Arbuthnot's house.

693. For what length of time did you take this?—By different leases; one lease I entered into was for three years, from the collector of Madura, and for three years with the collector of Tinnevely, with the sanction and approbation of the Madras government.

694. Which was the farm you took for three years?—Both the Ramnad farm and the Tinnevely farm, I had first for one year, and afterwards I took each of them for three years. In 1823 I had them for one year; in 1824 Ramnad was under the management of the government, and in the middle of 1824 I took it for three years, which would expire in July 1827.

695. When did your imprisonment take place?—In December 1827; but the Tinnevely farm was not expired then, and the property that had been produced of chanks that had been fished, were in the warehouse at Ramnad, and not disposed of.

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696. Up to December 1827, had you the full management of the farm you took?—Yes; I had been called up to Madras the year before, and the management of the chank fishery had been placed in the hands of the collector. I was not allowed to appoint any person to take charge of it, and I had offered to give it up to the government, and begged the Company to take it; they entirely refused to take it on their own account, but appointed the collector to manage it during my absence.

697. Are you still in possession of any of those farms?—When I left India, the house with which I am connected continued the Tinnevely farm under a lease from the government, but not the Ramnad farm. I do not know that it was renewed for the present year; the lease was till the 12th of July 1830.

698. What was the object of the lease?—The exclusive privilege of taking chank on that coast, which are sent to Bengal, and sold in the Bengal market.

699. Then it had no reference to the land?—None. It is called a farm because it is a farm of revenue; but the chaya root is dug on the land, and I had a right of digging on the land of every person.

700. Did you collect any land revenue?—Yes, it is a branch of the land revenue; it is entered under the head of mahl.

701. What is chaya root?—A dye root, a species of madder. I had the exclusive privilege of digging chaya root in the kingdom of Ramnad.

702. Had you anything to do with the grain crops or the cotton?—Nothing.

703. Does not that province produce very fine cotton?—It does.

704. To what process are those chank shells applied?—As ornaments; also in the religious rites of the Hindoos, for pouring water out on their idols when they are saying prayers; and every person attending the burning of a body, who wishes to show respect to the body, takes a chank shell.

705. Was your contract much of the same nature as the pearl-fishery?—It is of the same nature, and it is on the same coast.

706. Did you pay an annual rent?—An annual rent.

707. Are those shells exported to other parts of India?—Only to Calcutta.

708. Is the produce arising from that fishery considerable?—It varies considerably in point of value and in point of produce, according to the number of persons employed on it. The year it was under the government management about 150,000 chanks were obtained.

709. Can you state the value of the Tinnevely cotton, as compared with other cotton?—In the custom-house tariff the cotton of Madras generally is valued at 100 rupees per candy; but Tinnevely and Ramnad cotton is valued at 120 rupees per candy.

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710. Are all Europeans travelling for commercial purposes obliged to be furnished with a passport?—They are.

711. Are the servants of the East-India Company obliged to be furnished with a passport?—They are, except military officers in charge of military parties.

712. What is the term as applied by the regulations to an European travelling out without a passport?—Vagrant: he is liable to be arrested and imprisoned while a report is being made to the supreme government at Madras.

713. Is any reward offered for his apprehension?—There is a reward of ten pagodas for his apprehension.

714. What are the regulations with regard to licenses and passports under His Majesty's Government at Ceylon?—Europeans require neither license nor passport; but coast natives require a passport when travelling to the interior.

715. You stated, that the natives of Madras do not require a passport?—They do not when travelling about the presidency of Madras.

716. Would a native of Ceylon require a passport in the Madras presidency?—None; but Europeans require passports in the Madras presidency.

717. Was the government of Ceylon ever administered by the East-India Company?—It was, by the Madras servants.

718. For what period?—From 1796 to 1802.

719. At that period were the regulations with respect to passports, and the exclusion of British-born subjects to hold land, enforced at Ceylon as they are now at Madras?—They were.

720. What, in your opinion, is the reason of the difference between the conduct of his Majesty's Government at Ceylon and that of the Madras presidency?—The Company's government has no authority over Europeans short of transmitting them, therefore it does not like their rivalry in trade, or their obtaining a settlement in the country; the King's Government in Ceylon has full authority over Europeans.

721. Supposing permission were given to Europeans to reside in India, would it not be necessary that they should be amenable to the laws existing in the spot where they reside?—It would be necessary and desirable that the local courts should have jurisdiction over them.

722. What do you mean by the local courts?—They ought not to be Company's courts; they ought to be King's courts, established in every zillah. At present the provincial courts of Ceylon are superintended by a supreme court, which goes on circuit; but the local courts of the Company are not under the supreme courts of the Company.

723. Do you know whether the King's Government in Ceylon has at this moment the power of deportation or not?—It has the power of deportation, and imprisonment without the benefit of *habeas corpus*.

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724. Is it your opinion that such a power should be vested in the King's Government in India, in case it were taken away from the Company?—Certainly not.

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PETER GORDON, Esq. again called in, and examined.

725. Have you any explanation to afford the Committee of your former evidence?—Yes.

726. You stated, it was not necessary for the natives of the Madras provinces to have passports within the Madras territory similar to those necessary for British-born subjects; do you wish to explain that answer?—I was thinking of the published passport regulations. Those regulations do not apply to the natives; but a system of passports is maintained, by which a native cannot pass from village to village; he cannot carry a burthen for any traveller, nor go to work in any town; he is obliged to apply to the native servants of the government, who are at the same time employed in the revenue of the village, and obtain a chit, which is written on a leaf, without which he cannot quit the village for a day's work.

727. Does there exist a regulation to this effect in the Madras presidency?—In the printed civil regulations of the Madras government there is nothing of the kind.

728. Is there any other regulation you are aware of, upon that subject?—I am not aware of any express regulation, but the whole system is carried on against the published regulations.

729. Is it the practice that those passes should be given?—It is the universal practice.

730. What is its object?—To force the inhabitants to remain on the lands on which they were bred, to cultivate them for the Company on the Company's own terms. Were it not for this regulation, they would quit their lands, and go to the towns and work as labourers.

731. Are you aware of any instances in which individuals have been prevented emigrating from the country to towns for that purpose?—Constantly. I have constantly had labourers who were obliged to receive those chits, and I have given those chits to my own slaves, my own chank divers and chaya diggers, for their persons and their boats.

732. Is this a practice generally prevalent in the Madras territory?—Yes, it is general, if not universal.

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733. Are there any servants of the East-India Company now in England who can speak to this practice?—Yes; Mr. Cotton, his Majesty's Justice of the Peace and principal collector of Tanjore, Mr. Alexander Sinclair the younger, Mr. Ogilvy, and Mr. Gleig.

734. Where were those gentlemen employed?—In Tanjore and in Madura. They are now resident in England, and must necessarily be conversant with this system, which they have carried on for years.

735. Supposing a cultivator to quit one collectorate and to proceed to another without a pass-note, would he be claimed and sent back?—Constantly such claims are made, and they must have been made by Mr. Cotton and the other gentlemen I have mentioned. The claims are attended to, and they are sent back, quite as much so as West-India negroes are sent from one plantation to another.

736. Are you not aware that the practice of giving pass-notes to cultivators and others, and seizing the fugitive peasantry in the way you have described, does not prevail in Bengal?—It prevails in Bengal, as far as regards the Company's ryots, whether weavers, silk-winders, salt manufacturers, or opium cultivators. I have a recent instance of it: "1824, February 10th; R. Plowden, salt agent at Hidgeelee, to D. Hodges, Mud Point, Saugur Island." I met with the copy of this letter on the books of the Saugur Island Society:—

SIR:—Having accurate information that the following salt manufacturers of the Hidgeelee Salt Agency have absconded from hence, and taken advances, as labourers or otherwise, for the works carrying on under your superintendence at Saugur Island, I beg to send a person who will identify them, to request that they may be respectively delivered over to the charge of the bearer of this letter."

737. Where does that letter appear?—On the proceedings of the Saugur Island Society.

738. Can you vouch for its authenticity?—Yes, I can. I succeeded to the person to whom it is addressed; he is now in the Company's service as a surgeon.

739. Do you know anything of the circumstances under which that letter was written; whether the persons were defaulters, or had entered into engagements they had not fulfilled?—The ten men's names followed, which I have not here; the claim is made as against ten defaulters. The next letter is from the same person to the same person:—

SIR:—I am favoured with your letter of the 24th instant, in reply to mine of the 10th, requesting the restoration of ten mollungees therein named, who had absconded from this division. I beg leave, in reply, to inform you, that I can recognize no authority in the committee of management for the Saugur Island Society, to whom you have referred my letter, that is paramount to the enactment of the Legislature, which prohibits mollungees from seeking other employ while under an engagement to the Company. (Paragraph the second:) A person having been deputed by me to identify those

those persons, I consider their further detention, pending a reference to the authorities you have named, as a very great and uncalled for impediment to my availing myself of the services of those individuals, and as a very serious delay and loss on the business of the agency confided to my superintendence. (Third:) Previously, therefore, to my taking any further steps in this matter, I have to repeat my request, that the persons in question may immediately be returned.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"R. C. PLOWDEN, A. H. D. Hidgeelee."

740. Those latter cases, to which you have alluded, are cases in which an advance had been made to parties engaged in the salt manufacture?—All the inhabitants of India are in debt to the Company, by the showing of the Company's accounts.

741. Do you imagine, in the cases you have mentioned with regard to the salt manufactures at the mouth of the Ganges, that the parties so claimed had had advances made to them on the part of the Company?—It is pretended so by the government. By experience, which makes me acquainted with the system, millions know it who cannot appear in this court to witness against this system; I consider them in the same situation with the whole of the rest of the natives, particularly in the southern provinces: it is a fictitious debt.

742. Is it the practice to make advances to mollungees?—Yes, it is.

743. Have you any reason to believe that practice to have been deviated from in those instances?—Forcible advances are made. I do not consider a man is a debtor, any more than if sixpence is laid at my door and is claimed as a debt; and I know that is the custom of the Company with the natives.

744. How do you know that?—By experience.

745. State some of your proofs within your own knowledge; you are aware you are making very serious charges?—This is an extract from the Surat Diary, made by Mr. Rickards, which is an official document, and it exhibits the system of advances.

746. What is the date of it?—From 1796, annually, up to 1811.

747. Is Mr. Rickards in this country, who made that statement?—He was a member of this House, and I have seen him this day. Innumerable proofs have occurred in my own knowledge. I have been carrying on, in a degree, the same system myself; and many particular instances are contained in this official correspondence between myself and the government, and I dare say I can turn to some that bear on the point in a minute. Here is an instance, not exactly of their persons, but their property being taken away, their sheep; and the reply of the commandant of the town is, it was not for himself but for his dogs that a sheep or two was taken. Here is a letter from myself, No. 2, to the sub-collector and assistant magistrate of Ramnad:—

"SIR:

28 Feb. 1831.

P. Gordon, Esq.

28 Feb. 1831.

P. Gordon, Esq.

“ SIR :

“ Attancurry, 5th of July 1825.
 “ The bearers having applied to me for that protection which, to my certain knowledge, they actually require, I beg, to recommend them to your attention. It is assumed they are slaves of the soil, and unable to follow their occupation of chank-diving where most profitable to them.

“ I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
 “ PETER GORDON.”

The person to whom that was addressed was Mr. D. Bannerman, who has lately returned from England to India.

748. What was done in that case?—I have here his answer. Here is another letter, No. 3.

“ To the Sub-Collector and Assistant Magistrate, Ramnad.

“ SIR : “ Attancurry, 5th of July 1825.

“ May I request your sanction to this notice.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“ PETER GORDON.”

“ NOTICE.—Chank-divers are not slaves of the government or of the renter, but may live where they like, and follow other employments if they like.

“ To P. Gordon, Esq. Attancurry.”

749. Is that notice signed by you?—No; it is left in blank, with no signature to it. I wished the magistrate to sign it.

750. Is that the notice you sent to him in blank for his signature?—Yes.

751. Did he sign it?—Here is his reply.

“ SIR :

“ Mootoopettah, 7th of July 1825.

“ I beg leave to inform you, that as cases may occur in which there are circumstances rendering it incumbent upon particular divers to attend particular chank fisheries, I do not consider the notice to which you request my sanction as entirely unobjectionable, and I must therefore decline authorizing it. It appears that the three persons whom you sent with your letter on the above subject belong to the Shevagunga district, and I have no authority to redress their grievances, supposing them to exist.

“ I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

“ D. BANNERMAN, Sub-Collector.

752. Do you happen to know the particular circumstances of those three parties?—Yes, I do. Here is a continuation of the same subject.—Extract of No. 36.

“ To the principal Collector of Madura.

“ Attancurry, 26th of July 1825.

“ BUT strange as it must appear, these rapacious custom-house officers, aided by the police of the sea-coast department, and countenanced by the ameenas and talookdars, drive the chank-divers from the prolific Ramnad ports to the free ports of Shevagunga. It would be supposed that the divers would not require much driving, but would flock to Shevagunga. I am happy to say the contrary is the case, and that in spite of the activity of Nattacotty Chittie renters, and the terrors of the reigning zemindar, the perversion and the frequent defiance of authority intrusted to native servants of the government, and in the absence of all protection from the assistant magistrate of Ramnad when refugees within his district, the divers of Shevagunga continue to provoke the lash: some have come and settled at the Ramnad ports; others come and dive

dive at them, notwithstanding the terror of a flogging on their return home, where they are prepared to find that their wives have been troubled on account of their absence.”

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Those three persons came to my district to work for me.

753. What were their names?—Their names are on record in this correspondence.

754. From whence did they come?—From the adjoining district. The magistrate mentions he is merely a magistrate of the kingdom of Ramnad, and Shevagunga is another kingdom, under the same principal collector, but not under the jurisdiction of the assistant magistrate.

755. Upon their coming to your district to fish, what took place?—Their trees were cut down, their wives were troubled, they were beaten on their return home; and not merely those three men; they came as the representatives of others; the whole of the villagers migrated into my service. The magistrate says, that they are natives of Shevagunga, and as they merely came into the Ramnad district, he has no authority over them.

756. How long did they remain with you?—They came whenever they possibly could.

757. Was this act of oppression constantly committed?—Here are numerous instances of divers of Tanjore also coming, and the renter interfering and desiring they may come back. The renter of Tanjore came with native servants of the government, taking away the divers, and flogging them, taking them back by force; whole villages. The collectors say, expressly, the people are not free people.

758. Are those divers under any engagement to those collectors?—No more than the other natives; they are forced to enter into any bonds, and they render any receipt they are called upon to do for property taken. If there is any complaint, they are called up to town, under the pretence of being paid for their sheep, and things taken away by force in the same manner. I know to a certainty, that the people are not voluntary debtors to the Company; advances are forced on them, or it is pretended that they have received advances, according to the same system as the soldiers are sometimes recruited in England, but with much more severity.

759. Do you know how those advances are forced upon them?—In any manner. If any witness will appear in court, and declare that the people have received advances, they are considered as the Company's ryots. The regulations are published.

760. Is there any regulation by which the Company are authorized to flog persons escaping under those circumstances?—Yes.

761. What is that regulation?—This is prior to the code of 1793, but adopted into that code: this is 1775, May 1st.

762. You wish to afford some explanation in respect to what you stated upon

28 Feb. 1831. upon the exportation of raw silk from Bengal to Madras?—Yes, concerning the duties.

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763. State what explanation you wish to make?—On reference to the printed tariff, I find, if exported in a foreign bottom, the duty at Madras would be sixteen per cent., instead of eight per cent., the total amount of duty would be thirty-one per cent.

764. How does that make thirty-one per cent.?—Seven and a half inland transit duty to Calcutta, seven and a half exportation in a foreign bottom from Calcutta, and sixteen per cent. import duty at Madras, making thirty-one per cent. passing from one British town to another.

765. Do you mean to say that this silk, when it shall arrive at Madras, will be liable to another sixteen per cent.?—Yes; sixteen per cent. duty; the same as if it had arrived from any other territory than British. I was also questioned respecting the imports and exports of Calcutta. I beg to lay before the Committee this document, up to the 30th of April 1830, which is the latest in this country, and another also by Doctor Wilson, from 1814 until 1828.

766. Supposing silk imported into Madras in a foreign ship, is it liable to sixteen per cent.?—Yes; in a foreign vessel; an Arab vessel is a foreign vessel.

767. What would it pay if imported in an English ship?—Eight per cent.

768. Would there be any duty upon its export from Calcutta in a British ship?—None.

769. There would be only the transit duty payable inland?—Yes; and if exported to the United Kingdom there would be a drawback of two-thirds of the duty; if exported to the United States, a drawback of one-third of the duty; but if exported to the presidency of Madras in a foreign bottom, seven and a half per cent. sea export duty; therefore Madras is on a less favourable footing than foreign Europe and the United States.

770. Supposing silk sent from the Bengal presidency to Madras in a British ship, it would be liable to seven and a half per cent. transit duty, and eight per cent. import duty?—Yes; fifteen and a half per cent. is the gross duty upon a British ship.

771. Would any part of the duty be drawn back on the export of this silk from Madras?—None, only on exportation to the United Kingdom or to foreign Europe, and now within a few months, the empire of Brazil; but no drawback on re-export to any port of British India or foreign Asia.

772. Those duties are all prescribed by the printed regulations of the government?—Yes, by the local governments.

773. Are those duties consistent with the regulations published at Madras?—Those which I state are consistent.

774. Are

774. Are you aware whether any estates are held in property, or on long leases, by British subjects in the Madras presidency?—None.

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775. By law, can they or not be held?—They cannot be held by law.

776. Do you know any instance in which they are so held?—Merely houses, but not landed property to any extent. On the Malabar coast, in the Travancore district, there are estates held, but not under the Company's government: Messrs. Beaufort and Huxon hold estates under the fiction of the ranee of Travancore, but actually under the Company.

777. Supposing powers were given to Europeans to hold lands under the Madras presidency, would capital be invested in the cultivation of the soil, under the existing revenue regulations?—It would not, under the existing revenue system; capital has no more business at Madras than it has at Morocco.

778. Does that arise from the weight of the taxation, or the mode in which the taxes are levied?—From being collected without law, or against law, at the will of the collectors.

779. By the collectors, do you mean the natives?—Natives and Europeans together, supported by the whole military force of the Company, or indeed of England, army and navy. Here is a very recent instance, in the recollection of every gentleman acquainted with Indian affairs, mentioned by Mr. Peter, in his correspondence with me, when Mr. Thackeray was killed in attempting to collect the revenues, with one or two other civilians and some military officers, as late as 1825; he was killed at a fort, attempting to assume it, as his brother calls it in a diary I have here of his, and his hand was nailed on the door of the fort. It had been his boast that his hand had never been raised to his head as returning the salute of any native; that has appeared in the public papers.

780. You were acquainted with the island of Ceylon?—Yes.

781. Did the government of Ceylon encourage or discourage European colonization?—They encourage it to the utmost; and they have recently published regulations, offering land for the cultivation of different articles, declaring that these articles shall be held for ever free from duty.

782. Has that been attended with a considerable increase of colonization in Ceylon?—It has not.

783. Can you state why it has not?—These regulations are very recent, and the government of Ceylon, in common with the Company, sanctions transmission and imprisonment without *habeas corpus*.

784. That, you think, is a bar to the settlement of Europeans?—Yes, a material bar.

785. Are you acquainted with the French presidency at Pondicherry?—I am well acquainted with the whole of Pondicherry, and the district of Karical. There are upwards of two hundred villages in a much better state than the neighbouring English villages, especially the roads and public works.

K 2

786. Are

28 Feb. 1831. 786. Are Europeans permitted to hold lands there?—Yes, they are encouraged by every inducement possible. There was a proclamation lately by the French government, holding out premiums for the cultivation of certain valuable products.

787. What has been the result of that system?—The French, and indeed all the foreign European territories, are in a much better state than the English territory; any person acquainted with the country, set down in it at night, could declare immediately whether it was the Company's territory or not.

788. What extent of territory do the French possess round Pondicherry?—It may be fifteen miles in circuit, not more.

789. Has it been considerably improved since the repossession of it by the French?—Considerably; there was a great number of coolies employed, when I last passed it, in making an agreeable walk by the sea-side.

790. Are you aware of any possession by the Danes or Portuguese?—I am acquainted with Tranquebar, Goa, and Sadras, a Dutch possession.

791. What is their policy with respect to permission to Europeans to hold lands?—There is encouragement to Europeans; a regular system of legislation, an exact administration of justice, the same as in towns in Europe. One of the courts of Pondicherry contains a dozen members, and there are several other courts, and the police is vigilantly administered, and vigilantly superintended.

792. Are there many opulent native families resident in the province of Madura?—If any, they are very few. There is the Marea of Keelakurray, who is reputed rich, the zemindar of Shevagunga has extensive lands under his management, and many of the Nattacotty Chittie merchants have the command of immense funds; but no class can be considered at all rich, excepting the officers in the immediate and actual service of the Company, and as soon as they are dead or lose their situations, their property is very soon spoiled.

793. In what way spoiled?—By the officers of the government. Wherever money is known to exist in the territory it is taken away.

794. By whom?—Whoever has money that is not actually employed in trade, it is taken away by the servants of the Company, by the revenue police of the country.

795. In what way?—Whoever has money keeps it buried in the interior of the house, and if there is a suspicion of this, he is seized, laid hold of and tortured, lifted from the ground by his mustachios, between two peons.

796. Do you know any instance in which this torture has been exhibited?—I know many instances in which the kittee torture has been applied. In this official correspondence are two or three particular cases, one of which strikes my memory. I think it was one of the three men, whose case I referred to the magistrate; I observed him with a finger double the usual thickness, when

when standing at a distance away from me, and upon inquiry as to what it was, I found it had been injured by the kittee. The kittee consists of two pieces of stick, like a vice, tied together at its end; it is jammed, and the foot stamped on it.

797. By whose order is it inflicted?—At the discretion of every revenue police peon throughout the country; 100,000 persons, as Sir Thomas Munro has estimated. Sir Thomas Munro has stood by, by common report, and seen this kittee inflicted; he must have seen it. This person whose finger struck me I sent to the magistrate Mr. Nelson, requesting him to investigate it; from the native, I afterwards understood, that he had been sent, not by Mr. Bannerman, but by order of the principal magistrate to a native officer, and fined again. It may be necessary to state that he had been thumb-screwed for having worked for me, though he was one of my own chank divers. At the same time, three whole villages I understood to be thumb-screwed; but here is a positive instance, which came under my own inspection. I referred him to Mr. Nelson, the European magistrate, and he was not allowed to examine it; the sufferer was sent to the native officer.

798. Did you make any representation to the government upon this particular case?—The magistrate was the government; it was under the presidency of Madras; he was the only magistrate in the district.

799. Did you appeal from that magistrate to the government of Madras?—I do not know whether I did or not. Here is every representation I have ever made to the authorities of Madras.

800. At the time that this occurred, did you make any representation to the government of Madras upon that particular point?—I cannot recollect, it is several years ago, without going into these documents. Here is every representation I ever made to the government of Madras, and the answers I received; that is, copies of them. Here is the general representation of the subject to Sir Thomas Munro, which caused, I believe, his journey into the district:

No. 1.—“To the Honourable the Governor General in Council, Fort St. George.

Ramnad, 20th May 1826.

Extract.—“Further, though at the risk of transmission, which is equal to death, the general state of this zillah loudly calls for investigation. I know but little of it; but do not hesitate to say, that it is not governed according to law in those few points that have been regulated by law; it groans under the most degrading despotism; entirely in the hands of natives, unchecked, without responsibility, but supported with irresistible force. I have the honour to be, &c.”

Immediately after Sir Thomas Munro came into the Madura district, I expected a full investigation, and accordingly requested the collector to lay before the governor the following charges, contained in letter No. 149. Sir Thomas Munro did not investigate the state of the district; he returned again to Madras, where I again addressed him.

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No. 4.—“To the Honourable the Governor General in Council, Fort St. George.

“Sir:—I beg leave to state that the native inhabitants are subjected to the kittee and other

tortures; that those tortures are frequently wantonly and unjustly applied; that they are applied at the discretion of the peons; that they are applied to collect revenue, to extort money, and that in June 1824, at Madura cutchery, I saw near one hundred village accountants in a painful posture.

“I have the honour to be, &c.

PETER GORDON.”

801. Did you get any answer to that letter?—None; it is not the custom of the Madras government to answer complaints.

802. You are generally acquainted with the Madras territory?—With the southern part of it I am.

803. State the condition of the roads and bridges in that country?—It may be said there are none whatever; none exist beyond the jurisdiction of the supreme court at Madras, or the town of Madras.

804. How are the rivers generally passed?—On rude rafts of split bamboo and earthen pots, which are continually sinking, and sometimes by swimming across in an earthen pot.

805. Are there any very extensive works for irrigation you are acquainted with?—None particularly deserving notice. The whole system of cultivation is by irrigation; but there is no work deserving particular notice.

806. Do you know at all what is expended by the Madras presidency in keeping those works in repair for irrigation?—The Board of Revenue is reported to have expended the enormous sum of £60,000 a year on an average of ten years for the whole territory.

807. Is there not a great tank for the irrigation of Ramnad?—There is a large tank.

808. In what state is it?—As rude as possible; a slovenly dam of mud across a torrent.

809. Is that an ancient or a modern construction?—Very ancient.

810. Is there one at Madura?—There is a fine tank outside the city gate; a teppacolom.

811. In what state of repair is it?—It is so substantially built, that it does not require repair; it is a work of native construction.

812. You stated you were some time resident at Saugur Island?—For three months I was.

813. Can you give any account of the quantity of land under cultivation there?—Yes, I can, by referring to memorandums published in the Calcutta papers. “Saugur Island.—The islets of Saugur are dreadfully unwholesome; the stream of coffee-coloured water by which the ship is surrounded sufficiently indicates by its tint the inundations that have supplied it.” “A few Europeans who live in Meerzapore, a suburb of Calcutta, suffer greatly from

from climate. My sircar said he never went near the bad water that flows up the salt water lake to Entallee, without sickness and head-ache.”—Heber.

814. Is Saugur Island at the present moment wholesome or unwholesome?—The climate of Saugur I am not inclined to consider worse than other parts of the unbounded shores of the Hoogly, below Calcutta.

815. Was not it considered, before the clearing of the jungle, an unwholesome spot?—It was.

816. What sum of money has been expended upon it by private individuals?—Ten lacks of rupees.

817. Do you consider the soil of Saugur islands generally fertile or not?—The soil is the richest loam to the depth of twenty feet, of inexhaustible fertility, requiring sand as much as any other manure, and retaining the water in tanks, which are formed cheap enough to be available for watering the general crops, and exposed only to evaporation and extraordinary floods: even there, floods may be guarded against by extraordinary high bounds.

818. Do you know, with respect to cotton, what sort of cotton is cultivated in that part of India you are acquainted with; is it of good quality?—That of the Company's territory, it is the worst quality that comes into the British market.

819. Have the Company taken any steps to improve it?—The cotton produced in the islands of Seychelles and Bourbon is the finest cotton in the world.

820. Have the Company taken, to your knowledge, any means to improve the cultivation of cotton?—Very trifling, scarcely worth mentioning. They have had a few bales of seed brought to Tinnevely, and machinery sent lately to Bombay.

821. What have been the results of their attempts to improve the cotton?—It is at present the worst cotton grown in any part of the world, like every other Indian product.

822. Are there any plantations under their own immediate management?—None, that I am aware of.

823. Is not the machinery by which the cotton is now cleaned of a very inferior description in India?—Very inferior.

824. Can you describe what it is?—It is a small machine that costs sixpence, and cleans it very rudely indeed, turned by the hand, and with a very great loss of labour; it requires no strength, but occupies the whole of the time of one person; it is the common Bengal gin.

825. Does it clean it thoroughly?—No, it requires to be cleansed by a bow-string, which breaks it to pieces.

826. Have you seen the machinery now used in America?—Yes; I saw a gin sent by Mr. Piddington to Saugur Island.

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28 Feb. 1831. 827. Does that do its work effectually?—It was not at work, but it is a better machine than the others are. In Bengal I have seen models of mills and other gins, that save an immense deal of labour.

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828. What would be the cost of that machine in fitting it up?—A very few pounds; five pounds at the utmost.

829. Have not the natives a great prejudice against using any of that machinery?—None that I am aware of, not even for grinding their own flour. At present the Hindoos buy flour from the strand mills in Calcutta, where it is ground by steam machinery.

830. What is produced on the estate you have mentioned as belonging to Messrs. Beaufort and Company, at Travancore?—The first object was the naturalization and cultivation of cinnamon: they procured seeds and plants from the island of Ceylon, and engaged cinnamon cultivators.

831. Has it succeeded?—It has only been a few years in progress, and I have not heard of it for the last three years.

832. Do they grow pepper?—I cannot say, particularly. I am aware they have tried every thing that held out the chance of cultivation; they sent to me respecting chaya root and cotton.

833. That estate is considered to have succeeded as far as it has gone?—I cannot say; it is a large estate, and not improved. It being under the native government, they have no certain tenure; they are assured that the taxes and rent shall not be raised; but whenever the Ranee pleases to change her mind, or is persuaded by any of her allies to do so, they may be assessed without any appeal. The existence of their property depends upon the will of the Company's resident at Travancore.

834. Who is the Ranee's dewan at present?—I do not know. The resident was a military officer, lately appointed.

835. Is not the quality of the cotton of Tinnevelly remarkably good?—Compared with other Indian cottons, it is the best, except Seychelles and Bourbon.

836. Does not it admit of very extensive cultivation?—I believe it can be extended considerably, and improved considerably. There is a positive proof, that the general quality of the Tinnevelly cotton can be improved; that which is cultivated by Mr. Hughes on his own land is better than the rest.

837. Do you know the price it sells for here?—No, I cannot speak to that rightly; it has varied of late.

838. Do you know it has been sold as high as 1s., whereas other Indian cottons are selling as low as 4d. or 5d.?—I do not know that, but I have always understood it fetched a much better price. It is prepared under his own inspection and daily observation of the cleaning of it, and is sent to his agent in London.

839. How

839. How long did you reside in India?—In 1810 I first proceeded there.

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840. Did any of your relations reside there at that time?—They did; I went out in company with a cousin.

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841. Your father?—My father had been in India before me; he died in 1805.

842. Some of your brothers were resident there?—Not at that time. A cousin was resident there, with whom I went out in the same ship: he went out with my father, and was several years sailing about with my father.

843. Did you go out with a license from the Company, or by an invitation from your father?—My father was dead.

844. You had a license from the Company?—No, I had not; I never had a license. One was offered to me by Lestock Wilson, Esq. member of a house in the Old Jewry; but I was told in the same breath (I believe the gentleman was a Director at that time) that it was not at all necessary. I never found it necessary, and was never asked for it during twenty years I have navigated in India.

845. You went out as a mariner?—I went as fourth mate of the Fort William.

846. How many years did you exercise the profession of mariner exclusively, without any commercial pursuit?—Until I entered into contracts with the Company's government at Madras.

847. Were you then trading on your own account, or as the agent of other parties?—Joint account; partner with the house of Scott and Co. of Calcutta, as far as regarded the transactions under my own management.

848. That was the commencement of your commercial life?—No; a mariner or a mate of a ship is generally concerned more or less in trade; and before that I had owned part of a vessel and cargo in the trade of Calcutta.

849. Your first contract with government was in 1824?—The first contract I remember forming was in 1824. In 1823 I had charge of the contracts that were formed; the correspondence begins with Rous Peter, Esq. collector of Ramnad, under the date of 29th May 1823.

850. Your lease was merely that of the chank fishery?—I had leases of the chank fishery and of the chaya-root farms of Ramnad, and of the Tinnevelly chank fishery.

851. Immediately, or very soon after you went to reside at Ramnad, you were engaged in a correspondence with the collector?—Immediately I went to reside at Ramnad I was engaged in a correspondence with the collector of the Madura zillah.

852. That correspondence was conducted in a respectful manner on your part, and civilly upon his part, was not it?—Here is the whole correspondence, every letter that ever passed between us or any of the authorities of Madras.

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853. Did

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853. Did you complain of any exaction of duty on his part?—Frequently I complained of exactions of duties.

854. What answers did you receive to those complaints?—They are contained in these documents.

855. What answers were they?—Various; they are contained here.

856. Were they satisfactory, or otherwise?—Always very unsatisfactory, totally unsatisfactory.

857. On what ground did you consider them unsatisfactory?—My opinions of them are stated in these documents, to which I beg to refer.

858. Did he not state the authority upon which all his exactions were made?—He did not.

859. In no instance?—In few, if any instances; I do not remember any specific instance in which he did. Those bills that were paid, those demands that were complied with, there of course I admitted the authority.

860. Did he ever charge you with having removed any of those articles without paying the duty which you were bound to pay?—He did.

861. He charged you with the offence commonly known by the name of smuggling?—No, not that I am aware of.

862. Were your goods seized at any time?—Frequently.

863. On the ground of your having evaded the duties?—And several parcels yet continue under seizure.

864. Upon the ground of your having evaded the duty?—The whole correspondence is here contained.

865. Was that the ground?—No; that I would not pay the duties, but not evading the duties. I had sent on different routes waggon loads and cargoes of goods, and I would not pay the duties that were perfectly illegal.

866. On what ground did you resist the payment?—On various grounds, according to the circumstances, because the demands were illegal and against law.

867. That he had no right to exact any duty, or that it was a surcharge?—This is the first reference I made to the government of Madras (Letter No. 1, to the Secretary of the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George, dated Ramnad, 23d May 1825); the local correspondence had been going on some time.

868. Did you resist the payment of the duty because it was illegal and unauthorized, or because of the rate of duty?—The great cause of complaint was, the law says, "No duty shall be received except at the established choukies;" but at other places, unauthorized choukies, duties were demanded.

869. What law do you refer to?—The Madras government regulations of 1812.

870. Did you, or did you not, on any occasion in 1826, remove a quantity of

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of chaya root without payment of the duty to Government?—I was constantly removing loads of chaya root, and there were frequent complaints about it. The one I suppose that is alluded to was in a schooner.

871. Did you on any occasion, in 1826, send away a quantity of chaya root without the payment of duty?—No, I did not, positively at no period, either in 1826 or any other period.

872. Are the Committee to understand you never did send away chaya root from the district without paying the duty?—I never did; I never attempted it nor desired it. I have always paid the legal duty, and more than the legal duty.

873. Was any of your chaya root seized?—I have mentioned various loads are under seizure, but none have been brought to trial. I have invited trial, but been requested to remove loads of chaya root, and I would not.

874. Were they seized on the ground of your not having paid the duty?—Here are the particulars, and the whole correspondence.

875. Answer the question shortly?—Illegal duties were demanded and refused.

876. Upon what authority did you pronounce the duty illegal?—I consider legal only those authorized by the printed regulations of the Madras government.

877. Is the Committee to understand that those duties were beyond the rates specified in the regulations?—Quite against the regulations. I believe in every case, and every demand I resisted was eventually abandoned by the Madras government and the local government. What I was not allowed to do at one time, I was always allowed to do afterwards. I was even allowed, and the order is contained here from Mr. Peter, that my boats and goods should not be detained on any pretence, on any part of the territory, but that they should pass free.

878. Did you continue to be the agent of Messrs. Scott and Company during the whole of your residence in India, till you came home?—I did.

879. You were not invited by them to leave Madura, and come to Madras in 1827?—In 1826, by Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company, my agents. I was the attorney of Messrs. Scott and Company on the Coromandel coast, and their partners in these concerns. References were made by me to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company, who negotiated with the Madras government, and requested me to come up and explain, which I considered to be a summons from the government, and instantly obeyed it, under the idea that it was a summons from the government, which it proved to be.

880. Was not the ground of their calling you to Madras, the offensive correspondence that had taken place between you and the collector at Madura?—I suspected it was, but had no ground for proof until Rous Peter, Esquire, said to me, in 1828, when a prisoner before him, "you may not be in these districts; formerly you were removed by the order of government."

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881. You

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28 Feb. 1831. 881. You were absent a year at Madras, and then returned to Ramnad, did not you?—From Madras I went to Ceylon.

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882. You were absent for a year, and returned after a year to Ramnad?—I was absent from Ramnad nearly a year, and then returned to Ramnad.

883. What time was it?—Christmas 1827, I returned to Ramnad.

884. Were you then, or not, called upon for your license by the collector, upon your return to Ramnad?—On the 27th of November 1827, I returned to Ramnad; on the 4th of December 1827, I addressed a note to the sub-collector of Madura; on the 28th of December 1827, I wrote the following letter to the magistrate of the zillah Madura.

885. Were you called upon for your license by the authorities at Madura?—This will state it.

886. Were you or not called upon to produce your license for residing at Madura?—He demands my passport; he says, he is come as a police officer, and demands my passport; I was not asked for a license; a license and passport are materially different things.

887. What is the difference between a license and a passport?—A license is a document obtained in England, which I never had any occasion for.

888. You are aware they are granted by the government there?—There are frequent instructions from the honourable Court of Directors to the governments in India, forbidding them to grant any license of residence. A license of residence in India is necessarily and properly only granted by the Directors or the Board of Control, but a license to reside in the presidency ten miles in the interior, is granted by the local governor.

889. Were you or not, in fact, asked for the authority under which you resided, and refused to produce it?—On Christmas day a Tamul officer, a police officer of the district, paid his Christmas respects to the family in which I was, and ornamented them with garlands of flowers, which is customary; on the 28th of December he sent a message to me that he would wait on me, and pay his respects to me. I expected a Christmas visit which I did not wish to receive, and I sent word back, I would not receive him; that I was passing shortly through the district, and was not prepared to receive him. He then intruded himself as a visitor to me, after having been refused; he with much noise says, "he is come as a police officer, and demands my passport." He first came as a visitor, and when I would not receive him, he came as a police officer. I was residing there; I was not travelling.

890. Did you produce a passport?—No more than I should at present.

891. You were apprehended in consequence, were you not?—I made a statement to the magistrate of Madura, and the reply was, from the joint magistrate, "The ameen has received my orders to require from you to state by what authority you are now in these districts." The one demanded an authority for passing through the district, and the other for residing in the district.

892. You

892. You were apprehended in consequence?—Peons were put over me; but I have been making application to know why I was apprehended, to his Majesty's Justice of the Peace, to the local governments, to the supreme government, and to the Court of Directors; but I have not yet got any answer, and I have never yet seen the warrant.

893. How long did you remain under the surveillance of the peons?—"Madura, Sunday noon, March the 2d, 1828. A passport to Ramnadporam is just now handed to me."

894. How long were you detained?—Two months it is. I am desirous of referring to official documents: it was handed to me after repeated applications.

895. That was at the close of your confinement?—That was the only means by which I could leave the place to which I had been marched.

896. State the precise period of your confinement?—From the 28th of December to the 2d of March.

897. Did you, or not, receive a summons from the magistrate before you were placed under any restraint?—I did not receive any summons of any description, or any notice or notification of any kind; no message or communication from any magistrate or person.

898. Are you quite sure of it?—No, communication whatever from any magistrate until my communication to him that I was a prisoner, though I had been a month on the coast.

899. Did you, or did you not, receive any communication from a magistrate; did you not receive a written document of any kind under the authority of a magistrate, before your arrest?—The first communication was the joint magistrate's letter of the 29th of December, in reply to the letter I sent informing him I was arrested.

900. That was explaining the ground of your confinement. You are sure you did not receive any written document, or indorse it with your signature or initials?—This reply is the first document I received for about a year from my departure, until a month after my return to the coast; there had been no communication between the Madura authorities and myself for about a year after I had first left in October 1826.

901. Were you brought before a magistrate on any occasion during your arrest or before it?—I was marched to Madura, a distance of about sixty miles, by armed natives, and then taken before his Majesty's justice of the peace, Rous Peter, Esq.

902. What day was it?—The 7th of January 1828.

903. That was after you had been a month in confinement?—No, eleven days, when James Taylor, Esq., now a member of the council at Madras, was present, together with several other English gentlemen.

904. Were any questions put to you on that occasion?—Mr. Oakes, assistant

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assistant to the magistrate, said, "You are sent for to know by what authority you are in these districts."

905. Did you make any answer?—I replied, "I request to see the copy of the warrant for my arrest."

906. In fact, you answered the questions by putting of a question to the magistrate, and did not give him any answer to his questions?—I did so, as I understand it is the birthright of a Briton not to be put on any trial or interrogatory until a specific charge is brought against him.

907. Was not the charge against you specific; namely, that of residing without a license within the district?—To this hour I have not seen any such charge.

908. You mentioned an appeal to Sir Thomas Munro in the year 1826; did you receive no answer to any of your applications?—I have received two letters from the honourable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George.

909. Will you state the contents of that dated the 6th of February 1827?—I do not find it.

910. Did you receive any communications from the governor, or any of his officers, on the 6th of February 1827, to this effect; that if the collector had dealt illegally with you, he was amenable for it to the zillah court in which you resided?—Yes, I did receive that letter.

911. What did you do upon receiving that letter?—I replied to it:

No. 2.—"A. Chamier, Esq., Acting Revenue Secretary of the Government, Fort St. George."

"SIR:

"Vepery, 14th of February 1827.

"I am honoured with your letter of the 6th instant. I begged of government that I might receive information concerning the constitution and regulation of the chank fishery of Ramnad: your reply seems for this information to refer me to the printed copies of the regulations. I beg to state, that in those regulations I find implied prohibitions of such monopoly, but no shadow showed of sanction for it. I beg the honourable the Governor in Council will be pleased to cause inquiry into the existing monopoly of chank shells under the presidency, also into the powers of a renter at Ramnad for the support of a monopoly of chanks."

912. What steps did you take in consequence of this communication from the government at Madras, directing you to prefer your complaint to the zillah court?—In the first place, my belief is that the reference was against the act of Parliament, 53 Geo. III.; and with the permission of the Committee I will produce the opinion of Mr. Robert Cutlar Fergusson, advocate-general of the Company, on this point, as submitted to him by the Bengal government, concerning the possibility of one European impleading another in the courts of the Company.

913. Have you got that opinion?—I can produce it.

914. How long had you resided at Ramnad without a license from the government?—From the beginning of 1823 until the end of 1827.

915. You

915. You stated you were engaged in the chank fishery on that part of the coast?—Yes.

916. Were you so engaged with the knowledge of the government?—Under the authority of the government, by a contract with the government.

917. Under those circumstances, did you conceive it necessary to have any other license to reside at Ramnad?—No, nor do I conceive it necessary: it is in my power to return to India as freely as to Liverpool.

918. Are you at the present moment the renter of this fishery?—At the time I left India: the lease of Tinnevely was ours until 12th July 1830.

919. At the time of your arrest you were the renter of the fishery under the government?—Yes, until the moment of my departure from Calcutta, on the 15th June 1830.

920. You stated, you invited a trial upon the litigated points between you and the collector?—Yes.

921. How?—By letter. I offered to deposit the amount of every demand made upon me in the supreme court of Madras.

922. To whom did you make that offer?—Both to the collector and the Board of Revenue.

923. You have stated, the duties demanded of you were illegal duties; were any duties payable upon the export of those chank shells?—There never was any dispute concerning the chank duties; it was concerning other articles. Duties were chargeable upon the chank shells, and always paid.

924. To what articles did your answer refer?—The first was on the import of British iron, that was the origin of the dispute: sixteen per cent. on the invoice value of British iron was demanded and insisted on by the native servants of the Company.

925. You resisted the payment of that duty?—Yes.

926. Does it appear upon the Madras regulations that any duty is payable upon British iron into Madura?—Quite the contrary; by the express law it is exempt.

927. Does not the Act of Parliament prevent the granting a license to Europeans to reside in India by authorities at the different presidencies?—I am not aware that Parliament has deprived the Indian government of the right of licensing Europeans to reside in India; but the Directors have constantly forbidden them to do so.

928. Was there any other point, except that of the duty upon iron, on which you had a difference with the collector?—Several others, concerning the duties inland, and the sea-duties on chaya root, and the valuation on the tariff: it was overvalued three times its amount; and almost if not every point that came into dispute was given up by the government.

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929. Can you state to the Committee the duties payable upon that chaya root?—Inland transit duty, five per cent.
930. That appears upon the regulations?—Yes.
931. What demand was made upon you upon that head, what percentage?—Payable only on passing the choukie; and it was frequently demanded where it did not approach a choukie, on its coming into my stores.
932. Was there any choukie between the place where the chaya root was collected and your own store?—There was no choukie; it passed the choukie merely on its way to Madura for sale.
933. How far were your stores from the place where the chaya root was collected?—All round the store, from the very door of the stores, but ten miles from a choukie.
934. Do the Committee understand the duty on this chaya root was demanded from you before coming into the store?—Yes, on removing from one store to another.
935. To what distance?—The whole length of the coast, 120 miles.
936. Do you conceive such a demand was legal or illegal?—It was abandoned by the government.
937. How soon after you commenced collecting chaya root was the demand made upon you?—Not until after the disputes concerning British iron.
938. Can you state the year?—About 1825 or 1826.
939. When did you commence collecting chaya root?—The 12th of July 1824.

Jovis, 3^o die Martii, 1831.

PETER GORDON, Esq. again called in, and examined.

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940. You stated, on the last day you were examined, that you were desired by the government of Madras to proceed against the individual who had aggrieved you in the zillah court?—I did.
941. Will you state the reason why you did not take that course?—Here is the opinion of the advocate-general of Bengal, stating that a British subject cannot be impleaded by another British subject in any of the country courts; and that the law on the subject stands as it did previously to the passing of the Act of the 53 Geo. III. c. 155. This is signed, "R. C. FERGUSON, January 28th, 1818."
942. Had you not the means of proceeding against that gentleman in the supreme court of Madras?—I attempted it subsequently as a criminal suit, and

and the opinion of the clerk of the Crown was given in on the first day of my examination, that I had no means of obtaining redress.

943. You state, that you were advised to proceed civilly in the zillah court against the gentleman referred to; that you were then advised by the advocate-general that you could not proceed in that court; why did you not proceed in the same manner in the supreme court?—I knew that, at the time the supreme court was established, it had not jurisdiction in revenue affairs, and I suppose that to be the case at present. I frequently, as I have already stated, offered to deposit the amount of every claim made upon me in the supreme court, and wished to try the legality of the demands, but I never could have it brought to a trial.

944. This was a question of customs, was it not?—Yes; and the customs are a branch of revenue. The supreme court cannot proceed in affairs of customs: the local regulation for the management of the Madras customs enacts that disputes at the custom-house of Madras shall be tried in the zillah court at Chingleput; especially in the Madras regulations, first, second and third, of 1812.

945. Do you mean to say that the result of the advice you obtained was, that there was no court in India in which you could obtain redress?—I did my utmost to obtain redress in India at various times, and here is a note from the supreme government, referring me to the Court of Directors:

"The case referred to in this letter was the act of the Madras government, the papers and proceedings relating to which are on record at that presidency, and the case is not one admitting or requiring the interference of the supreme government. Mr. P. Gordon may prefer his complaint to the Court of Directors, who have the power of controlling such matters, and to whom the appeal naturally lies.

"Calcutta, 3d June, 1830.

"H. T. PRINSEP,
"Secretary."

946. The question refers to redress from the court of justice; do you mean to say that you were advised that there was no court of justice in India in which you could obtain redress?—I believe that there was no court of justice in India in which I could obtain redress.

947. Is it not the fact, that the internal customs is mixed up with land revenue as well as the farms, and that the King's courts have no jurisdiction therein?—I believe that to be the case; it has been so by Act of Parliament. The system has been changed occasionally, but as far as I know, that is now the system. I did my utmost, both in courts of law and by applications to the Madras government, and to the supreme government: the opinion of Mr. Fergusson was taken on a reference by the supreme government previous to my case.

948. Did you consult English counsel upon the subject?—There are many disputes, and have been for several years, and of course on every trifling dispute I did not consult counsel; but on the great point of my

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personal arrest I did consult counsel. Nothing but a criminal proceeding would satisfy me; a civil proceeding would have been an insult, after having been arrested and marched through the country, and treated in the way in which I was treated. The meanest individual in this country is entitled to a criminal proceeding against any magistrate who arrests him improperly, and I considered myself entitled to the same in India.

949. What is the fee usually paid to a counsel?—The expense altogether of counsel and attorney, taking this particular opinion, was, I think, five or six hundred rupees (about £60); and the detention, having no other business at Madras, was upwards of six weeks, during which time I was living at a tavern, and not attending to any other business: with loss of time it cost about £300.

950. Have you been in the habit occasionally of assisting the natives with your advice?—Constantly, whenever it was in my power.

951. In cases of hardship, and complaints they have had to make?—Whenever it was in my power. In 1816 a Committee of the House of Commons being appointed to inquire into the situation of Lascar seamen when in England, three letters of mine were laid before the Committee. About that time I published a tract on the situation of the Lascars in this country. I mention this as an instance, that at an early period I interested myself about the natives, and of course the same system has always been continued.

952. Is not that considered a very unacceptable interference on the part of the authorities in India?—Exceedingly so.

953. Is it not sufficient to draw down the wrath and jealousy of the government towards you?—Especially on the subject of purveyance, concerning which some of my most violent disputes originated.

954. Will you describe to the Committee what you mean by purveyance?—The supply of the table of Europeans generally with all articles of food produced in the villages; sheep, fowls, hay, straw, firewood, labour, and other articles, but not rice.

955. Are all those supplied at certain rates?—A tariff is published of fixed rates, at which they must be supplied by the natives, and ought to be paid for by the government's servants; but these articles are seized, and generally the native does not receive any thing whatever.

956. Seized by whom?—By the native servant, for the use of the European traveller and European officer; for the use of myself it was done frequently. The native officers of revenue-police are glad to have the name of an European to make use of; they seize, perhaps, a dozen sheep, and supply one to the European.

957. What may be the nominal price they allow for a sheep?—I can lay the Madura rates before the Committee, and also the market rates.

958. Do they bear any reasonable proportion to each other?—One half, generally

generally speaking; but in reality the natives do not receive any thing for what is taken from them. I have frequently seen at the cutchery a hundred fowls collecting, and at the head police-office in Madura there is a constant supply of sheep and poultry kept up for the table of the judge and collector, gratis.

959. By whom are the rates of price fixed?—By the collector of the revenue. It is considered a service, and publicly collected from the villagers, without any secrecy.

960. Do the natives receive nothing?—Generally speaking, they do not actually receive anything.

961. Do the Europeans pay nothing?—Occasionally they do.

962. To whom does that money go?—To the native servants of the government. There are written regulations well known in all the cutcheries, that is, the office of the judge and of the collector. Purveyance is managed by the police. The collector, being a magistrate, collects for the table of the judge (the judge cannot collect for himself); and by this system the collector, of course, has a considerable degree of influence, and can make the situation of a judge very uncomfortable, in not supplying him.

963. Does not the judge pay according to the tariff prices to somebody?—At Madura I should think not.

964. Is that a common practice, according to your experience?—It is: On the arrival of Mr. Nelson as sub-collector of Ramnad, it was mentioned to me, that the peon, as usual, had applied in the village of Aitexgarie for the supply of oysters and fish. I sent a message to the peon, requesting him to come to me; he appeared, and produced a written order, which I have copied and translated. I sent a note to Mr. Nelson, representing the circumstance to him, and during the whole of his residence in the zemindary he never took the smallest article whatever without paying for it, which was particularly noticed and spoken of daily by the natives.

965. To whom did he pay?—He paid the person from whom it was taken, whenever he possibly could, under his own eye, and the natives always acknowledged they were never robbed on his account.

966. To whom do the natives complain, on such occasions, of the robberies committed?—There is no person to whom they can complain; it is done by the magistrate, and for the magistrate and his friends.

967. If they show dissatisfaction upon those occasions, are they not liable to punishment?—Of course they are; but still many disputes occur between them and the revenue police officers. When they come to a village, if there are any strong influential people, and it is a populous village, there is occasionally considerable resistance. The villages of Mussulmen are, by usage, exempted from the greater part of this service; it falls entirely on the lower classes of natives, on the lowest and most depressed.

968. Does the magistrate live quite free of expense for articles of that kind?—

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991. In any other part of India?—A revenue officer would; a revenue officer, travelling in his own district, is enabled to travel without any expense; a revenue officer, native or European.

992. How is it when he gets out of his district?—Mr. Peter, in travelling to Cutallum, his servants, in entering the Tinnevely district, were proceeding as in their own district, making seizures of supplies; complaint was made to Mr. Bannerman, assistant or sub-collector in charge of that part of Tinnevely, who had the servants of Mr. Peter brought before him; he reprimanded and forced them to pay for their supplies.

993. Have you read the work published by Bishop Heber?—I have.

994. Are not these abuses prominently referred to there?—They are. He paid extreme attention to prevent them; but in the Madras territory, it is within my knowledge that he could not prevent them.

995. You have not travelled in the presidency of Bengal?—No, except from Bandel to the sea.

MATTHEW GISBORNE, Esq. called in, and examined.

M. Gisborne, Esq.

996. WHEN did you first go out to India, how long did you reside there, and when did you return to this country?—I left England for Java in the beginning of the year 1818, and resided in Java till the beginning of 1821; I then went up to Calcutta, and remained there till the end of 1828.

997. What was your occupation during your residence in India?—I was engaged in mercantile pursuits, as a merchant and agent.

998. You have still a mercantile establishment there?—I have at Calcutta.

999. Did you see the early progress of the free trade between Great Britain and India?—Yes; I had an opportunity of observing the progress of it from almost the commencement of the year 1818; I was personally engaged in it.

1000. What was the result in Java with respect to the consumption of British manufactures?—There was a very extensive demand for British manufactures during the time I was in Java, both for cotton manufactures and for woollens and metals.

1001. What kind of cottons?—For white piece goods and for printed piece goods.

1002. What returns are made from Java?—From Java the returns to this country at that time were made in coffee, and sugar, and rice, and occasionally funds were sent up from Java to Calcutta in tin, japan, copper, and spices.

1003. Did you travel in the interior of Java?—Yes, I did.

1004. What is your opinion of the relative condition of the peasantry of Bengal and Java?—The peasantry of Java seemed to be in a better condition, as far as their external appearance went, in the wearing and consumption of manufactured

manufactured goods; they consumed a greater quantity and more expensive articles than the Bengalese generally.

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1005. What are the wages of a day-labourer in Java?—The wages are, higher in Java than in Bengal.

1006. How much?—I believe nearly double.

1007. What is the money in Java?—The Dutch money, Dutch coin; the silver money, guilders; and the copper money, stivers and doits.

1008. Is it at what is called par value?—That I cannot tell.

1009. Does it contain the quantity of metal which it purports to contain, or is it not a depreciated coin?—I believe the copper coin was very much depreciated; whether the silver was, I am not aware.

1010. How would you then ascertain the relative prices of labour between Java and Bengal?—I fix it by a reference to the exchange between England and the two countries.

1011. Do you mean that the effective wages of labour are twice as great in Java as in Bengal?—Yes, I believe they are.

1012. Did you travel much in the interior of Bengal?—No, I did not travel much: I went one journey up to Cawnpore, about eight or nine hundred miles from Calcutta.

1013. Did you go by water or by land?—I went up by dawk and returned by water.

1014. Was the rate of travelling expensive?—I think that it was eight annas, about 1s. a mile, that I paid the postmaster-general for laying the dawk for me for the bearers, and there was a small gratuity given to the bearers at the end of each stage.

1015. Were your provisions furnished to you regularly and gratuitously?—No; I had no provisions furnished gratuitously.

1016. During your residence for seven years at Calcutta, did the commercial intercourse between this country and India increase?—It increased very materially.

1017. In what branches of commerce were you chiefly engaged?—I was engaged in the sale of all descriptions of European manufactures, and in the shipment of Indian produce to this country.

1018. Will you name them?—The sale of all kinds of cotton and woollen goods, and copper, lead, and iron, and spelter also to a considerable extent; and there were glass and earthenware, and other manufactures suitable to Europeans, sent out in more limited quantities; and the returns were in sugar and rice, and indigo and coffee (not very much coffee from Calcutta), saltpetre, cotton, and occasionally a little silk; but I did not do much in silk.

1019. Any lac dye?—Yes; I shipped considerable quantities of it.

1020. Did

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1020. Did you ship pepper?—Occasionally; but that goes more from the Coromandel and Malabar coast.

1021. When did the first import of cotton-twist take place?—In 1823 there was a small quantity sent: 1824 was, I believe, the first year in which any material quantity was sent; that was about 121,000 lbs. weight.

1022. What was the amount of the import of cotton-twist in 1828?—About 4,000,000 lbs. weight.

1023. What were the numbers of the twist sent out to India?—I have received all numbers, from very low ones, 12 and 14 and 16, up to No. 150; but the principal consumption is between Nos. 30 and 40.

1024. What kind of cloth would be made from Nos. 30 and 40?—The cloth it makes is similar to our shirting cloth.

1025. The lower numbers are the coarsest, and the higher the finest?—Yes, just so.

1026. Had any attempts been made to introduce cotton-twist for the ten years from 1814 to 1824?—Yes, repeated attempts had been made, but they had not been successful before that.

1027. Why?—I suppose from the price being too high for it to come within the means of the natives to purchase it. I should state also, that I saw a letter from Calcutta before I went there, stating that the English twist was quite unfitted for the native use.

1028. In what year did you see that return?—I believe in the year 1818; but a few years afterwards, when the price had materially fallen, it began to be introduced, and has been since so much more extensively introduced, that there appears to be no foundation for that opinion.

1029. Was the fall in the price of cotton-twist in this country the reason it was more introduced into India?—I apprehend so.

1030. Who are the purchasers of cotton-twist; what description of persons in India?—We sell to the native merchants, who purchase all kinds of cotton goods of us.

1031. Do they sell them to the native manufacturers?—Yes.

1032. Is there any machinery made use of, except that to which the natives have been accustomed?—No; I believe no European machinery at all.

1033. Is there any improvement of the native machinery you have heard of?—I am not aware of any; I have no opportunity of judging.

1034. If the East-India Company had continued to enjoy the monopoly they did previous to 1814, are you of opinion that the same quantity of cotton-twist would have been imported as has been imported under the present circumstances?—I should think not.

1035. Have you had any complaints from the natives of the quality of the goods made from British twist?—Yes; I have heard of very considerable complaints

complaints being made by the natives, that the goods made from British twist were not so durable as their own.

1036. What do you consider to be the cause of that?—Because the twist sent out has been principally of an inferior quality: some parcels of very superior quality have been sent out, but they would not bring in Bengal a price proportioned to their increased cost here. I believe that the twist which has been sent out has been what is called west twist principally, and I believe has been used by them for warp as well as weft.

1037. It requires a superior quality of twist?—Yes, for warp.

1038. Has the importation of British cotton manufactures interfered materially with the same branch of Indian manufacture?—It must have interfered to a certain extent; but the whole quantity of English cotton goods sent to that country is so small, compared to the consumption of the population, that I should suppose it cannot have very materially interfered.

1039. Has not the importation of British cotton-twist into India contributed in some measure to counterbalance the disadvantages of the importation of cotton cloth?—The cotton-twist sent out must, of course, have furnished employment for the Indian weavers.

1040. Has it interfered with the coarser Indian goods?—No, I believe not at all, scarcely.

1041. Has not the present price of cotton manufactures in many countries in Europe, and in the United States of America, contributed to the falling off of the manufacture of Indian cottons?—Yes, it must have materially contributed to it, as Indian cotton goods used to be shipped in large quantities to the ports of Europe, and to South America, where they have now nearly been superseded by the manufactures of this country, and of other countries.

1042. Has much distress been produced to the Indian weavers by the import of British cottons?—I have not been in the way of hearing of much; it must have produced partial distress at the time, no doubt.

1043. Were you ever in the district of Dacca?—No, I never was.

1044. Have you not heard that distress, to a very great extent, prevailed in Dacca among the weavers for a very long time?—No, I was not aware of that.

1045. Are the Indian weavers employed in other trades, as fishermen, and so on?—I understand they are, both as agriculturists, and fishermen on the parts of the river and the coast.

1046. They do not confine themselves to weaving cotton, as persons do in this country?—So I understand.

1047. In what commodities did you make your returns from India?—In cotton, saltpetre, rice, sugar, indigo, silk, and sometimes in some coffee, a little pepper and lac dye, and shell lac.

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1048. Had the exports of raw cotton from Bengal to Europe increased or decreased during your stay?—During the time of my stay they had rather increased, but previously they had been much larger.

1049. In what manner is cotton cultivated and brought into the market of Calcutta; have Europeans any share in the culture of it?—No; I believe that is entirely carried on by natives. The Europeans who deal in it have merely the collection of it, and perhaps the further cleaning of it after it comes into their possession, and the packing of it for export.

1050. Could cotton be exported from India to this country unless it was screwed and packed by English machinery?—No, it could not be sent unless it was compressed to a much smaller compass than it is in at the time of the purchase.

1051. Is that done by an hydraulic press?—It is by a screw-press. They have hydraulic presses at Bombay, I understand, but they have not at Calcutta.

1052. What is the quality of Bengal cotton compared with American?—It is much inferior to the lowest kind of American.

1053. In what respect?—In shortness of staple, and being so much more dirty than American cotton is.

1054. Have those defects been remedied at all within the last few years?—No, they have not been remedied in the culture: the dirtiness of it has been partially remedied by great care in the selection, when Europeans have purchased it.

1055. Do you know of any attempt by an European to cultivate cotton?—I never knew of any extensive attempt. A friend of mine, who resided at Benares, got a few seeds, I believe, of Brazil cotton, and cultivated them in his garden there for two or three successive years, and produced three bales of cotton at last, which he sent down to Calcutta for shipment for England. I was to have shipped them to Liverpool, but they arrived too late for the vessel I had, and they were sent to London, where he informed me that they sold for a shilling a pound, at the time that Indian cotton generally was between four-pence and five-pence.

1056. Has the quantity of sugar increased or decreased?—The quantity of sugar has rather increased.

1057. What causes have prevented its greater increase?—Its quality is so inferior, generally, to West-India sugar, that it cannot be brought into competition extensively with that.

1058. Why?—Because the grain is inferior; it is so imperfectly manufactured; the grain of it is so much less; it is so much less perfectly freed from impurities in the manufacture.

1059. Is it naturally inferior owing to the climate, or only from the defect of the manufacture?—I am told that the sugar-cane is as good in Bengal as in

in the West-Indies, and I have seen some sugar produced much superior in quality to that generally sent. 3 March 1831.

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1060. By whom produced?—By the natives in the district of Burdwan. I have occasionally bought a small quantity of it, and sent it home; but it was generally at a cost too high to make it a profitable remittance.

1061. What was the cause of that being so much better?—It was because it had undergone an additional process: they called it twice-boiled sugar; but what the exact process it went through was I do not know. The grain was much larger and much better than that of common Bengal sugar.

1062. Did you hear that there was a great loss sustained by twice boiling it?—I only infer that from the increased cost of it.

1063. What is the quality of Bengal sugar, compared with the sugar of China and Siam?—It is very considerably inferior to the sugar of China and Siam.

1064. Is that on account of the manufacture being better in China?—The Chinese are much more skilful in the manufacture of sugar than the Bengalese are.

1065. Do the Chinese manufacture the sugar in Siam?—I do not know that; they manufacture the sugar in Java principally.

1066. Has the exportation of rice from Bengal increased lately?—Very much so indeed within the last three or four years; principally, I believe, owing to the invention of some machinery for freeing it from the husk after it arrives in this country. It used to arrive with a great deal of dust, and a great deal broken in the grain, and much inferior in colour to the American rice; whereas now, I believe, by coming in the husk, it arrives with the grains unbroken, and it can be freed in this country so as to look fresh and bright, as the American rice has done. There has also been a reduction of duty, which has tended to reduce the price of it.

1067. Supposing the rice had been cleaned in India as it is in Carolina, would it have come in in greater quantities?—If it could be cleaned in India as it is in Carolina, so as to be brought clean home, no doubt it would be taken in greater quantities.

1068. What is the duty upon rice now?—I do not know precisely, but there has been a considerable reduction of the duty; and the export from Calcutta to this country has been, I believe, five times as much in the last three or four years as it was in the previous three or four.

1069. Is the machinery for cleaning it of modern invention?—Yes; and I believe is confined to few parties in this country, who have mills for that purpose.

1070. Was it broken by being cleaned in India?—Yes, and, in consequence, of less value, for they had to clean it from the dust and particles before they could sell it.

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1071. Does indigo form a staple article of return from Calcutta to Europe?—It does.

1072. When was it first imported into this country to any extent?—I believe it commenced from India about forty years ago, from what I have seen stated upon the subject; but it has now so greatly increased in extent as almost to have superseded all other indigos.

1073. Do you recollect what it was in 1813 or 1814, as compared with what it is now?—I do not think I can state that with any accuracy.

1074. Have you imported much lac dye?—A considerable quantity.

1075. How was lac dye discovered?—It was discovered by some Europeans who were in the interior of the country in India.

1076. What is stick lac?—Stick lac is the gum, with the insect or egg of the insect in it, from which the lac dye is made. The insect forms a gum on the tree, and deposits its eggs in it, and it is collected by the persons who manufacture it from the trees, and the dyeing particles separated from the gummy particles, and the gum is made into shell lac.

1077. Can you describe shortly how it is separated?—I cannot.

1078. The discovery of the easy process of separating the lac dye from the stick lac was made in 1814 or 1815, was it not?—I believe it was. It is a process not very difficult, as it has been very extensively practised both by Armenians and others.

1079. For what is lac dye chiefly fit?—In the dyeing, I believe, of scarlet cloths.

1080. What article has it superseded in the dyeing of scarlet?—I suppose it is used where cochineal would have been used; but it is not adapted, I believe, for the very finest dyes.

1081. Has it affected the price of cochineal?—I believe lac dye and cochineal have both acted on each other. The price of cochineal has fallen to about one-fourth of what it was ten or twelve years ago, but the imports have materially increased, which may have tended to its decline.

1082. What quantity of cochineal is imported from Bengal?—None from Bengal.

1083. There is a small quantity of cochineal in Bengal, is there not?—I have not seen it there. I understand that the insect is there, but I have not seen any of it there.

1084. What do you consider to be the principal obstacles to the extension of commercial intercourse between Great Britain and India?—The want of returns more suited to the markets of Great Britain; the bad quality, generally, of the products of India.

1085. By what means could the quality of those returns be improved and their quantity increased?—I suppose that if the cultivation of them got more

more extensively into the hands of Europeans, they would be very materially improved.

1086. Why?—The experiment I have mentioned in cotton shows that one article could be materially improved; and no doubt sugar, if there were European machinery used in the manufacture of it, might be materially improved also.

1087. Could the quantity of indigo be much increased?—The quantity of indigo could be increased, no doubt; but at present the quantity supplied seems to be as much as is required in Europe.

1088. Do you conceive that the free trade in India has been profitably or unprofitably conducted during the twelve years you have been engaged in it?—There have been considerable fluctuations; but I consider that upon the whole it must have been a profitable trade, from the immense increase that has taken place.

1089. How has it been to your own house?—It was profitable, so far as I was concerned in it.

1090. What is the opinion entertained by the mercantile community of Calcutta of the character of the East-India Company and its commercial acts, when they act as merchants?—I suppose it is generally thought that it is impossible for a large company and government together to act well as merchants.

1091. You proceeded first to Java in 1818; had you previously obtained a license from the East-India Company, the Board of Control, or the government of the Netherlands?—I did not obtain any license at all to go to Java; it was under the Dutch government, and therefore I required no license from the East-India Company.

1092. On your arrival in Java, was there any license demanded, or any questions asked of you?—No license was demanded: I had to appear at the police office and announce my arrival, and mention where I was residing.

1093. When you proceeded into the interior, had you to provide yourself with a passport?—Yes; I had to apply for the permission of the government to proceed into the interior.

1094. Would a Dutch subject have had to make the same application for a passport?—I rather think he would.

1095. During your progress through the interior, were you detained or delayed in any way by the inspection of your passport?—Not materially: I was occasionally called upon to produce it.

1096. Did you suffer any inconvenience from that?—Nothing beyond a few minutes delay in places where I had to produce it; not more than a quarter of an hour.

1097. On your arrival from Java at Calcutta, was any demand made upon you there for a license or passport?—No.

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1098. Did you apply for it afterwards?—I wrote home to England to have a license obtained for me, because I knew it was contrary to the regulations of the Company that a person should reside there without one; and I thought I might get into difficulty, possibly, unless I had one.

1099. Did you get one?—I did.

1100. What did you pay for it?—Fifteen guineas, I think.

1101. How long after you had been in India did you apply for that license?—I wrote home immediately after my arrival in Bengal for one.

1102. You met with no obstruction, either at that time or any other?—I met with no obstruction in getting that one. I subsequently had to apply for a license for a young man who was in Calcutta at the time, and came to be an assistant in my office, and the parties to whom I wrote in this country to procure the license, wrote out to me that the license had been refused, on the ground that no sufficient reasons were specified for his residence in India. I believe the application had been made for him as being there, without stating any reason for his residence there. I subsequently made an application for him to reside there as an assistant in my office, and the license was obtained.

1103. From whom did you obtain the license?—From the Directors.

1104. What did you pay for it?—I am not quite sure that I am correct, but I think about ten guineas.

1105. What was the nature of your own license?—I do not remember the nature of it, beyond its giving me permission to remain there as long as I complied with the laws of the country and conducted myself properly.

1106. How came your license to differ from his in the price of it?—I cannot tell, unless there may be a difference made in respect of a person going out as principal and as assistant; but I am not quite clear as to the sum paid.

1107. Do you know whether the license was obtained from the Board of Control or the East-India Directors?—I believe from the East-India Directors.

1108. Was the refusal in the first instance to grant the licenses to your assistant made by the East-India Directors or by the Board of Control?—By the East-India Directors.

1109. The license for your assistant was obtained on your statement that you would give him employment?—Yes.

1110. It is probable, in the first instance, it was refused because there was not that statement?—I presume it was.

1111. Do not you know that it is very material that an European, landing in India, should find employment as quickly as possible?—It certainly is.

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1112. The effect of want of employment is perhaps more injurious in that country than in any other?—I think it is, as far as I have had an opportunity of judging.

1113. Have you, since your return to England, applied for licenses for other persons?—Yes, I have, in several instances. Last year I had to apply for licenses for two ladies who were going out to India, one of them a married lady with two children, the other a single lady; in the first instance, there were some difficulties thrown in the way of my obtaining them. The married lady was the wife of an officer in the Company's service in Bengal; but when I applied at the India-House for the license, I was told that I must produce a letter from her husband, stating that he wanted to have her.

1114. What sums were demanded for these licenses?—I think at first I was told I should have to pay, if the license was obtained, £7 or seven guineas for each individual of the parties; but when this objection was made, and I was required to produce a letter from the husband, I happened in the mean time to learn from a friend that both the ladies were born in India, though of European parents, and I applied for them as born in India, and the licenses were given on the payment, I think, of £2 each person.

1115. Then you did not give any securities?—I had no securities to give, as they were born in India, and returning to their friends.

1116. Does not a very large proportion of the money paid go to cover the stamp on the bond?—I really do not know; but very probably it does.

1117. Have you, in other instances of application, had to enter into securities?—Yes, I had to enter into securities for two persons for whom I obtained licenses; two securities, of £500 each, for each party.

1118. For what were the securities taken?—For their good behaviour in India, and that they should not become burdensome to the Company.

1119. During your residence in Calcutta, did you know of any instances of any who were burdensome to the Company?—No, I did not.

1120. Have you not heard of persons being sent home at the Company's expense?—I do not recollect any instances of their being sent home at the Company's expense: I have heard that they might have been sent home, if found without license, and unemployed, as charter-party passengers. There were two instances, I believe, when I was in Calcutta, of persons being sent home by the government; whether at government expense, I do not know. Mr. Buckingham and another person, Mr. Arnott, I think, was his name.

1121. When a vessel goes to India, is it necessary to have a license?—Yes, it is.

1122. What is paid for that license?—That I do not know.

1123. When you proceeded to the upper provinces, were you obliged to furnish yourself with a passport?—No, I was not obliged; I merely applied to the postmaster of Calcutta to lay a dâk for me through the country, and it

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was done: but I have frequently seen notifications in the Calcutta government gazette, that persons should furnish themselves with passports.

1124. Have you in any instance known those notifications attended to?—I have never known an instance of a person having a passport; I have never heard of one.

1125. Did you suffer any inconvenience from not having a passport during your journey?—Not at all.

1126. Do you know of any of your friends suffering inconvenience from going on such journies without passports?—Not at all.

1127. Then the notification appears to be a dead letter?—As far as I have known, it was.

1128. Had you your license about you?—No.

1129. And you were not asked for it?—No; but I was mostly known to the Company's civil servants whom I saw in travelling up the country.

1130. In travelling by palanquin were you supplied with provision?—We had whatever provisions we wanted in the palanquin; my provisions consisted principally of dry biscuit.

1131. Did you not require provisions in the villages you passed?—Whatever provisions I wanted beyond those I had, were obtained at the different European stations, from friends with whom I stopped.

1132. Is it not usual, in travelling in India, to obtain an order to have provisions in the way at certain places?—I am not aware of it in Bengal.

1133.—You have read the works of Bishop Heber?—Yes; he adverts to such a practice, principally in the Madras districts.

1134. In what part of the Bengal territory is the cotton sold in Calcutta grown?—Several hundred miles up the country.

1135. Is it in the hilly district, or alluvial soil?—I do not apprehend it can be in the hilly district.

1136. You state that the staple is very short; is that owing to the sort of cotton cultivated, or the mode of cultivation?—I believe that both are defective; but that the improvement particularly wanted is the introduction of different seed, and a more frequent changing of the seed, as well as much greater attention to the cultivation of it.

1137. With respect to the cotton-twist which you state to be exported from this country to India, are many of the very highest numbers exported?—None of the very highest, I believe. I did receive as high as 150; I have heard of as high a number as 200 exported, but in very small quantities.

1138. Up to what number do they carry it?—I cannot say.

1139. Where is the twist principally woven into cloth, after its arrival in India?—I believe it has never been introduced successfully farther than one or two hundred miles from Calcutta.

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1140. Is the cloth made from that twist worn generally by the lowest class of natives, or by what description?—No, not by the lowest class; the lower class wear a heavier sort of cloth, in which we have not at all interfered with them in the manufacture.

1141. Is it by the highest class, or the middling order?—By the middling order, and I should think rather by the higher classes.

1142. Is it worked up in the same looms that their own twist used to be worked up in?—Yes; they have no European machinery.

1143. No improvement has taken place in their machinery of late years?—Not that I am aware of; but I am not acquainted with their machinery.

1144. Have you seen the machinery for making sugar?—I believe I have seen a sugar-mill, and I have heard one described.

1145. Is it not one of a very inferior description?—Of the lowest description possible; merely a kind of wooden, hollow cylinder to receive the cane, with a large post in the middle of it, which is pulled round by a bullock, and squeezes out the juice.

1146. You have stated that the general opinion in Calcutta is, that the Company do not carry on their mercantile transactions with any very great advantage, either to themselves or others?—I believe that is the general opinion.

1147. Will you state the grounds of that opinion?—Principally because it was found that the prices of all commodities in which they interfered were driven up to rates which made them unprofitable to those who had to deal in them, and their monopolies in some branches of trade altogether put an end to the dealings of private merchants.

1148. To what branches do you advert?—The export to England in silk, which is almost altogether in the hands of the Company.

1149. Is there any other in which they possess a monopoly?—They have a monopoly of opium, which is exported to China: they have the salt monopoly.

1150. Do you know whether the commercial residents of the Company act as agents for any other parties except the Company?—I believe they have been occasionally employed by other parties to act as agents.

1151. Do you know at all the commission they charge for acting?—I do not.

1152. You have stated the Chinese and Siamese sugars to be superior to the Bengal; do the Chinese and Siamese sugars find their way to this country?—I do not know whether they would be admitted into this country.

1153. If you were allowed to export the raw products of India to China, would that facilitate your payment for the goods imported from England into India?—That must most materially facilitate it, for it would open to us all the products of China as a means of remittance to this country.

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1154. Are you of opinion that the trade of India might be considerably increased by throwing open the China trade to the merchants of England generally?—I am undoubtedly of that opinion.

1155. Will you state the grounds on which you found that opinion?—If the China trade to this country was opened to the merchants of England generally, we should have the means, as opportunity offered, of shipping the produce of Bengal to China, which is extensively done now, both in cotton, saltpetre, and opium; and having the proceeds of those things reinvested in tea, or silk, or nankeens, and other articles in China, for shipment to this country.

1156. In the present trade from India to China, is there any amount of returns in silver?—I believe as much as from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 dollars is annually remitted back in silver to India from China.

1157. Might not the same ship which is engaged in carrying out British manufactures to India, also be engaged in the trade from India to China, and afterwards from China to England, supposing a free trade established?—Certainly, if the trade was free.

1158. At the same time that there is an exportation of silver from China to India, is there not an import of silver into China yearly?—There is yearly a very considerable import of silver into China.

1159. Can you state the extent of it?—I cannot; but the Americans, I believe, import silver largely into China, to pay for the cargoes they take from China.

1160. Are not the Indian cotton manufactures softer and more durable than the English?—They are more durable, and perhaps their muslins may be of a softer texture.

1161. Does that not proceed from their being spun with the hand instead of machinery?—I think it probably does.

1162. Are you aware of the process of spinning the cotton thread of the finer qualities in India?—No; except by having heard that the very finest of all is spun under water.

1163. Is not the spinning of cotton thread the chief employment of the women?—I believe it is.

1164. Has stick lac not been in use in India from time immemorial among the natives as a dye?—Not as a dye; I should think the lac has been used very much as a varnish.

1165. Is it imported from Pegu?—I have known very fine stick lac imported from Pegu into Calcutta.

1166. Was not stick lac previously imported in its original state from Pegu and other parts of India into Great Britain?—I do not know as to Pegu; but from British India it was in considerable quantities. After I had been in

in India several years, I had a quantity of stick lac sent back to me for sale in India which had come from India several years before.

1167. It is a much more bulky commodity in stick lac?—Yes, much more so than the dye.

1168. Are not the natives very much wedded to their own machinery in agriculture as well as in manufactures?—Yes, I believe they are.

1169. Are you aware of frequent attempts having been made to introduce English machinery unsuccessfully, in agriculture particularly?—I have not been myself cognizant of any attempts which have been made in either the one or the other.

1170. After the Europeans introduced the improved process of indigo manufacture, have you known the natives imitate it?—Oh yes. The natives make indigo upon the European plan, but still very inferior to that made by the Europeans, because they do not take anything like the same care in the process: they do not take care that the water is clean in which the plant is steeped; they have it mixed with sand and dirt, which is a most material injury to the quality; and they do not pay the requisite attention to the proper times of steeping, and of beating and boiling, on which the quality materially depends, so that the native indigo is always very inferior to that made by Europeans.

1171. As far as their prejudices are concerned, they have shown no objection to adopting the European system?—Not at all.

1172. You stated that you did not conceive the importation of British manufactures would materially interfere with those of the natives of India?—I have said I did not conceive that they had materially interfered.

1173. Are you aware what the importation was in India previous to 1814, and what it is now?—In the year 1815, the importation into the countries to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, of British white and printed goods, was about 800,000 yards, and in the year 1830, I think it was about 45,000,000 yards.

1174. You do not conceive that that materially interferes with those manufactured by the natives of India?—It must interfere to some extent, but still I think the quantity sent is very immaterial in comparison with the whole consumption of the country. I would mention one circumstance with regard to the importations of goods into India: the British manufacture, of course, interferes with the native goods; but the 4,000,000 pounds weight of twist which have been sent out to India would, I suppose, make half as many yards of cotton goods as all that we have imported into India within the last year.

1175. Then they have been deprived of the spinning of that?—They have been.

1176. Are you not of opinion that the use of British manufactures might

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1177. By lowering the duty on sugar and various other articles?—All lowering of duties, no doubt, would tend to that effect: but what is principally wanted is the improvement of the quality of the articles, the improvement of sugar and of cotton.

1178. Do you conceive that can be effected by any other means than the employment of European skill and capital in India?—I do not.

1179. Are you not aware that the Company have made many attempts, unsuccessfully, to improve the manufacture of sugar?—I have heard that the Company have made many attempts unsuccessfully.

1180. Have you ever seen a paper printed at the India-House upon that subject some years ago?—I have not; but the Company had been also unsuccessful in the introduction of British manufactures into India, till it was opened to the free trader.

1181. Are you not aware that the Company have made very considerable remittances to this country in specie of late years?—I believe they have.

1182. Have not the private merchants occasionally resorted to that means?—I believe it has been once or twice resorted to, but not at all extensively, I conceive.

1183. You refer to Calcutta?—I do.

1184. Supposing the manufacturing interests of India to suffer by an import of British manufacture into that country, would not the agricultural interests of India be compensated to an equal degree by the necessity of our purchasing their articles in payment for the goods so imported?—I think they would be more than compensated.

1185. What duties do the British manufactures pay on importation into Calcutta?—Two and a half per cent.

1186. Are you aware of the duty paid on the importation of Indian manufactures here?—It is very high.

1187. It is very high on silk?—Yes.

1188. On pepper it is 1s. a pound?—Yes.

1189. That is 300 per cent. on the prime cost?—Yes.

1190. Supposing the whole of those duties repealed, do you imagine there would be a considerable import of Indian manufactures into England?—I should think not very considerable.

1191. Supposing the ten per cent. were given as a bonus, instead of being paid as a duty, do you then think there would be a large import?—The import would be increased, no doubt; but I think the British manufactures would still drive out the Indian manufactures.

1192. When did you leave India?—In 1828.

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1193. At what rate of interest were the Company borrowing money then?—At five and six per cent.

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1194. Have you heard the rate at which they have been borrowing money during the last twelve months; whether it exceeds that?—I do not believe it exceeds that; but I am not quite sure.

1195. Are they not in the habit of issuing treasury bills at five per cent. in payment for their investment?—There are treasury notes, called Company's paper, in Calcutta, at five per cent.

1196. They pass as cash?—They do, deducting the interest.

1197. Those are issued at various times, without any restriction?—I believe so.

1198. They answer all the purposes, in Calcutta, of cash to the Company?—They do.

Luncæ, 7^o die Martii, 1831.

The Hon. G. M. FORTESCUE in the Chair.

PETER GORDON, Esq. again called in, and examined.

1199. HAVE you some papers which you wish to give in?—This is a table containing the neirick prices, and the actual market prices of several articles.

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1200. Will you explain the meaning of the word neirick?—The same as tariff; a book of rates.

1201. By whom are those prices generally fixed?—The neirick prices are fixed by the officers of government, the revenue police. Both these tables of prices were furnished to me by a native; I believe he was the vakeel of a talook to the courts of the judge and of the collector, an agent of the talook attending at the cutcherries of the judge, and of the collector doing the business for the talook.

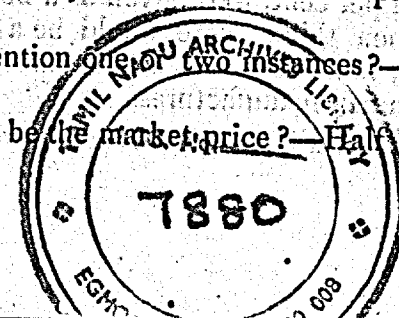
1202. Do those prices relate to the zillah of Madura?—Yes.

1203. Do the market prices and the neirick prices vary considerably?—They do.

1204. Will you mention one or two instances?—Grass, four bundles, one coily fanam.

1205. What would be the market price?—Half a coily fanam.

1206. Then



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1206. Then the market price is less than the neirick price?—It is in that instance. Sheep, the first sort, one rupee two anas eight pice; the neirick price; the market price one rupee twelve anas.

[The Table was delivered in and read as follows:]

Neirick Prices.			Market Prices, Actual.			
			R. A. P.	Coily, per Cash.	R. A. P.	Coily.
Sheep	third sort	each	0 8 0	—	0 11 1	3½
Ditto	second	each	0 14 0	—	0 15 10	5
Ditto	first	each	1 2 8	—	1 12 0	8
Lamb	table	each	0 2 5	¾	0 3 2	1
Fowls	third	6	0 2 5	—	0 3 2	1
—	second	4	0 2 5	—	0 3 2	1
—	first	2	0 2 5	—	0 2 0	¾
Fowls' Eggs ...	—	20	0 2 5	—	—	1½
Grass	—	4 bundles	0 3 2	1	0 1 7	½
Ditto 3 cubits } round	bullock	2	0 2 5	¾	0 2 5	¾
Firewood	—	8 bundles	0 3 2	1	0 1 7	½
Coolies	—	ditto mills	0 2 5	¾	0 2 5	¾
Challies	—	each	—	0 2	—	2
Pans	—	each	—	0 4	—	4
Fowls	each	—	0 0 5	—	0 0 9½	—
—	each	—	0 0 7	—	0 1 7	—
—	each	—	0 1 0	—	0 2 0	—
Eggs	each	—	0 0 1½	—	0 0 1½	—
Grass	—	—	0 0 9½	—	0 1 7	—
—	bullock	—	0 1 2½	—	0 2 5	—
Firewood	—	—	0 0 5	—	0 1 7	—

1207. Is there anything further you wish to state on this subject?—No; but the book before me contains a reference to some of the circumstances to which I have spoken relative to purveyance and other subjects. It is a notebook, commencing 1st January 1828.

JAMES RITCHIE, Esq. called in and examined.

J. Ritchie, Esq.

1208. You are a partner in the house of Ritchie, Finlay, and Co., of Bombay?—I am.

1209. When did you first go to India, how long did you reside there, and when did you return?—I went to India in 1816, and with the exception of two short trips to this country, and occasional visits to the interior, I resided there till last year.

1210. In what part of India have you principally resided, and what other parts of it have you visited?—I have resided principally in Bombay; I have visited

visited Malabar, and the countries between Malabar and Madras, and Calcutta; I also visited Guzerat and our own provinces.

1211. During your whole residence in India, were you employed in commercial affairs?—I was.

1212. During your residence in Bombay, with what ports or countries did you carry on commercial intercourse?—With almost all the ports in the Company's limits, with Persia and with China, and also with the Cape of Good Hope.

1213. How many considerable European mercantile establishments are there at Bombay?—There are probably ten or twelve, I think, now: they have been increasing latterly.

1214. How many were there when you first went out?—Our house was the fifth.

1215. They had increased from four or five to twelve since 1816?—Yes.

1216. Were the four or five old-established houses?—Yes, they were.

1217. How many native houses of business are there in Bombay carrying on foreign trade?—A very great number, I cannot speak with any certainty.

1218. Of what class do the native merchants consist?—Parsees, Hindoos, and Mussulmen.

1219. Is it not occasionally the custom for some of the mercantile establishments to have a native partner?—I believe not. I never knew of any native partner in any principal European establishment; but there are often native partners in particular speculations in principal houses.

1220. What parties do you commonly use as brokers?—I believe the Parsees are the most numerous of the castes employed as brokers.

1221. What estimate have you formed of the relative general intelligence and commercial capacity of the different classes of native merchants?—I think the Parsees are the most intelligent.

1222. As compared with the Banians or Hindoo merchants of Calcutta?—I have not had much opportunity of forming an opinion upon that subject, but I think they are more intelligent than any of the Calcutta castes, natives.

1223. Describe to the Committee what the Parsees are?—They are the fire-worshippers who came over from Persia on the first irruption of the Mohammedans into that country; they are the remains of the original inhabitants of Persia, who then fled to India.

1224. Are they numerous?—They are very numerous.

1225. Are they for the most part free from the prejudices of caste, and other antipathies which belong to the Hindoo character?—Yes, they are.

1226. Do the native merchants of Bombay ever embark as supercargoes to foreign countries; and if so, to what countries?—They do very frequently, principally to China.

1227. Are those chiefly Parsees?—Chiefly the Parsees.

1228. Has

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1228. Has the commercial intercourse between Bombay and the United Kingdom increased, or otherwise, since the opening of the trade to this country?—It has increased very considerably, I think.

1229. What are at present the principal staple articles of import from Great Britain into Bombay?—Metals of all descriptions, woollens, cottons, and cotton-yarn.

1230. On your first arrival at Bombay in the year 1816, was the consumption of British cotton fabrics then considerable?—It was very trifling.

1231. What number of Indian merchants in the habit of dealing in British piece goods, were there in the bazaar of Bombay, when you arrived at that place in 1816?—Only one. I understand that question to refer to a retailer from the importer.

1232. Had you much difficulty in disposing of your early investments?—Yes, we had, and principally from that circumstance.

1233. By what means, or owing to what causes, has the consumption since become so considerable?—I think the great cheapness is the principal cause of the increase of consumption, the very low price at which we can now afford them from this country.

1234. Is it in any respect owing to the pains which have been taken to adapt them to the wants of a particular consumption?—Certainly, to some extent: we make the goods now exactly to imitate the native goods.

1235. Were you witness to the first importation of British cotton-yarn into Bombay?—Yes, our house were the first importers.

1236. When did that take place?—I think it must have been in 1819 or 1820.

1237. Can you inform the Committee in any one year what have been the exports from Great Britain to Bombay, of British cotton piece goods?—I have the account of them, both to Calcutta and Bombay, for the years 1829 and 1830.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which was read, as follows:]

COTTONS:

EXPORTS of Goods and Yarn to Calcutta, in 1829 and 1830.

	Yards Plain and Coloured Cottons.	Yards Prints.	Pounds of Yarn.	£.
1829.....	13,354,984	2,599,876	1,912,066	655,462
1830.....	14,905,685	3,441,110	3,774,799	798,756
Increase.....	1,550,701	841,234	1,862,733	£143,294

Exports

EXPORTS to Bombay.

	Yards Plain and Coloured Cottons.	Yards Prints.	Pounds of Yarn.	£.
1829.....	12,795,321	4,304,439	734,479	570,626
1830.....	17,005,333	4,151,119	496,200	618,174
Increase.....	4,210,012	—	—	£47,548
Decrease.....	—	153,320	238,279	—

1238. Are British and other European metals imported into Bombay and Calcutta?—Very largely, every ship almost is ballasted with them.

1239. When was the article of spelter first imported into Bombay?—I think in 1822.

1240. How was Bombay supplied with spelter before that?—From China, with tutenague, a description of spelter; it is rather a finer description of the same article.

1241. The effect of the importations of spelter has been to drive the China tutenague out of the market, has it not?—Entirely, on our side of India.

1242. In what part of the British territories or neighbouring countries are the British and European manufactures imported into Bombay principally consumed?—They are principally consumed at the presidency, at Surat and other large towns within our own territories: a considerable quantity has latterly gone to Malwa.

1243. Are they carried up the country?—Yes, a very considerable quantity has gone latterly. We have a considerable export to Persia and other places on the Red Sea, and the Arabian Gulf.

1244. Are they sent to Malwa in return for opium?—They are principally, that was the origin of the trade.

1245. You returned from England to India in 1823, by the route of Georgia and Persia, did you not?—I did.

1246. In passing through Georgia and Persia, did you find that the people consumed British manufactures, and if so, of what description?—In the southern part of Persia from Ispahan, the bazaars were quite filled with British manufactures, printed goods principally; in the northern parts they were supplied with German and French goods.

1247. Did you find any British manufactures in Georgia and Tabriz?—None, they were all French and German.

P

1248. Were

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1248. Were the markets of Georgia and Tabriz as well supplied with the French and German goods as the southern markets of Persia were with British?—There appeared to be abundance enough in the bazaars, but they were either of a much finer or a much coarser description than our goods.

1249. How were they with respect to price?—Comparatively much dearer.

1250. Were they worse adapted to the wants of the people?—From being so much dearer, they were, and not exactly the patterns and descriptions required.

1251. In what years did you visit Malabar and the internal provinces of the southern part of India?—In 1819 and 1820.

1252. Did you find the bazaars well stocked with British manufactures?—No, none at all.

1253. Were the bazaars of the British territory in the southern part of India you have visited, as well supplied with British manufactures as the bazaars of Persia were?—I did not see any British manufactures in Malabar, or any of the southern parts of the Madras territory.

1254. To what do you ascribe their absence at the time?—Our goods had scarcely got down that length, probably. They were very well supplied with their own manufactures, and our goods at that period cost a great deal more than they do now.

1255. What do you conceive to be the relative condition of the Persian peasantry, compared to that of the peasantry of the British territories in the south of India?—I should conceive the cultivators are pretty much alike in point of comfort.

1256. Was not the Persian government then exceedingly bad, and the country in a state of great confusion and anarchy?—It was, at the time I was there, and has been in a much worse state since, I understand.

1257. When were you there?—I was there in 1822-3.

1258. Did you conceive that the British cotton goods you saw in the south of Persia were supplied entirely from Bombay?—Entirely. I met our own goods all through the country, from Ispahan downwards; I knew them.

1259. What is the port they are sent to from Bombay?—We send them to Bushire.

1260. What returns do you get?—Principally bullion; latterly silk in large quantities from the province of Ghilan in the north of Persia.

1261. Have you exported any British manufactures from Bombay to China?—We have, a small quantity.

1262. Has the large importation of cotton piece goods from Great Britain proved injurious to the corresponding native manufactures?—I should think it must, in some degree.

1263. In

1263. In what way?—We have no imports whatever now into Bombay of muslins from Bengal.

1264. Have any well authenticated instances of distress, produced by the Indian weavers being thrown out of employment in consequence of the introduction of English goods, come within your knowledge?—None to my own knowledge; but I have heard that the weavers at Surat have been much distressed in consequence, and have taken to other employments.

1265. Must not the large importation of British cotton-twist have proved in some degree a substitute to the Indian weaver for the loss of work he has sustained by the importation of the manufactured article?—It has, no doubt, to some extent.

1266. During your acquaintance with Bombay, from 1816 to 1830, had the importation of raw silk from China, Bengal, and Persia, increased, or otherwise?—I cannot speak positively as to the Bengal or China silk, but from Persia it has increased very much indeed.

1267. May not this increased importation of raw silk have afforded new employment to the cotton weavers thrown out of work by the importation of British goods?—It probably has, to some extent; but the silk weaving is carried on at Ahmedabad only.

1268. Where is Ahmedabad?—It is in the northern district of Guzerat, under the Bombay government now.

1269. Is that far from Surat?—Probably two hundred miles.

1270. You are probably aware that it has been frequently stated, that but for the discovery of the saw-gin, it would have been impracticable to have carried the production of upland cotton in America to the extent which it has now reached?—I have been told so; but that machine is for separating the cotton from the seed.

1271. Would not the introduction of a cotton of which the wool adhered with less tenacity to the seed, be in itself a considerable improvement upon the present one?—It would, no doubt, if it was practicable.

1272. You returned from India last year, did you not, by the route of Egypt?—I did.

1273. Had you an opportunity of seeing the cultivation of cotton by the Pacha; and if so, in what manner was it conducted, and what is the nature and character of the cotton?—I examined many of the cotton fields in passing through Egypt; the cotton was sown in drills, as I believe is the custom in America.

1274. Is it black seed, long stapled cotton?—It is.

1275. How does it rank in comparison with American cottons in our market?—It is worse than the Sea Island cotton, better than the Upland cotton.

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1276. Why does not it rank so high as the Sea Island cotton?—I believe the staple is not so long or so fine, and it is probably much dirtier.

1277. Is it consistent with your knowledge, that the Pacha of Egypt has of late been manufacturing cotton-twist by European machinery?—Yes, I particularly examined one of his mills in full work, at Ghennah on the Nile.

1278. Is that moved by water?—No, it is driven by cattle.

1279. Under whose directions were the works conducted, and how many labourers were employed?—There was a native Mussulman at the head of an establishment of about five hundred boys and girls employed in the mill.

1280. Did you examine the quality of the twist?—I did.

1281. How was it in point of respective numbers?—It was a low numbered yarn, strong, but very unequal.

1282. Have you heard that this twist has been exported to British India?—It has, since I left India.

1283. What opinion do you entertain of this speculation on the part of the Pacha of Egypt?—I should not think it could pay him.

1284. Was it sold in India at a lower price than the British cotton-yarn?—It had not been sold at the last accounts from India: it was not liked by the natives, it was not so well put up.

1285. Do you know the price which was asked?—I do not know that they had gone even that length: they have been examining it, but the prices offered had been very low, lower than for English yarn.

1286. Have you heard that a cotton-mill has been erected at Calcutta for spinning yarn?—There has.

1287. Do you consider that this speculation will answer?—It will require, I think, to be very well and very economically managed to do so.

1288. What are the relative qualities of the Chinese, Bengal, and Persian silks brought into the market of Bombay?—They are all a low quality of silk as required for the Bombay manufacture, the Persian is the lowest I believe in the scale.

1289. Has the quantity of Persian raw silk imported into Bombay and re-exported into England increased of late years?—Very much.

1290. To what circumstance do you attribute the origin of this new branch of trade?—It has come down as returns for our British manufactures principally, I believe: the imports of Ghilan silk into Bombay have been all within these ten years.

1291. Do you consider the import into this country as a consequence of the reduction of duties?—Certainly.

1292. Is it not imported into Bombay for the purpose of being sent into this country?—There is a great consumption of coarse silk at Ahmedabad, within the Bombay territories: I have known 1,000 bales in one import, frequently, from Persia.

1293. Did

1293. Did the firm to which you belong make any efforts towards the improvement of Indian cotton, in culture and preparation for the market?—We did.

1294. In what way?—We imported cotton seeds from the Brazils and from America.

1295. Are not you aware that similar attempts have been made in other parts of the Company's territories to improve the cotton?—Yes.

1296. Did any of those experiments of your's succeed?—They did not.

1297. To what do you ascribe their failure?—The cotton deteriorated very much in some of the experiments, in others the seeds did not well come up. In one case, where we had the greatest expectation, in Salsette, the small crabs on the beach destroyed the green plants of the Sea Island cotton as soon as they came up.

1298. Do you know whether the plant was left to the charge of natives, or placed under the superintendence of agents acquainted with the culture of American cotton?—There was no person personally acquainted with the culture of American cotton then on our side of India.

1299. Are you not aware that Salsette has produced some very fine cotton?—Yes, I have seen some samples. Our cotton seed was also tried at Bandoop, and there failed.

1300. Was not Dr. Scott's, in Salsette, considered equal to Bourbon cotton?—I believe it was; but that estate was abandoned before I went to India.

1301. Do you know any other place in which fine cotton is produced for exportation?—I merely know of one on our side of India; that is a village near Manyrole in Kattywar, called Labarcoire, which produces a small quantity of very fine cotton.

1302. By whom is that cultivated?—By natives entirely.

1303. Is that of recent introduction?—They have always produced it there, but it has been but recently brought to this country. We imported some in 1819, but never were able to trace where it came from till two or three years ago; since that time, probably, the imports into this country are from 100 to 150 bales a year. What we sold in this country brought very nearly fifty per cent. more than the common cotton of Guzerat.

1304. Was the price there much above the common cotton?—At first we got it at nearly the same price; but as it became known, the price was raised so as to become equal in proportion to its relative value.

1305. Can it be increased?—I understand it cannot be much increased. It appears to be only grown in one particular spot, but I have never been there.

1306. Is this an extensive district?—Very small where this particular cotton is grown. Manyrole produces a very large quantity of cotton.

1307. Is it near the sea-coast?—It is, I believe.

1308. Had

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1308. Had the East-India Company ever discovered this cotton, and brought any of it to view?—No, I do not think they had. I do not know that it is within their territory; I rather think it is in the territory of a native prince.

1309. At what distance is it from Bombay?—Probably from two to three hundred miles.

1310. How is it brought to Bombay?—By boats: all the cotton to Bombay is brought by boats.

1311. Do not you think that Salsette is capable of producing a vast quantity of cotton, if sufficient encouragement were given by Government?—I do not think that it would pay, at the present prices of cotton.

1312. If encouragement were given by the Government, allowing those who chose to make experiments to have the land for a certain number of years rent-free, instead of exacting a very heavy rent?—That would certainly be a very great encouragement. Latterly the government have given large tracts of land in Salsette in several farms, to natives, within the last two years, for the encouragement of agriculture.

1313. Is the cotton plant in that country an annual?—Almost entirely.

1314. Did you make any trial of American machinery for freeing cotton from the seed?—The government did. I recollect being present at a trial about ten or twelve years ago, of applying the saw-gin to Bombay cotton.

1315. Will you state the result of that experiment?—It was not successful; the machinery ground up the seed with the cotton. Our cotton adheres strongly to the seed.

1316. Does not this prove that there is a material difference between the one description of cotton and the other?—I believe the seed in the Surat cotton adheres much more strongly to the fibre than it does in the American cotton.

1317. Have the Hindoos or other natives of India, as far as your experience extends, evinced any indisposition to the consumption of staple British commodities, other than that arising from inability to purchase, or unsuitableness of the article offered to them, to their tastes and habits?—None other than I am aware of.

1318. In what manner did you make your returns to Great Britain for the manufactures you imported from thence?—In produce of all descriptions, in bullion, and in bills; and we used to send produce round by China, and advance on cottons going to China, and send opium also to China.

1319. How did you get your returns from China?—From China our returns went in bullion, bills, and in silk.

1320. To this country?—Yes, and to Bombay.

1321. Was that exporting in Company's ships?—The bullion and bills for England went in the Company's ships, but our produce came to Singapore or Bombay, brought in country ships.

1322. What

1322. What produce do you allude to?—We ourselves only imported silk in that way; but nankeens, sugar, cassia, and other produce, are largely imported as returns to Bombay.

1323. Is any use made of American or other foreign ships for that purpose?—No, I never knew any.

1324. Will you describe the character of the cotton commonly exported from the west side of India?—It is called, with reference to American cotton, a short stapled cotton. In general it is very dirty, and latterly it has been very much injured by the natives in adulterating it with water and sand before it came down to Bombay from Surat, and other shipping ports to the northward.

1325. In respect to quality as estimated by price, how does it stand in reference to the ordinary cottons imported from America?—It is the lowest of all.

1326. How much below the common American upland cotton?—The general run of Surat cotton is probably fifteen per cent. lower than the general run of upland cottons.

1327. Do you believe that much of that difference of price arises from the defective mode of cleaning it, or that it is inherent in the natural quality of the two descriptions of cotton?—A great part of the difference is in the comparative state of cleanliness between the two.

1328. If you were to take a small piece of one cotton, and of the other, perfectly clean, would there be still a difference of value between the one and the other?—Between the cleaned Bombay cottons, and the best cleaned American upland cottons, I conceive there would be ten to fifteen per cent. difference.

1329. There is a real difference in the intrinsic value of the article, independent of any skill of management?—I think there is.

1330. You stated, that it was not possible to clean the Indian cotton with the same machinery as you clean the American cotton?—Not with the saw-gin, certainly; we never clean cotton with the saw-gin.

1331. Is it possible with any machinery to render the Bombay cotton as clean from the seed as the American?—Yes, I have seen Bombay cotton as clean as any American cotton.

1332. By what process?—By picking it clean from the bushes originally. The machinery does not effect the cleaning of it; the machine is only used to take away the seed, it must be picked clean.

1333. Does not the greater part of the dirt which exists in the cotton arise from the imperfect clearing away the seed?—No, it is leaf principally, and sand as well as seed, left in by carelessness or design.

1334. Are you not aware that within the last two years, the quality of what is called Surat cotton has been very much improved, in consequence of

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of regulations by the government in preventing the adulteration of it?—Within the last four or five years, the cotton usually imported into Bombay has come in a very adulterated state, being mixed with sand and water. Strong representations were made by the trade to the government to endeavour by regulations to prevent this. A regulation was made which came into operation in May in 1830, fixing penalties upon all proprietors of cotton found in that state, and confiscating the cotton so found adulterated; since that time the cotton has been comparatively clean again, and free from adulteration.

1335. Has it not, in consequence, produced a corresponding rise in price in China as well as in this country?—It has, certainly.

1336. Is not the Surat cotton you have described applicable only to the coarser manufactures of this country?—Generally so.

1337. Is not therefore the demand for it in this country, whatever might be the extent of supply, limited?—It is becoming, I apprehend, a much more useful cotton in our manufactures than it was. They now mix it in spinning the finer cottons, which they did not do formerly; they use it more generally in the mills of this country than they did formerly.

1338. If the quantity could be very extensively increased from India, would it answer the manufacturing purposes in this country to which American and West-India cottons are applied?—I should think it would very materially interfere with the consumption of the low American cottons.

1339. You stated, that it was owing to penalties and liability to confiscation, this cotton was improved?—Yes, as far as the purposed adulteration went.

1340. Would not that be better effected in the ordinary state of things, by interesting private individuals to cultivate it, and bring it to market?—The cultivation had been quite free up to this period.

1341. The question supposes that individuals possessing capital will engage in the cultivation of cotton in India; do you not, imagine that, under those circumstances, it would be their interest to bring the cotton in the best state to market?—Certainly.

1342. And that, therefore, penalties and regulations would not, under those circumstances, be necessary?—Certainly not.

1343. Have not the natives of India great dislike to the adoption of our machinery?—Certainly they have, they dislike all changes.

1344. Does not that go even to the extent of their refusing to use our small ploughs which have been sent out to India, and still adhering to their own wooden plough?—That has not come within my own knowledge. I remember hearing of an English plough that was sent to Colonel Ford's estate at Dapoorie, near Poonah, but I am not aware it was ever used anywhere else, or even found useful.

1345. Is

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1345. Is it not within your knowledge, that even to this day they use cattle for the treading the corn?—Yes, I have seen that operation going on.

1346. Do you conceive that the natives of India dislike any change that is obviously for their own advantage, and which they can understand to be for their own advantage?—There is great difficulty in persuading them that changes are for their advantage.

1347. Do you not conceive that they are more indisposed to change than any people in the world?—I have seen some certainly in my travelling about the world very difficult to be persuaded to changes, but I should think the natives of India were the most so.

1348. Did not you say that the poorer people are most indisposed to change?—I should say so.

1349. What provinces in India produce the best cotton?—Guzerat.

1350. When you speak of India, you are speaking of the whole peninsula of India?—Yes, the eastern side of the gulf of Cambay.

1351. Have you resided in any part of India but Bombay?—Not as a permanent residence; I have visited them.

1352. Is the cotton cultivated in drills as in America, and is there much pains taken in the cultivation?—No, it is broadcast, sown pretty much as corn is in this country.

1353. Is there care taken of it afterwards?—There is no care taken of it afterwards, except to keep the cattle out of it.

1354. It is very much neglected from the time it is sown till it is picked?—Very much so.

1355. Is the Indian a green seed short stapled cotton, and an annual plant?—It is.

1356. In the parts of India you visited is there no black seed long stapled perennial cotton cultivated?—None whatever.

1357. Have you had an opportunity of seeing any garden cultivation of cotton of a superior kind?—I saw at Ahmedabad the red flowered cotton, called by the natives noorma, in small quantities, a perennial.

1358. That grows on a highish bush?—Yes; the common cotton of India is the yellow flowered cotton.

1359. Has any improvement taken place in the quality of the Surat or Bombay cotton since the opening of the free trade?—Certainly not, until the adoption of the regulation I have referred to: the cotton in 1818 and 1819 was better than any I have seen since.

1360. Is that improvement you mention an improvement in the cleanness of the cotton, or in the nature of the cotton itself?—In the cleanness entirely. I do not think there is any improvement in the cotton itself.

1361. What is the description of machinery used by the natives of India in

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in cleaning cotton from the seed?—It is a small hand-gin, a wooden cylindrical machine, named a churkee.

1362. Is it the same as they have used from time immemorial?—It is the same as they have used from time immemorial, the same as is used for clearing the Sea Island cotton of its seed in America.

1363. Does the wool adhere with great tenacity to the seed, and is the process of separation tedious and expensive?—Yes; and it adheres so firmly that the American saw-gin ground up the seed in attempting to clear it.

1364. Did that arise from the seed being too ripe when the cotton was picked?—No, I believe it is the nature of the cotton; it adheres very tenaciously.

1365. Do you know whether any improvement would take place in cotton, provided it were picked at a different period?—I conceive it would be picked cleaner if it were picked as the pods separately became ripe, which I believe is the case in America.

1366. Are there any lands producing cotton in the hands of Europeans at present?—None that I am aware of at the present moment.

1367. In the cultivation there is no change?—None. The attempts which have been made since I have been in India have been all unsuccessful, independent of that now made by government in Guzerat; but that has just been established. What that can do has not been yet ascertained.

1368. If Europeans were permitted to settle there, do you apprehend that farms for the production of cotton would be cultivated by Europeans?—They might; but as far as they have gone yet, they have not been successful. I have known two or three attempts.

1369. Do you conceive that a fair trial has been given?—As far as those attempts went, I think they have been very fair trials. The late Dr. Gilder, of Ahmedabad, had a large piece of ground, called the Shahibaag, given him for experiments in cotton and other products.

1370. Do you mean given in perpetuity?—No, for a time, I believe; as long as he chose to continue those experiments.

1371. By whom?—By government; lent to him by government rent-free.

1372. Was he in the Company's service?—He was; but he had given up promotion, and was allowed to trade; he was the civil surgeon at Ahmedabad.

1373. Did he lay out much capital in these experiments?—He must have done so: we furnished him with seed.

1374. Did he get any other person to instruct the natives in the preparation?—He was there personally, had his partners, one of whom was a white person born in the country.

1375. Are you aware of any other instance of this nature?—The late Mr. David Malcolm tried it to a small extent.

1376. Where

1376. Where was that?—At Amboly on Salsette.

1377. Are these experiments still in progress?—No, they have been both given up; they were not successful.

1378. Was any impediment thrown in their way by any of the authorities of the Company?—None whatever, every facility was given them by government.

1379. You consider the experiments to have been as fairly tried as if there had been a free permission to settle in India?—Certainly.

1380. When were these experiments made?—Dr. Gilder's were probably during the last twelve years.

1381. How long did he continue?—Two or three years, I think; he attempted to grow finer cottons, and he found that they deteriorated.

1382. Dr. Scott's attempts were thirty years ago?—Yes, his estate was a wilderness when I was there.

1383. Have you compared the cotton produced on that experimental farm?—Yes, it was very superior cotton, but it did not pay; the cultivation was too expensive.

1384. To what extent superior?—The first year's crop of long stapled cotton was very good; the second was worse; and the third became very nearly the same quality as our common cotton.

1385. So that the superiority was in the introduction of the new seed?—Yes, which deteriorated in a succession of crops.

1386. Would it not be possible to improve the general quality of cotton in India by a constant importation of new seed?—I presume that would be possible, but I do not think it would pay.

1387. Is cotton seed an article of any expense?—It is difficult to bring it in sound, it heats on a long voyage.

1388. What is the average of Surat cotton at the present market price in England?—Probably, the fair run of Bombay cotton would average five-pence a pound.

1389. Can you state to the Committee what diminution of that price would make it no longer worth while to bring it to this country altogether?—At the present moment it pays a fair profit.

1390. Would it at four-pence pay a profit?—No, there would be money lost by it.

1391. Would it cease to be imported at a profit when at four-pence?—Yes, at the present rate of freights.

1392. Would it at four-pence halfpenny?—I think four-pence halfpenny would pay, as a matter of remittance, but that would be all.

1393. Might it still be imported at lower prices by diminishing the price of the cost in India, or would its cultivation cease?—I believe the prices of cotton,

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cotton, by the last account from Bombay for the previous six or eight months, are lower than I ever knew them in India.

1394. Are the prices approaching to that rate when it would be no longer grown to a profit?—I understand it is almost as low as it can be cultivated at.

1395. What freight is it paying?—Five pounds a ton, and to five guineas; that comes to very near a penny a pound.

1396. Is that a high or a low rate?—I believe the usual descriptions of free-trade ships can afford to sail at that rate; a small quantity of one cargo has recently brought sixpence a pound in Liverpool.

1397. Are you aware whether, in consequence of the regulations in respect of adulteration of cotton, the price has been increased or otherwise?—Certainly not: the price has been lower during the last six months in India, than ever I knew it.

1398. Is cotton taken at all in payment of revenue?—Not at all now.

1399. When did that cease?—I think it ceased on Mr. Elphinstone coming to the government, in 1820.

1400. By whom is the cotton purchased on your account from the ryots?—I believe, in general, it passes from the ryot to the native shroff of the village, who has advanced money upon it: it often comes to Bombay upon his account.

1401. Have you any agent of your own in the cotton districts?—We had, as long as Gilder's house existed; they were our agents in the districts.

1402. Was that gentleman at that time employed in the collection of the revenue?—No, not at all.

1403. What per centage did you pay?—Five per cent. for a number of years: latterly he lowered his commission to three per cent. on all his purchases for us.

1404. At present you get it through the medium of natives?—Yes. Latterly there has been very little cotton brought to the northward on European account; we allow it to be brought on native account to Bombay, and purchase it there.

1405. Do you find many of those natives whom you can trust with your transactions?—Yes.

1406. And the cotton delivered to you would correspond with the sample?—We purchase it by sample, and examine almost every bale. When the deterioration went on to such an extent, we were obliged to examine every bale in two or three places, it was so false packed.

1407. Had you any confidence in those who brought it down?—No, none at all.

1408. Are the shroffs generally a low class of persons?—They are not of a low caste, the shroff caste is not a low one.

1409. They

1409. They are the principal men in the village?—Yes, I believe so.

1410. Are there any extensive merchants engaged in the trade?—Very much so; very rich natives at Dollora, Jamborin, Surat, and other great shipping northern ports.

1411. In those cases, do you conceive the regulations of government against the adulteration of cotton to be necessary or not?—I do not conceive that any of those respectable men would do it, but that underlings would if they were not looked after, to whom they are obliged to delegate that duty.

1412. Are you aware that a constant change, both of seed and soil, is necessary for the successful cultivation of cotton?—I am not aware that it is practised in India: on the contrary, I believe that the cotton-lands have been so for a very great extent of time.

1413. Might not the deterioration you mention arise very much from the circumstance of its being grown so long on the same soil?—I cannot say exactly: the lands where the experiments I allude to were made, are generally fresh lands, and not long under cotton.

1414. In passing through Persia, had you an opportunity of witnessing the culture of the mulberry, and the rearing of the silkworm?—No, the preparation of silk is entirely confined to the province of Ghilan on the Caspian Sea.

1415. Did you understand that there was a great exportation of this raw silk to the countries to the westward and northward of Persia?—Yes, very extensively, to Russia and Turkey.

1416. Is there any sugar produced from the cane for exportation within the Bombay provinces?—None for exportation.

1417. Is not the sugarcane cultivated in almost all the provinces of the Bombay territory?—Yes, everywhere; I have seldom seen a village but what had a patch of sugarcane attached to it.

1418. Can you explain the reason why sugar is not made from the cane in the manner immemorially practised in the Bengal provinces?—I suppose that they can import it cheaper. It is never made into sugar on our side; it only goes the length of juggaree, which is a thick substance like molasses. Sugar is brought in from Bengal, China, Manilla and Mauritius, and Java occasionally.

1419. Is machinery for the manufacture of sugar wholly unknown under the Bombay presidency?—Totally unknown; there is no manufacture of sugar in the Bombay presidency.

1420. Does that observation apply to the whole of the western side of India?—I believe so, as far as my knowledge extends.

1421. Is tobacco extensively produced in Guzerat, or other parts of the Bombay territory?—Extensively in the northern districts generally, and I believe throughout all our territories.

1422. Of

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1422. Of what quality?—Very fine. We imported some into this country a good many years ago; we first tried the experiment.

1423. How did it sell?—One bale of the parcel we imported sold higher than any American in the market at the time; it brought sixpence a pound in bond.

1424. How was the average of it?—The average of it was found to be defective in the curing, and did not pay.

1425. From what you know of the article, should you say upon the whole it is better or worse than the tobacco of America?—It is of a different description from the tobacco of North America, it approaches more to the Brazil tobacco, the thin-leaved tobacco.

1426. To what countries is it exported?—It is brought to all the bazaars through India: it comes down in large quantities from Guzerat to Bombay.

1427. Have you known of any attempts to import it to this country?—Yes, we tried it ourselves, and government tried it also.

1428. To what do you ascribe the failure of the attempt on your part?—It was not sufficiently cured, and some of it was over cured: it is a very delicate plant. One bale brought sixpence a pound, when the best American was five pence.

1429. What did it cost a maund?—I think we paid 3 or 3½ rupees a maund: our tobacco maund is not above 38lbs. I think.

1430. Are you of opinion, that if this was properly cured for the voyage, it would answer as an article of exportation from India to Europe?—Our experiment so far proved that; but the difficulty is, that it is so very delicate to bring it into that proper state, the slightest particle of green vegetable matter left in it heats it on the voyage.

1431. Are you not aware that all tobacco, just like hay in this country, must undergo a heating to be fit for use?—Yes, I am aware of that.

1432. The heating of this tobacco was too great?—Yes, it rotted.

1433. What price has the article fetched in the English market?—Not much above a penny or twopence, I believe. The whole imports of tobacco from Bengal and Bombay together have been failures.

1434. Are there at present, on the part of the government of Bombay, any impediments to individuals making the experiment of improving the culture, or increasing the export of tobacco to Europe?—None whatever. I am satisfied that every facility will be given by the government, and is given by the government, to any attempts at improving the cultivation of the country.

1435. Is it not your opinion, that if this article had been cultivated to advantage, experiments would have been long ago made?—Yes, certainly, we should have proceeded ourselves in exporting it, if we could have done it to a profit.

1436. Can

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1436. Can Europeans hold land?—Now, they can.

1437. Since what time?—I think about two years ago that the regulations were altered in that respect.

1438. What leases may they have?—It is the tenure they gave in Bengal to the coffee cultivation; I think it is ninety-nine years.

1439. It is only within two years that permission has been given to Europeans to hold land?—I think it is about that time that public intimation was given, but Dr. Scott and others have had lands longer for experiments.

1440. Was the tobacco of Guzerat you allude to cultivated with more skill than cotton, or any other production of the soil?—Yes, I think the tobacco lands of Guzerat, that I saw under cultivation, were the cleanest and best farmed lands I ever saw.

1441. The failure in our market was owing to the imperfection in the curing, was it not?—Yes.

1442. Would a perfectly free intercourse between Bombay and China, and between China and Great Britain, in your opinion, add facilities to the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and India?—Yes, certainly, in my opinion it would.

1443. Had you been permitted to ship tea from China to Great Britain or other countries, do you consider that such permission would have added to the facility of transmitting your funds to England?—Certainly.

1444. When you first proceeded to India, had you a license from the East-India Company?—I had; I had free merchant's indentures.

1445. What did you pay for those indentures, and what covenants did you enter into with the East-India Company?—I think I paid £25, and I suppose I entered into the usual covenants; I never read them.

1446. What you paid was to the clerks, and for stamps, and so on?—I presume so.

1447. What privileges did that give you?—I am not aware of any, except the privilege of residing and trading in India.

1448. Was it for yourself individually, or for a whole family?—For myself individually.

1449. Were you called upon to produce your indentures when you arrived at Bombay?—I was not.

1450. When you had occasion to visit Guzerat, were you called upon for your indentures, and had you to procure a passport?—I think I sent my indentures to the police office when I applied for my passport.

1451. Was a passport forthwith granted to you by the police without delay?—It was not; I think the police-master applied to government for their sanction.

1452. In passing through the territories of Madras, Bengal, and Bombay, were

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were you frequently called upon for your passport?—Never, that I recollect, in any one instance.

1453. Had you letters of introduction to the authorities wherever you went?—I think I had, pretty generally.

1454. Are British-born subjects arriving at Bombay called upon to produce licenses from the Court of Directors; and failing to produce such licenses, is the law against interlopers carried into effect against them?—I never knew of an instance, with the exception of Mr. Buckingham's, of any European being sent from our presidency in consequence of a want of license.

1455. Was Mr. Buckingham's expulsion from Bombay previous to his being a public writer?—I think it was.

1456. He was in the capacity of a merchant at that time?—He had come over as a merchant, I think, from Egypt.

1457. Can you state why Mr. Buckingham was sent away?—I was not in Bombay at the time; but I never understood that there was any other reason than that he was unlicensed; he was sent away by Sir Evan Nepean.

1458. Have you not understood that he never became a public writer till he went to Calcutta?—I understand he commenced as a public writer there.

1459. What number of British-born subjects are there within the territories of Bombay, not in the service of his Majesty or the Company?—I cannot hazard an answer to that question, they are not very numerous.

1460. Are there a thousand?—No.

1461. Five hundred?—I doubt whether there are five hundred.

1462. Seven hundred?—Certainly not.

1463. Do you know of any British-born subjects, not in the service of his Majesty or the Company, residing within the Bombay presidency without a license?—I know various individuals who have no licenses.

1464. Have those persons arrived since the commencement of the administration of Mr. Elphinstone?—Those I allude to have arrived since he became governor.

1465. How has it been since the commencement of Sir John Malcolm's administration; has positive encouragement been given since that time?—There has been very great encouragement given by Sir John Malcolm and his council for individuals to take farms, to go into the interior; very great encouragement.

1466. What has been the effect of this encouragement?—That has all been so recent, that hitherto it has been impossible to say.

1467. Have many established themselves?—Not a great number; I know only of three or four instances.

1468. Do

1468. Do you see a disposition to avail themselves of this encouragement?—Yes, I think there is a disposition certainly to that effect.

1469. Is the encouragement given, in your judgment, sufficient to induce the people there to lay out capital?—I do not know that; they are a good deal deterred, I believe, by the want of success of the three or four establishments which have been tried there so long ago. I know no mercantile houses who have any thing to do with those operations.

1470. They are not deterred by any steps taken by the Company's government?—None whatever.

1471. What title have they to their lands?—The title to their lands is the same as that given to the cultivators of coffee in Bengal.

1472. What sort of engagement have they?—It is a lease.

1473. For what period?—I think it is for a long period.

1474. Is it a lease for sixty years?—I think it is longer.

1475. Could any British-born subject without a license have resided at Bombay during the administration of Sir Evan Nepean, as far as your experience of it extends?—I know he sent away Mr. Buckingham for being unlicensed; but, excepting that fact, I could not judge.

1476. Then, according to your statement, it will appear that the recent government of Bombay have not viewed the resort of British-born subjects to India as being so prejudicial to the interests of the country as their predecessors did?—I presume they do not consider them prejudicial, or they would enforce the regulations.

1477. In addition to that, they have given them direct encouragement?—Yes, for agricultural purposes, certainly.

1478. Are you not of opinion the Company's authorities having the power to send persons away, affords them the means of supporting their authority in the country?—Most certainly.

1479. Would you think it advisable that that power should be withdrawn from the Company?—Certainly not, in my opinion.

1480. Will you state to the Committee whether, within your knowledge, that power has been ever abused by the Company?—I never knew an instance of it, except that to which I have referred, and the expulsion of Mr. Fair, which was thought a very harsh measure of the government when I was there.

1481. When did that occur?—It occurred in Mr. Elphinstone's time, I think, three or four years ago.

1482. Do you know the grounds of that measure?—It was in consequence of a complaint of the supreme court.

1483. Can you state what the nature of the complaint of the supreme court was?—The reason I believe was, that the supreme court complained to the government

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government that Mr. Fair, as a newspaper editor, had misrepresented in his paper something that was said by one of the judges in the court.

1484. It was for his conduct as editor of a newspaper?—Yes.

1485. Are you not of opinion, that the power of expulsion possessed by the government would be a great objection to an individual investing a large capital in the cultivation of cotton?—I do not think they would to a person determined to carry on its cultivation properly and quietly.

1486. Supposing he was expelled, would not the greater part of the capital he had expended in the cultivation of his cotton be lost?—I should think there would be great risk of its being lost.

1487. Do you think that the government of that country, considering the small number of British subjects by whom such large extent of territories is commanded, could support its authority satisfactorily without the power of sending home any persons who might, in their opinion, be disturbing the authority under which they were living?—I am clearly of opinion that the power is necessary.

1488. The removal of the individual you have just mentioned was not the result of any sentence of the court?—No, it was in consequence of a complaint of the court.

1489. When you stated that this power is necessary in the hands of government, do you give that answer, looking to the state of the law as it exists at the present moment in India, or the possibility of an amelioration of that law?—I should be afraid if those regulations were withdrawn altogether, and that all individuals had the power to go and settle there, the worst, and a very improper and dangerous class to the peace of the country, might get to India.

1490. What number of British-born subjects, such as the planters of Bengal, are there settled, and following agricultural pursuits within the territories subject to the Bombay presidency?—Excepting the few that have gone lately in consequence of the recent encouragement held out by government, there are none whatever.

1491. Can you explain to the Committee why so many settlers of that description have been established in the Bengal provinces, while there are none in the Bombay?—No; I suppose they found it more their interest to remain in Bengal than to come to our side.

1492. Are British-born subjects now permitted to hold land in perpetuity or on long leases, in any part of the Bombay territories?—Under the present regulations, they are permitted to hold land in the interior on long leases, and on the island of Bombay they hold houses I believe in perpetuity.

1493. Have they been always allowed to hold houses in perpetuity or otherwise in the island of Bombay?—They have.

1494. Are

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1494. Are they or the natives the principal proprietors of real property within the island of Bombay?—The natives.

1495. Is the value of houses or lands in Bombay comparatively high or otherwise?—Comparatively, as between Madras and Calcutta, I think it is.

1496. Are they latterly rising?—Rents are rising.

1497. What is the ordinary interest of money in the island of Bombay within the jurisdiction of the King's court, on good security?—Nine per cent. is the interest with the natives, and the Europeans lend their money at nine per cent., but the interest with the mercantile houses is only five per cent.

1498. Is there any commission charged?—Not on those loans; there is a one per cent. commission on the account generally.

1499. How comes the interest of money to be lower in Bombay than in Bengal?—We have not so much employment for it; we employ a good deal of our money in Bengal.

1500. The profits of trade are smaller, probably?—I have no doubt they are.

1501. Is it in consequence of these circumstances more steady?—It is more steady from that circumstance.

1502. Are the means of investing money smaller at Bombay than at Calcutta?—Certainly they are; there is a good deal of Bombay money engaged generally in Bengal.

1503. Are you in the habit of advancing money for agricultural purposes, as is largely done in Bengal?—Not at all.

1504. Does no part of the capital of Bombay go to Bengal, to seek a more profitable employment there?—Yes.

1505. Are there any banks, either public or private, in Bombay?—None.

1506. What is your circulation?—Bullion entirely.

1507. Silver?—Silver now; all our gold has been exported to England years ago.

1508. Would banking establishments, like those at Bengal that issue notes, add facilities in carrying on commercial affairs?—We do not require them, we have more money than we know what to do with generally in the mercantile world at Bombay.

1509. You have, no doubt, often heard it asserted, that the free trade with India has proved a loss, and not a gain to the parties conducting it since 1814; is it consistent with your own knowledge and inquiries that such has been the case; or, on the contrary, do you consider the course of the Indian trade as resembling that of other branches of the foreign trade of the kingdom, in which the speculations have sometimes been advantageous and sometimes otherwise?—Certainly; I should consider that, upon the whole,

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1510. On what evidence do you consider it probable that the free trade has, upon the whole, been advantageous to those conducting it?—I have no doubt, from my own experience of our own establishment.

1511. Have you any objection to state to the Committee, whether the India trade, from your first entering into it in 1816 to the present time, has generally answered your purposes as a merchant?—Yes, certainly, it has.

1512. Do you conceive that the trade might be considerably increased if there were a power of getting returns to England?—It would, certainly, if the power of getting returns was greater.

1513. Is not the absence of proper returns the chief impediment to its greater increase?—It is a very great impediment, certainly: at present we have rather glutted the Indian markets.

1514. Do you conceive there would be any difficulty in parting with English manufactures if there were proper returns to be sent?—We could afford to sell our manufactures there so much cheaper, by all the additional profit we could make upon our returns.

1515. Is there any indigo grown in the province of Bombay?—None whatever for exportation.

1516. Is the silk sent from Bombay to England improved?—We have no native silks on our side of India.

1517. Has the Persian or Chinese silk improved?—I am not aware that it has.

1518. Could not silk be grown in the Bombay district, in your opinion?—I cannot speak to that; I have no means of forming an opinion.

1519. Can you state to the Committee, from your own extensive experience as a merchant carrying on trade between this country and India, any general alterations which Parliament might make in the renewal of the charter to the East-India Company, which in your opinion would be beneficial to the interests of merchants?—I am not aware of anything that is necessary on our side of India.

1520. You cannot suggest any alterations to be made in the existing charter of the Company, which in your opinion would materially improve the trade between the two countries?—I am not aware of any, except the giving us greater facilities of making our returns from China.

1521. You do not think that, as it respects the peninsula of India, any materially increased facilities are necessary?—I am not aware of any impediment whatever, which we labour under, that could be removed, except taking off our duties.

1522. You are not aware that your trade is molested or impeded in any way by the authorities of the East-India Company, so as to make any interference

ference of Parliament in the restriction of the power of the Company of service to you?—There used to be local duties exacted on our goods going up, and on produce coming down the country: a regulation was lately published by the government to take these all off, and only levy duties at the ports. Those regulations were approved by the Court of Directors, and they were to have been put in force in May last, so that all goods once imported from England should be free in the Company's territories of all minor imposts; and I am sorry to hear that it has not yet been put into effect.

1523. Do you mean the transit duties?—Yes, that certainly would facilitate our operations if the duties were confined to the ports.

1524. You cannot point out to the Committee any other inconveniences you labour under?—I cannot.

1525. The opening of the trade to China would give great facilities to the trade between this country and Bombay?—Certainly it would; it would much facilitate our returns.

1526. Has not the trade between Bombay and Poonah, and the territory of the late Peishwa, fallen off very considerably since that country came into our possession?—I have understood so.

1527. Has not the export generally of China articles from Bombay to the Deccan decreased?—It has, and also the exportation of metals.

1528. Are you not aware that a very extensive import of cotton goods took place into India, about the years 1809 or 1810, sent out by the late Sir Robert Peel;—Yes, I have heard so.

1529. Those were sold at very low prices?—Yes.

1530. That first gave encouragement to the natives to look to these articles?—So I have understood.

1531. You mentioned, that a very considerable consumption of cotton goods took place on the island of Bombay?—Yes.

1532. What is the general condition of the great class of people on the island of Bombay in reference to means?—I should think that the great body were of course the poorer castes, the poorer classes.

1533. Is not that the case also in the Deccan, and throughout the Company's territories on the western side of India?—It is.

1534. Are not the great body almost in a situation of beggary?—I cannot say altogether that; they certainly are very poor, but they require very little to support them.

1535. Without bettering the situation of the natives of India, giving them the means of paying for imports, is it possible you can greatly increase the trade with that country?—Probably not to any very great extent, to increase it very much.

1536. Are you not aware that the land rent is very high in India?—I have understood it is.

1537. When

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1537. When you say that China articles imported into Poonah have fallen off, are you alluding to the former part of your evidence, of the tutenague having fallen off?—I allude to the change which has taken place since the country fell into our possession; when Poonah was the residence of the court of the Peishwa, there was a great deal more money circulating there.

1538. You account for it from the circumstance of Poonah having ceased to be the seat of that government?—I do.

1539. You say that, generally speaking, the natives of India are in a state of indigence or destitution; did you pass through any provinces not belonging to the Company?—I did.

1540. Were the natives in those provinces in a worse or better condition, or much the same?—They appeared to be much the same.

1541. Was there any difference in the appearance of the cultivation of lands?—No, I am not aware that there was. The Company's territories through which I passed were very much intersected. In Guzerat, considerable portions of the country, when I was in it, belonged to the Peishwa and the Guicowar; I could not perceive any considerable difference.

1542. You have had no opportunity of comparing the condition of the natives in the Deccan now, with their former condition under the Mahratta government?—None whatever; I was never there till the change of government.

1543. Is the land-tax lighter or heavier in the Company's territories, or in the independent territories?—I understand it is pretty much the same.

1544. Has not the interference of the Company in the article of opium been exceedingly prejudicial to the mercantile interest in the west of India?—It certainly has, to some extent; it has forced the Malwa opium at a great expense to go through the native territories to the Indus, and from the mouth of that river to the Portuguese town of Damaun, whence it is shipped in Portuguese vessels to China.

1545. That is done away by the late regulations?—It is.

1546. Do you mean to say that the trade in opium is now free?—It is perfectly free, by paying to the Company a duty of 195 rupees per chest.

1547. What is the prime cost?—I have understood it to be very low: I mean the prime cost the Company pay for it in Malwa.

1548. Can you state the price?—I cannot.

1549. Is the system of taxation, upon the whole, oppressive in the parts of India you are acquainted with?—I can speak only from what I understood. I have heard that it is so; I have heard complaints of it from the natives.

1550. Should you say, upon the whole, that the country has suffered from any excessive amount of taxation?—I can only say, that I have understood it does suffer from the excessive taxation.

1551. Does

7 March 1831.

J. Ritchie, Esq.

1551. Does the commerce of the country suffer?—That was one of the reasons they gave for the commerce not being more active, and a greater consumption of our goods.

1552. Do the landowners suffer?—It is only in that way, also, that I have heard it mentioned that they are over taxed.

1553. But you have no knowledge of it yourself?—No; none whatever.

1554. Did you ever hear of torture being inflicted in order to extort the taxes?—Never.

1555. Did you ever hear of the Company's servants on the western side of India exacting rents so rigidly as to compel the ryots to pawn their wives' jewels?—I never heard of such a circumstance.

1556. You never heard of that having occurred on the island of Salsette?—Never.

1557. At what rate of interest were the Company borrowing money when you left India?—There was a five-per-cent. loan opened when I left India.

1558. Do you believe that to be still open?—I have never heard that it has been shut, I understand that it is still open. I should say, rather, there was a four-per-cent. loan open when I left India; but since I left India, I know there has been a five-per-cent. loan opened.

1559. In what state is the island of Salsette at present, in a state of prosperity or otherwise?—I cannot well hazard an opinion upon that point; I see little change in its appearance since I have resided in India.

1560. Have you visited it?—Yes, I have gone through it frequently.

1561. You state, that Dr. Scott's plantation is now a wilderness?—Yes, they cultivate nothing, I believe, but the lands are capable of producing rice.

1562. Is that different from the general state of the island?—No; I believe nothing of any moment but rice is produced on Salsette.

1563. Are not the natives in that island in a state of great poverty?—I am not aware that they are more so than in other parts of the Company's territories.

1564. Has there been any rapid extension of buildings in Bombay?—Yes, the town has been improving very much within the last few years, extending very much, and improving in the style of building and in the roads.

1565. Are you aware whether the rent of land has been rising?—I cannot say whether the rents on the island of Bombay are rising; garden ground is becoming more valuable, in consequence of the increase of population.

Jovis,

Jovis, 10^o die Martii, 1831.

SIR HENRY PARNELL, Bart. in the Chair.

GILLIAN MACLAINE, Esq. called in, and examined.

10 March 1831.

G. Maclaine, Esq.

1566. ARE you a merchant and proprietor in the island of Java?—I am.
1567. How long have you resided in Java?—I have resided there about ten years: I left it a year ago.

1568. Is it your intention to return?—It is.

1569. What is the estimated area of the island?—About 50,000 square miles, and the population about 6,000,000, giving about 120 inhabitants to the mile.

1570. With what countries does Java carry on trade?—With the neighbouring islands, with China, with British India, with the British possessions in the Straits of Malacca, with Holland and other European countries, and the United States of America.

1571. Has the commerce of Java increased considerably since you became acquainted with it?—Very considerably.

1572. Can you state the amount of the exports and imports at any given time, for instance, in 1820?—I have no note of the exports and imports in 1820. In 1828 the imports amounted to about 20,000,000 guilders, and the exports to 18,000,000, making the whole trade about £3,000,000 sterling.

1573. Are articles of European manufacture extensively consumed by the inhabitants of Java?—Very extensively.

1574. Of what description of goods?—Cotton piece-goods, iron, steel, glass ware, and several other articles.

1575. From whence do they get the cotton piece-goods which they consume?—From Belgium and from Great Britain, also from British India and China.

1576. Does not Java belong to Holland, and not to the Netherlands?—It does.

1577. Are not the cotton piece-goods sent from Europe the produce of Belgian manufacture, and not of Holland?—Entirely Belgian.

1578. Therefore if Holland and the Netherlands are separated, as Java is a Dutch and not a Belgian possession, must not the trade between Java and Belgium cease?—I should conceive so.

1579. Do

1579. Do you know the period at which British manufactures were first introduced into Java?—The first importations were in 1814 and 1815, about the commencement of the free trade. The largest importation was in 1823; it amounted in 1823 to about 6,000 cases of British cotton goods, the value of each case being about £50 sterling, making a total import of about £300,000 sterling.

1580. Was there not at that time a duty of £15 per cent. on British goods?—From 1814 to 1823, I think the duty was £15 per cent. on the invoice; an *ad valorem* duty of £26. 5s. per cent. was afterwards imposed.

1581. How did that operate; was it sufficient to turn the scale in favour of Belgian goods?—It turned it very much in favour of Belgian goods, but there was still a great quantity of British goods imported.

1582. Are not the British cotton goods imported into Java chiefly in the white?—The greater part are white or plain goods.

1583. And they are dyed or printed by the Javanese, according to their tastes?—They are.

1584. Are you aware that in this country the calico printers have made many attempts to imitate the Javanese patterns, and not very successfully?—They have frequently attempted to do so, but not very successfully.

1585. Do you think that, in consequence of the facilities given to the calico printers by the repeal of the duty, the future attempts will be more successful?—I certainly think so, if the manufacturer can produce his goods with greater ease and at less cost.

1586. You stated, that you think that British goods could successfully compete with Belgian manufactures if the duty were only £15 per cent.?—I think, with an *ad valorem* duty of £15 per cent., and no duty upon Belgian manufactures, the latter would be driven out of the market: as it is at present, we maintain a pretty successful competition with them, even though the duty is £26 per cent. *ad valorem*.

1587. If this increase of duty had not taken place, do you suppose that the consumption of British piece-goods in Java would have increased considerably?—I think it would have been doubled by this time.

1588. Have not the Javanese some coarse strong cotton manufacture of their own?—Coarse and substantial, but high-priced.

1589. Did they not formerly import considerable quantities of coarser goods from Bengal and Madras?—They did import large quantities of the cotton fabrics of Madras and Bengal.

1590. What has been the consequence upon the native manufactures of India in consequence of the opening of the trade?—The fabrics of Madras being of a finer description, have been almost superseded by the introduction of European cotton goods, but the coarse cotton goods of Bengal are still introduced very largely into all the Malay countries.

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1591. Is there any duty upon the cotton goods of India imported into Java?—A duty of fifteen per cent. upon the invoice, not an *ad valorem* duty.

1592. Is not English twist also sent out to Java, and woven there?—It is; but not in very large quantities; not in such large quantities as to the other parts of the East.

1593. Have you ever heard that twist has been sent from the Netherlands to Java?—I saw an entry in the public accounts, which I thought to be British twist, but it was cleared out from the Netherlands.

1594. Is European iron much consumed in Java?—There are about 3,000 tons a year.

1595. Does Java produce iron in any quantity?—Very little.

1596. Is the European iron used there chiefly British or Swedish?—Both are used, but Swedish is preferred.

1597. Is it taken there in an unwrought state and fabricated into agricultural implements?—It is.

1598. Is there any wrought iron used there?—A very small quantity. There are some cast-iron pots and pans from Cochin China and Siam used in distilleries and sugar-works.

1599. From whence is Java supplied with copper?—Chiefly from Japan: all the unwrought copper comes from Japan, and the wrought copper, such as sheathing, from Great Britain.

1600. Is not opium a considerable import into Java?—It is, to the extent of about 600 chests a year.

1601. In 1820, what were the proportions of Bengal opium and of Turkey opium consumed in Java?—Three-fourths of Bengal and one-fourth of Turkey; and in the year 1829 the proportions had been exactly reversed, about three-fourths of Turkey and one-fourth of Bengal.

1602. Is any revenue derived from the import of opium by the Dutch?—Between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 of guilders, including the monopoly and the import duties. From a note in my possession, I find the whole revenue in British money, £262,536.

1603. Can you state what enhancement upon the original price of the opium the consumers pay in consequence of this monopoly?—From 600 to 800 per cent.

1604. Do you know what was the total amount of the customs of Java in 1828, exclusive of the duty on opium?—In the year 1828, the customs of Java amounted to £225,405 sterling, or between £30,000 and £40,000 less than the revenue derived from the opium alone.

1605. What are the staple articles of export from Java?—Coffee, sugar, rice, spices, tin, tobacco, indigo, arrack, and hides.

1606. Is

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1606. Is the culture of coffee on the increase or decrease in Java?—At present on the decrease, I should think.

1607. Is it not in a great part a monopoly of the government?—In a great part.

1608. What is the quality of the Java coffee as compared with other coffee in the London market?—I think it ranks with St. Domingo; it is not of a very high quality.

1609. Is the coffee produced upon the government estates superior to that produced by natives, or to that produced by European planters?—The government coffee is superior to that produced by the natives, but inferior to that produced by European planters.

1610. Is the cultivation of sugar on the increase or decrease in Java?—On the increase.

1611. Is there a considerable opportunity for the increase of it, supposing there was a foreign demand?—A great field.

1612. Is not rice one of the chief articles of export?—It was very extensively exported in 1828; the export amounted to about 26,000 tons.

1613. To what countries is it chiefly exported?—To the neighbouring islands, to China, and to Europe, and to the Isle of France, and small quantities to the Cape.

1614. Is it subject to any duty?—To a mere trifling duty.

1615. You have stated that indigo is also an article of export, is that on the increase?—The export of indigo in 1828 amounted only to 24,000 pounds weight; the production of the island in 1829 was 120,000 pounds weight, and it is rapidly increasing.

1616. To what do you attribute that great increase?—Chiefly to the encouragement of the government.

1617. Have any improvements been recently introduced from China in the mode of cultivating it?—Some Chinese attempted the cultivation of it very successfully, and their example was followed by some Europeans within these last three years. The principal indigo planter is a Chinese.

1618. Is it of good quality as compared with the Bengal indigo?—Some samples which I brought home with me I considered equal to fair Bengal, but, from the chests being packed very unevenly, the purchasers had very little confidence in it. Its being a new article is also against it.

1619. Is not the defect of ill packing one which is easily remedied?—It is.

1620. Is tobacco exported in large quantities from Java?—Very largely; between 1,300,000 and 1,400,000 pounds weight; worth about £40,000 sterling.

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1621. Where

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1621. Where is that chiefly consumed?—Chiefly by the neighbouring islands: a small quantity is sent to the Cape of Good Hope and to Siam, and to those hands is that cultivation?—Entirely in the hands of the Chinese. The natives manufacture it, but under the superintendence of the Chinese.

1623. You have stated, that spices and tin are among the exports of Java? is not Java merely a depôt for those articles?—It is; and they are both monopolies of the government.

1624. Do you know the annual value of spices so exported?—The annual value of the spices is £50,000 sterling.

1625. Do you know the annual produce of Banca tin?—The production of Banca tin amounts to 2,000 tons, worth in Java about £100,000 sterling.

1626. Are the profits of those two monopolies sufficient to cover the civil and military expenses of Amboyna and of Banca?—By no means.

1627. Is not a proportion of the Banca tin brought to the continent of Europe?—A considerable quantity.

1628. To what purpose is it applied?—It is applied to the same purpose as the Cornwall tin.

1629. Is not raw silk also produced in Java?—An experiment has been made, but it has not yet become an article of export.

1630. Does that experiment promise to be successful?—It does. I brought home samples of silk produced in Java, which were thought nearly equal to China silk.

1631. Does the mulberry-tree grow to any extent in Java?—Most luxuriantly; I have frequently employed it as a hedge for a garden.

1632. Is it the white mulberry?—It is, with a good deal of the Persian mulberry.

1633. From whence were the worms brought to Java?—Some from China and some from Bengal.

1634. Have you submitted the samples you brought to any of the silk brokers?—I have. I have not got a report from the silk brokers; they valued it at from 11s. to 14s. a pound.

1635. What is the price of East-India silk at present?—The price of China silk, I believe, ranges at about 12s. to 14s. a pound.

1636. Is the report of the brokers such as to give encouragement to the cultivation of silk in Java?—It is.

1637. At present is there any difficulty as to machinery for reeling and winding it?—There is very great difficulty in reeling the silk; machinery has been introduced lately from China, but I have not heard of the result yet.

1638. Was that a difficulty arising entirely from inexperience, and not being

being provided with the proper machinery?—It is; and I think it is a difficulty which will be easily overcome.

1639. Are you aware whether any European planters in Java are at present endeavouring to produce other commodities for the European market?—Several experiments have been made lately in the cultivation of tea, cochineal, and cocoa.

1640. With what success has the cultivation of tea been introduced?—With very good success. I have the Report of the Agricultural Committee of Java on the first attempts made.

1641. Will you have the goodness to read it?—Report of the Committee of Agriculture on Tea Cultivation in Java. The new plantations formed since 1827 at Bintenzong and at Garvet, have, last year, far exceeded the expectations at first entertained from them. As the committee considered the Chinese decidedly the most proper persons for preparing tea, they luckily picked up two Chinese in 1828, who have prepared samples of the Bintenzong tea, and have been sent to Garvet to examine the quality of the plant amongst those mountainous districts. According to the samples delivered to the factory at Batavia, and tried by them and by Mr. Jacobson, the Dutch tea-taster at Canton, there can be no longer doubt that Java can produce tea in ample quantity, proper means and soil being adapted for the cultivation. The committee are trying every means to improve the quality and quantity, and have sent for more seed from China; for though their present plants produce abundant seeds, from the necessity of taking their samples from a number of plants, the seeds have been less available for further cultivation. Their present plantation has sprung from Japan seed, and upon comparing their produce with that of some plants received from China, they are convinced that they were originally from the same seed. There is some difference in appearance, it is true, but the chief difference they conceive in all teas arises from the manner of picking, preparing, and sorting. They have produced samples of green and black tea, and even of Souchong and Pekoe, through Mr. Jacobson's assistance. Their Chinese labourers seem to understand their business, &c. &c. The tea grown at Garvet and Tjieseroepoon being better than that of the other plantations, they mean to extend those plantations and at Bintenzong, &c. The different plantations have of course been attended with different results, &c. &c. (There follow several paragraphs about the future importance of tea, and the committee's eager desire to improve the resources of the colony.)

1642. Are all the descriptions of tea mentioned in that report actually grown in Java?—There are only two descriptions mentioned, Souchong and Pekoe, and green tea. I have only myself seen a sample of the Souchong tea, which appeared very good.

1643. Do you know whether the Pekoe is grown in Java?—I know it only from the report, and also the green. I have never seen specimens of either, but I have no doubt of the fact.

1644. Was

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island by the British government, and two purchases only have been made since the colony was given up to the Dutch government.

1669. Does the local government treat the British proprietors with the same justice and fairness as the Dutch proprietors?—Precisely the same of late years.

1670. In what condition are the native occupants who held the land prior to those leases being granted to the foreigners?—They may be considered as a kind of copyholders, paying a quit-rent, and they cannot be removed as long as they pay the stipulated rent. I have a copy of a title-deed to an estate, which I will deliver in:

[The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:]

(Translation from Dutch.)

We, the undersigned, Johan Theodore Leisart and Rijck Peter Vermeulen, members and commissaries of the Court of Justice at Batavia, do declare and certify that has appeared before us J. D. Kruseman, Esq., director of government revenues and domains, who in this his quality declared that, according and in virtue of the Resolution of the India Government, bearing date 30th September 1828, No. 12, and of the approbation and ratification granted by his Excellency the minister of state, commissary-general of Netherlands India, of the 13th November following, No. 44, has been granted to John Palmer, Esq. in full and free property, such extent of ground, with the dassas thereon, as is situated in the residency of Bantam, between the rivers *Onder Auder* and *Tjidoerian*, also between the canal *Perkayassa*, commonly called *Sultan's Canal*, and the high road towards *Ceram*, known under the name of *Tjikandir Ilier*; and in his said quality further declared to cede, grant, and transfer to the said John Palmer, Esq. the said extent of land, and such under the following conditions as have been approved and ratified by the said his Excellency, and have been accepted by Messrs. Maclaine, Watson & Co., for the said John Palmer, Esq., purporting as follows:—

The cession of those lands takes place upon the same footing and manner, and under the same general rights, privileges, and restrictions which all other free allodial lands in the residency *Batavia* are possessed, with whom especially are intended the formerly *Bantam* lands situated between the rivers *Tjikandir* and *Tangerang*, and shall those lands expressly and in the same manner (as the said *Batavia* lands) be subject to the duty of quit-rent, according to the general stipulations now existing or hereafter to be emanated by government, and further to all such other duties as in future in general shall be levied by government.

The inhabitants of the said extent of ground shall, without exception, remain in possession of all such grounds as have been worked for the first time and cultivated by them, and now are under their cultivation, being obliged, however, to give one-fifth of the yearly crop to the proprietor of the lands, in the same manner as such takes place, and is customary in the other free allodial lands in the residency of *Batavia*, and shall, they not fulfilling this stipulation, be deprived of such lands, to be at the disposal of the proprietor.

The proprietors have the liberty to dispose of the grounds which are now waste and not cultivated in such a manner as they think proper, whether to have them cultivated for their own account, or to sell or to rent them, in such a manner as they think to be best corresponding with their interest, without being bound as for any term of the lease, or for the amount of the rent or otherwise.

They

They shall be obliged to submit all contracts with the inhabitants now existing or afterwards to be entered upon to the registration by the resident; and it is hereby stipulated that every grant or lease of ground of which such a registration shall be omitted *de facto*, shall be considered as to have taken place under the general conditions existing on the private estates in the vicinity of *Batavia*, and the renter to have the continuing use of such ground worked for the first time or cultivated by him at the rate of one-fifth of the crop.

The proprietors are allowed to plant coffee and to undertake all other sorts of culture without any restriction whatever, and are assured the free disposal of all kinds of produce thus cultivated, with the exception, however, of the poppy, in regard of which they remain under the general stipulations to be issued by government about the culture of the same; and they shall be responsible personally for all infractions on this head of which the inhabitants will be found guilty.

The proprietors have no liberty to expel any of the inhabitants settled on those lands, but are obliged, if any reason should be existing for the removal of such inhabitants, to bring the case before the resident for his decision, and shall in such cases be followed the usances and regulations existing in the residency of *Batavia*.

All privileges and benefits by custom and usance allowed to the Javanese *Dessas* people, and granted to the population of government lands, are allowed in general to the inhabitants of those grounds, especially the free election of their own *Dessa* chief, subject, however, to the approval of the proprietors; but if they should not agree, the case shall be submitted to the decision of the resident.

As long as no other regulations shall be issued, the execution of the police remains with the government native administration of the districts and divisions of which those grounds form a part; the proprietor therefore may not assume any right, authority, or power against the existing orders.

It remains the duty of the population to make and keep in repair the public roads and bridges on or along those grounds, and also to transport goods belonging to government upon the same footing as the population of lands immediately belonging to government, and this duty is to be understood as well for the roads and bridges to be made in future, as for those existing at present.

The *bezars* and *ferries* on the said lands remain the property of government, and they shall be included in the yearly general disposal of government farms, or be disposed of on any other way; the proprietors therefore may not levy any duty of such a description on their lands, or establish any *bezar*, *ferry*, or *warong* without the special consent of government.

The land and house-tax, and any other taxes at present levied, shall be, for the current year, in favour of government; and the new proprietor must pay the amount thereof into government's treasury, according to the already formed estimations, before or on the last of December next, binding the said proprietor himself to pay also, before or on that date, the arrears of the land and house taxes of 1827.

On the other hand, the proprietor shall be liberated from the payment of quit-rent for the current year.

The purchasers must pay the stamps and fees by the transfer of this land; but the duty known under the name of *Geregtigheyd*, shall not be levied of the same. Of this transfer shall be made a proper act before the court of justice, in which shall be referred to this agreement, considering the same as verbally inserted in the instrument of transfer. The purchasers, further, shall be obliged to have the land measured by the sworn surveyor, as far as such did not take place before this; for their account they must

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On a Stamp
of
80 guilders.

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must cause to be drawn an accurate chart thereof, and this chart must be sent in to the director of government revenues and domains.

And such free and without any incumbrance, for an amount of 70,000 guilders, which purchase amount the appearer in his said capacity declared to have been paid in seventy certificates of the Netherland India Achirst, and each amounting to 1,000 guilders, with the coupons attached to them, from 1st January 1829, to 1st January 1833, promising therefore to free and keep harmless this transfer duly.

This sale has been duly notified to the surveyor, according to a certificate granted by J. H. Horst, surveyor, on the 10th December 1828, shown to us the commissaries.

The holder of this act must take care that in the event of sale, gift, inheritance, or any other transfer of property of the said extent of ground, the transfer in the name of the now proprietor must take place within the stipulation of six months, ordered by advertisement of the India Regency, dated 27th December 1767, on pain of the fine in case of neglect.

Thus done sincerely, and have we in testimony of the truth confirmed this act with our usual signatures and seal.

Batavia, at the City Hall, 11th December 1828.

(Signed) J. S. LIESART. R. P. VERMEULEN.

To which were added two seals in red sealing-wax, known to me,

(Signed) P. VAN HOEK, Registrar.

I, the undersigned, do declare that this sale, according to a resolution of the India Regency, dated 30th September 1828, No. 12, above-mentioned, is liberated of the payment of the duty of seven per cent., known by the name of Heerar Geregigheyd. Batavia, the City Hall, dated as above.

(Signed) P. VAN HOEK.

A faithful translation.

Batavia, 20th Dec. 1828.

(Signed) K. HEYNIS,
Sworn Translator.

1671. Is any land held by Chinese on the same terms on which it is held by Europeans?—There is.

1672. Do you know what proportionate quantity?—I should think the Chinese hold a fourth, perhaps, of the 5,000 miles I have mentioned.

1673. Are those lands thus held by Europeans and Chinese in the most populous and cultivated parts of the island?—In the least populous and cultivated parts.

1674. Has much capital been invested by Europeans and Chinese in the cultivation of their estates so acquired?—A very considerable capital has been invested.

1675. Has machinery been introduced for agricultural or commercial purposes?—Machinery from Europe has lately been introduced: sugar-mills, and

and also mills for husking and cleaning rice, have been erected on the spot, under the superintendence of British engineers.

1676. Has the cultivation of the land been much improved by irrigation, or otherwise?—Very much improved in the western district; watercourses have been cut, and lands have been irrigated which were thought incapable of irrigation by the natives.

1677. Has the population increased upon those lands?—Very rapidly.

1678. To what do you attribute that?—To the partiality of the natives to place themselves under Europeans, and to the good conduct of those Europeans generally.

1679. Can you state the rate of increase on any particular estate?—I can mention one or two particular estates. The estate of Currepan, an estate held in full property, when purchased by Mr. Menzies in 1823, contained only 4,340 souls; in the beginning of 1829 the population amounted to 6,200, and the increase has since gone on at a much quicker ratio. The estate of Singosarre, a small coffee plantation, situated in the native provinces, when Mr. Stavers obtained possession of it in 1821, contained only seventy families, and in 1825 the population had increased to 1,300 families.

1680. Has the condition of the inhabitants improved also as well as their numbers increased?—It has.

1681. Do they appear to adapt themselves easily to the wants of Europeans?—Very easily. They generally give a preference to plantations possessed by Europeans: I have seen them resort in great numbers to the estates held by Europeans, both from the government territories and from the native provinces.

1682. You have stated that machinery has been introduced from Europe for the sugar works, and for the husking of rice; has it not also been introduced for the pressing of oil?—It has. Since my arrival in this country I sent out an oil-press.

1683. What are the plants from which oil is derived?—The Earth-nut and the Palma Christi, the latter of which produces the castor oil.

1684. Can you give any instance of the saving of labour which the introduction of machinery has caused?—The saving of labour upon the estate at Currepan for husking and cleaning rice is very great. By means of this machinery a quantity of rice which took three hundred labourers a day by the usual Javanese method, can be accomplished in the same time with the aid of fifteen labourers.

1685. Is it moved by wind or by water?—By water.

1686. Are there great facilities in Java for the erection of water-machines?—Very great facilities; there is an abundant supply of water in almost every part.

1687. How did you acquire the property of your estate; was it by free grant

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- 10 March 1831. *G. Maclaine, Esq.* grant or by purchase?—The estate was purchased in 1821 from a Dutch gentleman.
1688. Were not very considerable purchases made from the English Government during the time they were in possession?—Very considerable; several very large estates.
1689. You have hitherto confined yourself to lands held in fee by Europeans and Chinese; do the Europeans also hold any lands on leases from the natives?—They do. The leaseholders in the native provinces amount to ten or twelve, and the extent of land about five hundred square miles.
1690. Had you any land on lease?—I held two leaseholds in the native provinces.
1691. On what terms are such leases generally taken?—The conditions of the lease are generally the payment of rent, and occasionally some feudal service required by the princes, and the duration of the lease is about twenty years in general.
1692. Are their leases ratified by the government of the country?—The leases were originally ratified by the signature of the European resident at the native court.
1693. Have those leases been always respected by the government?—No; they were cancelled by the Dutch colonial government in 1823.
1694. Have any discontents or disturbances been consequent upon the cancelling of those leases?—I think the insurrection in Java may in some measure be attributed to the cancelling the leases. Two planters in the Djæjoe Juju district whose leases were cancelled, were paid the amount of the indemnification allowed them by the government from the Soultan's treasury; they were paid by the European resident at the court, without consulting a native prince called Dipo Nigero, who became afterwards leader of the insurgents, and who was guardian to the Soultan, the latter being a minor. This prince naturally took umbrage at the money being appropriated without his consent, and he also felt indignant at the leases having been cancelled, and the little respect paid to the seal and signature of the former Soultan. The Javanese attach great importance to the seal of any of their ancestors, and many of the princes would as soon forfeit their lives as allow any treaty ratified by them to be cancelled.
1695. Has not an European proprietor generally, from the extent of his estates, a great many tenants?—He has.
1696. In what way does he collect his rents?—Upon land held in property, always in kind.
1697. Is there any difficulty in collecting rents upon land so held?—I have never experienced any.
1698. How is the rate of rent settled?—We are only allowed, as will be seen,

- seen by the title-deed, to take one-fifth of the produce of the estate from the natives. 10 March 1831. *G. Maclaine, Esq.*
1699. Does that refer to land which you have cleared or irrigated yourself?—On land brought into cultivation by the proprietors we are allowed to take a third, or more or less, according to the productiveness of the soil.
1700. Is not the irrigation conducted on so extensive a scale, that the same machinery will often irrigate many square miles?—It will.
1701. And therefore it would be impossible for the tenants to carry on a system of irrigation, upon their own particular estates, to advantage?—Certainly; they have not the capital, nor have they industry, unless stimulated by Europeans.
1702. What is the length of a term generally between an European leaseholder and his under-tenant?—There are no formal leases granted to them; it is merely a verbal agreement.
1703. Is it the practice to remove tenants frequently, or do they generally remain on the same property?—They generally remain on the same property.
1704. On the lands so held by Europeans or their sub-tenants, does the government collect any tax?—None whatever, except the land-tax or property-tax of one per cent., which is paid by the proprietors.
1705. What is the conduct of the European proprietors and their tenantry towards each other; are there frequent affrays, or do they live in a state of harmony?—They live in a state of harmony.
1706. What is the state of morals generally among the people in Java?—On the estates held by Europeans I have seldom or never heard of thefts or robberies being committed.
1707. Are such crimes common among the natives who are independent of the Europeans?—Very common.
1708. Is it your opinion, that the introduction of European capital and of European residents has, to a certain extent, improved the condition of the natives?—It decidedly has.
1709. During the insurrections, did the residents on the European estates mix in those troubles, or did they remain quietly at home?—They remained quietly at home; and they were often of the greatest assistance to the government. I have known a small fort saved by the population of one estate held by Europeans.
1710. Do you think that the condition of the natives under European protection is in a state of progressive improvement, or otherwise?—It is in a state of progressive improvement.
1711. Have the European proprietors any difficulty in procuring labourers or tenants?—None whatever.
1712. Will

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1712. Will you state in what way you yourself proceeded when you came into possession of your estate, to provide yourself with tenants and labourers?—I found tenants and labourers resort in numbers to the plantation.

1713. What is their particular inducement to resort to estates held by Europeans?—The security they feel under Europeans, and their total exemption from feudal services and extortion.

1714. Do the Chinese proprietors experience any difficulty in obtaining labourers and tenants?—They are generally thought severer masters than Europeans; but I have known many striking instances to the contrary.

1715. What is the state of the police in those parts of the island occupied by Europeans as compared with those parts occupied by natives?—In those parts held by Europeans, thefts and robberies are very seldom heard of. I have known an instance or two of paltry thefts; of stealing a cow, for instance; but I have very seldom heard of any extensive robberies; indeed never.

1716. Have you ever heard of any instance of personal violence towards Europeans?—None whatever.

1717. Do you think the natives of Java place more reliance on the justice and kindness of Europeans than on that of native proprietors?—I have seen many striking instances of their doing so.

1718. Can you state what is the rate of wages of the natives of Java?—In the western districts of the island, where the Europeans hold their estates, a labourer gets about 4*d.* a day; in the native provinces about 2*d.* to 2½*d.* a day. They feed themselves; and they bring their agricultural implements with them.

1719. What is their chief food?—Chiefly rice in the low grounds. They eat a kind of Indian corn or maize in the hilly districts, and a little sugar made from the palm-tree, but not in very large quantities.

1720. Are they generally well fed and well clothed?—They are generally well fed and well clothed, and well housed, for the climate.

1721. Has the salubrity of the climate and the facility of procuring food any tendency to make them indolent?—I believe not, where property is secure; at least it has not that effect with the Chinese in Java.

1722. Have you Chinese labourers as well as Javanese?—We have in the western district.

1723. What are the day wages of a Chinese labourer as compared with that of a Javanese?—A Chinese labourer gets generally about three times the wages of a Javanese labourer. The Chinese are chiefly artizans and merchants, and therefore, on that account, their wages are higher.

1724. Is any passport or license necessary for an European who wishes to settle in Java?—Yes; a foreigner is obliged to apply to the colonial government for permission to remain in the country.

1725. Supposing

1725. Supposing a British-born subject wished to proceed from this country to Java, would it be necessary for him previously to obtain the permission of the Dutch authorities?—By no means. On his arrival in Java he would have merely to apply for letters of citizenship, which are easily obtained, and which give him the rights and immunities of a Dutch citizen.

1726. What advantage did these letters of citizenship confer upon you?—They gave me nominally the rights and immunities of a Dutch citizen.

1727. Did you find yourself exactly in the same situation, as to all commercial advantages and immunities, as a Dutch citizen. Precisely the same.

1728. Are those letters of citizenship ever withdrawn?—I do not remember an instance; but I should presume, in cases of bad conduct, they are.

1729. Do they require renewal after a certain period?—No, they do not.

1730. What did you pay for these letters of citizenship?—A stamp of one hundred guilders.

1731. Do letters of citizenship once obtained last for your life?—They last for life.

1732. Are there not also letters of naturalization?—There are.

1733. Do those confer any superior privilege?—They are considered to do so. The only privilege that I am aware of is, that a person holding letters of naturalization can hold a government appointment, which a person holding letters of citizenship cannot; but as far as regards commercial privileges, I believe letters of citizenship are quite equal.

1734. Have you the right, holding letters of citizenship, to dispose of property you possess?—We have, either on leases or in fee, or by will, the same as a Dutch natural-born subject of his Majesty.

1735. Is there any difficulty of obtaining letters of naturalization?—I believe not; they were seldom thought worth asking for.

1736. In travelling through the interior of the island, is it necessary to have a passport?—It is.

1737. Is that obtained without difficulty?—Without the slightest difficulty.

1738. At what expense?—Formerly it was given gratis, but lately at the charge of a few pence.

1739. Is that passport equally necessary for British-born subjects, for subjects of the king of Holland, and for Chinese and for natives?—They are all put upon the same footing; it is universally required, except that a military officer of course does not require it.

1740. Are the police regulations such as to occasion a person any difficulty in travelling about in the interior of the island?—I never experienced the slightest difficulty; I always met with the greatest attention from the public authorities.

1741. Have

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1741. Have you visited the British settlement at Sincapore?—I have.

1742. Were you called upon for a license on your arrival there?—I was not.

1743. Did you understand that it was necessary for a resident at Sincapore to be provided with a license?—I never understood so; however, I went there from Java as a Dutch citizen.

1744. In what condition is Java with respect to internal communication, as to roads and bridges?—Most beautiful roads from one end of Java to the other.

1745. At what rate can you travel?—You can post from one end of the island to the other; at the rate of ten miles an hour, a distance of from 600 to 700 miles; that is along the main road.

1746. Are there cross-roads?—There are about 400 or 500 miles of cross-roads.

1747. Are there any new roads being constructed at present?—There is a very extensive road at present commenced, at the expense of government, which is to go along the south-west coast of the island, equal in extent to the one at present on the north end of the island.

1748. How does government supply itself with funds for that undertaking?—The revenue of the island is very considerable; they have a revenue, I think, of from 28,000,000 to 30,000,000 of guilders a year.

1749. Is there any particular tax applicable to that particular object?—No; the natives are obliged to give so many days' labour in a month, upon the same footing as what we call statute labour in this country.

1750. At what distance is the territory held by the Europeans from Batavia?—Some of the estates are 100 miles distant, and the great part are in the immediate neighbourhood, twenty or thirty or forty miles.

1751. Is that a hilly district?—Part of it hilly. In the Bantam district there is rice-land very low.

1752. How is the government of Java administered?—By a governor, appointed by the king, and four members of council; a regularly organized government.

1753. Is the governor a military man?—The present governor-general is a military man.

1754. Are the council military or civil?—Some military, some civil.

1755. Do they sit in the council in the right of their offices, or are they selected?—No, they are selected.

1756. Are the measures determined by a majority of the council, or has the governor any particular voice?—It is understood to be by a majority.

1757. What system of law exists in Java?—The Dutch law. They formerly

formerly used to have the code Napoleon also; but it is chiefly now the Dutch law. 10 March 1831.

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1758. Is it to that law that both natives and Europeans are subject?—In the native provinces the government do not interfere, they are governed by their own native laws; in the government territories, of course, by the European. There are circuit judges appointed to go round the government territories at different periods to try causes.

1759. Are Europeans and natives subject to the same law?—In civil cases I think there is a kind of inferior court, where some of the native chiefs sit as judges themselves. Europeans, of course, go to the supreme court of justice.

1760. You stated, that the natives were well clothed in those districts; what sort of clothing do they wear?—Cotton clothing.

1761. Is that cotton generally the manufacture of the island?—In the central district it is generally the manufacture of the island.

1762. You have stated, that an individual may reside there with a letter of citizenship; supposing that individual to die, leaving a son resident upon the property, would he require a letter of citizenship too, or would he be considered as a native?—I do not think he would require a letter of citizenship; I have not known an instance of its happening.

1763. Have the Europeans settled in Java been engaged in constructing roads and bridges themselves?—They have, upon their estates. I, myself, have made forty miles of roads.

1764. Do they act as magistrates?—They are not allowed to interfere in the police; the government hold the police entirely in their own hands.

1765. What does the revenue of Java consist of?—It is generally a land-tax; and they also derive a great deal from monopolies and the privilege of selling opium, and from birds' nests; also from the import and export duties.

1766. What rules are followed in managing the land-revenue, with regard to the rate of tax levied?—The government generally takes two-fifths of the produce. It varies in every district; but, generally speaking, they take two-fifths of the produce of the land, taken sometimes in kind and sometimes in money. The government themselves take two-fifths of the produce from the natives within their territories; but an European planter or landholder is allowed only to take one-fifth.

1767. Do you mean, that when the native holds from the government he pays two-fifths, and when he holds from an European he pays one-fifth?—Exactly.

1768. When he holds from an European, does he also pay any direct tax to the government for the land?—No tax whatever.

1769. What tenure has the occupier in his land?—He gets a lease from the government.

1770. Of what term?—The conditions are, that he is to pay a certain proportion

10 March 1831. portion of what is grown to the government. It is sometimes taken in money, at a fixed rate, which is advertised in the public gazette; for instance, coffee is taken by the government at a fixed rate.

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1771. What tax does the European proprietor pay to the government?—An annual land-tax of one per cent. upon the estimated value of the estate.

1772. How is that estimate made?—It is made periodically, I think every three years, by the government. It is a property or land-tax of one per cent. upon the estimated value of the estate; and for the purpose of estimating the value, they ask the proprietors for an account of the returns of the estate, upon which I suppose the calculation is made: but it is entirely within their own power, and it is quite arbitrary. Some estates are valued much higher than they ought to be, and some much lower.

1773. Is this a tax paid only by Europeans?—It is.

1774. Can you state what the proportion is between the one per cent. on the value paid by the European proprietor, and two-fifths of the produce paid by the native proprietor?—I cannot state that.

1775. Do you conceive the one per cent. to be a smaller tax than the other?—I should think it a smaller tax.

1776. Supposing an European proprietor were called upon to pay the same tax as a native pays, namely, two-fifths of the gross produce, would he be enabled to lay out capital in the cultivation of the soil?—I would not, certainly, as a land-holder.

1777. Is the climate of Java favourable or otherwise to European constitutions?—In the hilly district it is rather favourable; it is as salubrious as any part of British India. The town of Batavia is considered very unhealthy, but not so much as it was.

1778. To what do you attribute the improvement of the town of Batavia?—To knocking down the walls which formerly surrounded it, and to the filling up of the canals.

1779. Does the Dutch government patronize the arts and sciences at all in Java?—It does very much.

1780. Have they any establishment for that purpose?—When I left the island there were six or seven German naturalists employed at the expense of government in making collections in different parts of the island.

1781. Have they any establishments for the promotion of education or religion among the natives?—There are several missionaries, but they have not made many proselytes.

1782. Have you visited Manilla, the capital of the Philippine Islands?—I have.

1783. What stay did you make there?—A fortnight.

1784. Did you visit it for commercial purposes?—Entirely for commercial purposes.

1785. Is

1785. Is there any considerable import and consumption of British manufactures in the Philippine Islands?—A very considerable. 10 March 1831.

1786. Do the imports and exports to the Philippine Islands resemble those of Java?—They do; they are chiefly cotton goods, iron, and steel. G. Maclaine, Esq.

1787. Is there a considerable quantity of sugar manufactured in the Philippine Islands?—In 1825, when I visited the island, there were 120,000 peculs exported.

1788. Is the quantity increasing or diminishing?—I should imagine it is about the same.

1789. Is indigo manufactured in any quantity?—It is, but of a very inferior quality.

1790. Is hemp an article of export there?—It is.

1791. Of what quality is the hemp?—It is thought of very good quality; it is used chiefly for cordage and running rigging.

1792. Is tobacco extensively produced also?—It is very extensively produced.

1793. Is it produced in sufficient quantities for export?—It is; it is exported in a manufactured state in very large quantities. It is, I believe, thought the best quality of tobacco in the East.

1794. Is that a government monopoly?—Entirely a government monopoly.

1795. Did you see the manufacture of it?—I did.

1796. Is there any peculiarity in its manufacture?—The manufacture of cigars is entirely conducted by women; there are about 5,000 women employed in the town of Manilla by the government in manufacturing cigars.

1797. Do you know what the population of the Philippine Islands is calculated at?—I have heard it stated from a million and a half to two millions.

1798. Is the tobacco which you state to be a government monopoly, cultivated by free labour or by forced labour?—I did not visit the interior.

1799. Do you know what military force the Spanish government maintains in those islands?—About 2,000 in the town of Manilla and the immediate neighbourhood.

1800. By what means has the Spanish authority been maintained and enforced in so extensive a territory?—Chiefly by the Roman-catholic priests, European priests, and the descendants of Europeans.

1801. Has the Christian religion made extensive progress in the Philippine Islands?—It has; in the town of Manilla the natives call themselves Christians, and the Chinese also.

1802. Do you mean to say, that the population is for the most part Christian?—I cannot answer that question correctly; but in the town of Manilla all the Chinese and the natives call themselves Christians, and they attend divine worship as Christians.

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1803. Is

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1803. Is there much commercial intercourse between the Philippine Islands and China?—Very considerable.

1804. By what vessels is the trade chiefly carried on?—By Chinese junks, by American and Spanish vessels and Portuguese ships.

1805. Have the English any share in that carrying trade?—No, they are not allowed to visit China.

1806. What are the chief articles of import and export in that trade between the Philippine Islands and China?—The chief articles of import are tea, Chinese piece-goods, and provisions; the chief articles of export, tortoiseshell, mother-o'-pearl shells; also rice, in large quantities.

1807. Are Europeans allowed to settle in the Philippine Islands?—They are.

1808. On what terms?—I do not know the terms; I saw several Portuguese and French planters there.

1809. Do you know whether Europeans are permitted to buy and sell lands there without restriction?—I know that Europeans are allowed to hold land, but I cannot state upon what terms.

1810. Have you read the evidence given by Mr. Maxwell last year, upon the subject of the China trade?—I have.

1811. Are you the gentleman there alluded to, as the owner of a Dutch ship, who disposed of a quantity of rice at Canton?—I am.

1812. Were you exempt from the port-dues and the presents under certain circumstances?—I was.

1813. Can you give any explanation to the Committee of those circumstances?—I can; I have here an answer to a petition which I received from the viceroy, which states the transaction. I heard at Sincapore, on my way to China, that vessels going from any port to China with a cargo of 4,500 peculs of rice, were exempt from the measurement duty. In consequence of hearing this, I laid in a cargo of 4,500 peculs; but on the way up the ship met with a typhoon, and was obliged to throw one half of the cargo overboard, and came in of course without the prescribed quantity on board; but by petitioning the Chinese government I got over the difficulties, and they exempted the ship from all duties.

1814. Was that exemption in consequence of any scarcity of rice at that time?—I did not understand there was any particular scarcity at that time; but it has always, I believe, been the policy of the government to encourage as much as possible the importation of rice.

1815. Was it necessary for you to make any particular interest with the Chinese government?—I merely got one of the Chinese to translate my petition, which was sent in through Howqua, the security-merchant, to the viceroy, and in three days I had the answer from the viceroy, of which I have a translation, made by one of the gentlemen of the Company's factory.

1816. Did

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1816. Did you experience any difficulty in carrying on that transaction with the Chinese government?—Not the slightest.

1817. Have the goodness to deliver in the translation of the answer?—

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:—]

“From the Hoppo, dated the 4th year, 10th moon and 29th day, Ysuh, Hoppo of Canton, &c. &c. to the Hong merchants.—I have received a communication from his Excellency the Viceroy, as follows: ‘On the 27th instant the merchants presented a translation of the petition of the Holland captain, Fa-lent, to this effect:—I, (the foreigner) being on my way from Batavia (Kea-la-pa) to Canton, had proceeded as far as Sincapore (Shing-yaspo) when I received an express from the king of my nation, informing me that the CELESTIAL DYNASTY had issued a decree permitting foreign ships which brought rice to Canton to be exempt from port-charges, and allowing them to take away a return-cargo. I (the foreigner) immediately sold my goods on board and purchased 4,500 peculs of rice, and set sail for Canton on the 4th of the 8th moon. On the 27th of the 9th moon I met with a raging wind, which dismasted my vessel, and there were presently more than three cubits water in the hold. Being nearly sinking, we (the foreigners) hastily threw overboard some of the rice on board, which relieved the ship; but as the rice at present on board is below the prescribed quantity, and is besides much injured by wet, I implore your Excellency to look down upon us foreigners, and to consider that we have come from a great distance on the vast ocean, and have met with a tempest which obliged us to throw overboard our merchandise. We entreat that your Excellency will of your great compassion remit our port-duties, and permit us to take a return cargo, &c. &c. Now, as Fa-lent's ship, on her way to Canton with rice on board, met with a tempest, though the quantity of rice now on board is below the prescribed quantity, still it is right to second the compassionate benevolence of his Majesty the Emperor, and permit the port-charges to be remitted, as well as grant a return-cargo on paying the duties. I therefore address this to the Hoppo, requesting that he will return an account of the duties when the unloading is commenced and concluded.’ This coming to me, the Hoppo, I issue a mandate to the merchants, desiring them to acquaint me with the above particulars, that I may send a reply. Do not oppose a special mandate.”

1818. Are not the proprietors of estates in Java obliged to bring all their produce to Batavia, and not allowed to ship in the nearest ports?—I only know of three estates on the coast, and I believe the proprietors are obliged to bring their produce to Batavia.

1819. In speaking of the one-per-cent. tax levied by the Dutch government, are you not aware that in some instances that is double the rate which they formerly charged?—I am; it was originally half, and it was changed afterwards to one per cent.

1820. Has that been complained of by the proprietors of the estates?—It has in one particular instance been very much complained of, on Sir Charles Forbes's estate, as a breach of faith on the part of the Dutch government.

1821. Are feudal services still demanded upon all the estate, or only partially?—Only partially.

1822. Are not those services considered very grievous on the part of the natives?—

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1823. Does the whole of Java belong to the Dutch?—A part only. A third of the island, or perhaps more, belongs to the native princes.

1824. In those parts are there any Europeans settled?—There are; the lease-holders I mentioned.

1825. You have stated that the Dutch government was generally just and impartial?—I applied that to the last two or three years.

1826. Do you consider that the conduct of that government has been uniformly just and liberal to British settlers on the island?—The British settlers, in conjunction with the natural-born subjects of his Dutch majesty, suffered very much from the acts of the government; but there was nothing pointed towards the British.

1827. Do you know any acts of oppression that have been ascribed to the Dutch government, with regard to British settlers and land-owners in the island?—I do; I have suffered myself from an act of oppression.

1828. Will you state any of those instances?—The act to which I allude was the cancelling of leases in 1823, which was one of the acts by which several Dutch subjects, as well as British, were deprived of their plantations. However, in 1826, the lands were given back upon the original footing, and a prolongation of the lease given by way of remuneration.

1829. Do you consider that a complete and full measure of justice has been ultimately rendered towards all those landholders?—No, I do not.

1830. Then, upon the whole, the conduct of the Dutch government has not been just and impartial in your estimation?—Not till of late years. I believe it is notorious that the Dutch government were any thing but impartial at former times.

1831. To what period do you allude as the period when this reform of the Dutch government commenced?—Within the last four years, especially in Java.

1832. Since that period has ample justice been done to the British settlers?—They have got the same measure of justice as the Dutch planters. Some were better remunerated than others; but I believe it was the intention and wish of the government to do them ample justice.

1833. You have pointed out the distinction between government lands and lands held by private individuals, stating that the tax demanded by the government from the one was two-fifths of the produce, and that the rent demanded by the private landholders from their tenants was one-fifth of the produce; do not you think that accounts for the great resort of occupants and labourers to the lands of private holders, in contradistinction to the lands of the government?—In some parts of the island, but not in the native provinces.

1834. Would

1834. Would it at all account for the resort of labourers?—Certainly not. 10 March 1831.

1835. Is there much trade carried on between Java and the East-India Company's possessions?—A very considerable trade. G. Maclaine, Esq.

1836. Are there any obstructions in the way of it, with regard to duties, or regulations, or charges?—None. The cotton manufactures of British India only pay a duty of fifteen per cent. upon the invoice; European cotton manufactures pay a duty of twenty-six and one-fourth *ad valorem*.

1837. Are the duties equally low upon other productions of India?—They are.

1838. Is there any thing like a principle of colonial monopoly acted upon in Java by the Dutch government, in giving preference in matters of trade to the inhabitants of Java, with respect to duties, or prohibitions, or other regulations?—They only charge two per cent. upon articles brought in generally by prows and native trading vessels; they encourage that as much as possible, and they give them every facility at the custom-house.

1839. When British cotton goods are imported into Java from British or other ports to the east of the Cape, is there an extra duty charged?—There is an *ad valorem* duty of twenty-six and one-fourth per cent. charged on goods brought to the eastward of the Cape, and on cotton goods brought from British India, only fifteen per cent. upon the invoice amount.

1840. Is there not a government monopoly of salt also in Java?—There is.

Martis, 15^o die Martii, 1831.

JOHN CRAWFURD, Esq. called in, and examined.

1841. The Committee understand that you have never been engaged in trade?—Never. 15 March 1831.

1842. But you have turned your attention to Indian matters?—Yes, a good deal, as matter of curiosity, and also as what I consider a public duty. J. Crawford, Esq.

1843. Have you looked to the trade between England and India?—A good deal.

1844. Has not that trade very much increased since the opening of the free trade in 1815?—I think beyond all expectation.

1845. Do you think it is susceptible of still greater increase?—I do.

1846. Is

15 March 1831. 1846. Is there any thing which you think is necessary to facilitate that increase?—A free introduction of capital, enterprize, and skill, under proper protection, under just and equal laws.

J. Crawford, Esq.

1847. Do you not conceive that the great impediment to the extension of that trade is the difficulty of finding adequate returns to send from India to this country?—That necessarily follows from the obstructions to the application of capital to the soil, and to the industry of India generally.

1848. Looking at the climate and the soil, and the situation of India, are you of opinion that its products might be considerably increased and improved?—Yes, gradually, very greatly.

1849. What do you think necessary for that purpose?—I have already stated what I consider necessary to it, the application of European skill and capital, under proper protection.

1850. Are there not considerable remittances which are made at the present moment from India to England to pay for charges upon the territorial department, and also upon account of private individuals?—Yes; the exports of India much exceed the imports; there is a tribute paid by India to this country.

1851. Does not that render it the more essential that the returns from India should be increased and improved?—No doubt it does.

1852. Do you not conceive, that supposing the returns made now on account of private individuals were employed in the cultivation of India, the situation of India would be considerably improved, and the commerce between Great Britain and India considerably increased?—It would, of necessity, produce all those benefits and advantages which have ever been found in every part of the world, and in every age, to follow the unfettered application of capital and enterprize.

1853. Amongst other articles which India might produce, have you turned your attention to the cultivation of cotton?—Yes, in the manner I have already described, for I have never been professionally engaged either in trade or agriculture.

1854. With respect to cotton, are there several species of cotton?—My opinion is, that there is of cotton, as a commercial article, but one species, diverging into a prodigious number of varieties, according to the circumstances of soil, climate, and locality. In every part of India in which I have been I have found a vast number of varieties.

1855. Is cotton considered as a matter of primary importance in the cultivation of India?—It is not; rice, wheat, and grain generally are considered as the most important objects of Indian husbandry, and cotton a secondary one. In the island of Java, for example, where cotton is very extensively cultivated for domestic use, but not for exportation, it is a mere winter crop snatched from the soil, with two or three months' cultivation after the great rice harvest is taken in.

1856. Do

1856. Do you conceive that the cultivation of cotton in India might be considerably improved?—I think there is no reason in the world to suppose it might not. India possesses every variety of climate at all events, and of soil, I have every reason to believe, that is possessed by those countries that afford cotton in the greatest quantity and in the greatest perfection.

1857. Are new varieties perpetually appearing even in the rude state of the cultivation?—I have never been in any part of India where there are not a great many varieties, some very good and some very bad. The ordinary cottons cultivated are for the most part the coarsest, because they are the most easy to rear; the finer varieties are very rare, because, as I conceive, the people have not skill to keep them up. They are, in fact, delicate plants in comparison.

1858. Is there not a fine variety in the neighbourhood of Dacca?—There is; it is referred to in a paper laid before the last Committee by the East-India Company. It is from that variety that I have reason to believe the fine muslins of Dacca are produced, and probably to the accidental discovery of it is to be attributed the rise of this singular manufacture. It is cultivated by the natives alone, not at all known in the English market, nor, as far as I am aware, in that of Calcutta.

1859. Is the cultivation of it extensive?—I have no other statement to give respecting it than that which has been laid by the East-India Company before the last Committee. Its growth extends about forty miles along the banks of the Megna, and about three miles inland.

1860. You are aware of the fine species of cotton called the Sea Islands, do you conceive that that can be grown at any distance from the sea?—The general opinion is that it cannot; and I understood from people acquainted with the cultivation of it, that the bare circumstance of planting the seed in the high lands ten or twelve miles distant from the sea, is sufficient to deteriorate the quality immediately.

1861. With respect to the cotton of China, where is the finest produced?—I understand from the works of the Jesuits that it is produced near the sea-side.

1862. What are the chief objections at the present moment to the Indian cotton?—It is short in the fibre, not strong in the staple, and coarse, and always very dirty.

1863. Have any improvements been made in the cleaning of it?—I understand, generally, none whatever. A few parcels have now and then been brought into the market of a better description, but in general there has been no improvement.

1864. Does not the seed adhere very closely to the wool?—It does, and it is very difficult to separate; that is a main objection to it.

1865. With respect to the common cotton of Java, can you state the proportion which the seed bears to the wool. The coarser the cotton generally the

15 March 1831. the more seed there is in proportion to the wool. I recollect, from experiments made under my own eye, that I found in the ordinary coarse cotton of Java the seed bearing to the wool a proportion of four to one, whereas in better kinds occasionally cultivated it was no more than three to one.

1866. Are you of opinion that India, in its present state, is capable of producing any considerable quantity of cotton fit for the European market?—I am of opinion that India is capable of producing cotton for the consumption of the European market, provided there is a proper application of skill and capital to the production of the article, in the same manner as in other countries; but I am of opinion that the unaided skill of the natives of India is incapable of doing it, and the experience of the last seventeen years seems satisfactorily to prove this.

1867. Can you refer to any document connected with the American cotton to prove the improvement which has taken place?—This is a letter from a planter in Georgia, which was handed to me by Mr. Kennedy, an eminent manufacturer of Manchester. Mr. Kennedy was engaged in preparing some statements respecting the progress and history of the cotton manufacture in this country; he put an advertisement into the *South Carolina Gazette* for several months, and at last he got this answer from one of the earliest planters of Georgia: it is a very curious and interesting document, and contains an account of the first introduction of the Sea Island cotton. I beg also to offer to the Committee another document illustrative of the progress of the culture of cotton in America, being an extract from a well-known statistic writer, that of Dr. Sybert.

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:—]

SIR:

There has been for some months past a notification in your paper requesting a communication upon the subject of the introduction of Cotton into Georgia and Carolina.

It has been intimated to me, that possibly this notification has originated in some one desirous of correct information in order that it might enter into some more general work; and as I am at present perhaps the only person alive that recollects distinctly the introduction of the Sea Island cotton, I have addressed this letter to you.

It is known to many that cotton was cultivated for domestic purposes from Virginia to Georgia long anterior to the revolutionary war. Mr. Jefferson speaks of it in his Notes on Virginia; Bartram speaks of it in his Travels, as growing in Georgia; and I have understood that twenty-two acres were cultivated by a Colonel Dellegal, upon a small island near Savannah, before the Revolution. But this was the *green seed*, or short staple cotton. Two species of the same family then existed in this country, the real green seed, and a low cotton resembling it in blossom, both being of a pale yellow, approaching to white; one with the seed covered with fuzz, the other with fuzz only on the end of the seed. To explore the first introduction of the short staple cotton into this country would now, in all probability, be impossible; but we may very well suppose it was by one of the southern proprietary governments, and possibly from Turkey; the trade of which country with England was then of much higher consideration than it has subsequently become. Nor would it have escaped those proprietors, many of whom were enlightened men, that the climate of Asia Minor, where cotton grew abundantly, was analogous

analogous to the climates of the provinces south of Virginia. Just about the commencement of the revolutionary war, Sir R. Arkwright had invented the spinning-jenny, and cotton-spinning became a matter of deep interest; in England cotton rose much in price; its various qualities attracted notice, and the world was searched for finer kinds. The island of Bourbon was alone found to produce them; and yet the Bourbon cotton greatly resembled in its growth our green seed-cotton, although it cannot be its parent plant, for all attempts to naturalize it in Georgia (which were many and repeated) have failed. It gave blossoms, but it was cut off by the frost in the fruit, nor would it ratoon or grow from the root the next year, in which too it resembles the green seed-cotton of our country. This is all I am able to say, and perhaps all that is necessary to be said of the short-staple cotton.

The Sea Island cotton was introduced directly from the Bahama Islands into Georgia. The revolutionary war that closed in 1783 had been a war not less of opinion and of feeling than of interest, and had torn asunder many of the relations of life, whether of blood or of friendship. England offered to the unhappy settlers of this country, who had followed her standard, a home but in two of her provinces. To the provincials of the north she offered Nova Scotia; to the provincials of the south, the Bahama Islands. Many of the former inhabitants of the Carolinas and Georgia passed over from Florida to the Bahamas with their slaves. But what could they cultivate?—The rocky and arid soil of those islands could not grow sugar-cane; coffee would grow, but produced no fruit. There was one plant that would grow, and that bore abundantly, it was cotton. The seed, as I have been often informed by respectable gentlemen from the Bahamas, was in the first instance procured from a small island in the West-Indies, celebrated for its cotton, called Anguilla. It was therefore long after its introduction into this country called Anguilla-seed.

Cotton, as I have already stated, had taken a new value by the introduction of the spinning machines into England. The quality of the Bahamas cotton was then considered among the best-grown; new life and hope were imparted to a colony, and a people with whom even hope itself had been almost extinct. This first success, as is natural to the human mind under whatever influence it may act, recalled the memory of the friends they had left behind them. The winter of 1786 brought several parcels of cotton-seed from the Bahamas to Georgia; among them (in distinct remembrance upon my mind) was a parcel to Governor Jatnall of Georgia, from a near relation of his, then surveyor-general of the Bahamas; and another parcel at this same time was transmitted by Colonel Roger Kelsall, of Escumer (who was among the first, if not the *very first* successful grower of cotton), to my father, Mr. James Spalding, then residing on St. Simon's Island, Georgia, who had been connected in business with Colonel Kelsall before the Revolution. I have heard that Governor Jatnall, then a young man, gave his seed to Mr. Nicholas Turnbull, lately deceased, who cultivated it from that period successfully.

I know my father planted his cotton-seed, in the spring of 1787, upon the banks of a small rice-field on St. Simon's Island. The land was rich and warm, the cotton grew large and blossomed, but did not ripen to fruit; it however ratooned or grew from the roots the following year. The difficulty was *now over*, the cotton adapted itself to the climate, and every successive year from 1787 saw the long-staple cotton extending itself along the shores of Georgia, and into South Carolina, when an enlightened population, then engaged in the cultivation of indigo, readily adopted it. All the varieties of the long staple, or at least the germ of, those varieties, came from that seed; differences of soil developed them, and differences of local situations are developing them every day. The same cotton-seed, planted in one field will give quite a black and naked seed; while the same seed, planted upon another field, different in soil and situation, will be prone to run into large cotton, with

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15 March 1831. with long boles or pods, and with seeds tufted at the ends with fuzz. I should have great doubts if there is any real difference in these apparent varieties of the long staple cotton; but if there is, all who observe must know, that plants, where they have once intermingled their varieties, will require attention for a long series of years to disentangle them.

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Subsequently to 1787, as the cultivation of cotton extended and became profitable, every variety of the cotton that could be gleaned from the four quarters of the globe has been tried, but none of them but one has resulted in any thing useful. Mr. James Hamilton, who formerly resided in Charlestown, and who now resides in Philadelphia, was indefatigable in procuring seed, which he transmitted to his friend Mr. Cowper, of St. Simon's Island. Mr. Cowper planted some acres of Bourbon cotton; it grew and blossomed, but did not ripen its fruit, and perished in the winter.

Mr. Hamilton sent a cotton from Siam; it grew large, was of a rich purple colour both in foliage and blossom, but perished also without ripening its fruit.

The Nankin cotton was introduced at an early period, the same that Secretary Crawford distributed the seed of some years back. It was abundant in produce, the seed fuzzy, and the wool of a dirty yellow colour, which would not bring even the price of the other short-staple cottons, but I knew it to produce 3 cwt. to the acre on Jekyll Island in Georgia. The kidney-seed cotton,—that is, a cotton which produces the seed all clustered together, with a long strong staple extending from one side of the seeds (and which I believe to be the Brazilian or Pernambuco cotton),—was tried, and was the only new species upon which there could have been any hesitancy; but this too was given up, because not as valuable, and not as productive. I have given the names of gentlemen, because I had no other means of establishing facts; and now my communication shall close.

Your very obedient servant,

THOMAS SPALDING.

To the Editor of the Charlestown Courier.

Darien, Georgia.

EXTRACT from the Statistical Annals of the United States of America, by Dr. Seybert, a Member of the House of Representatives, &c.; 1818.

"In 1789, a member from South Carolina stated in the House of Representatives of the United States, that the people of the Southern States intended to cultivate cotton; and added, 'if good seed could be procured he hoped they might succeed.'" (p. 84.) "In 1790 the growth of American cotton-wool was problematical. The extent to which the production of this raw material has been subsequently carried enriched the nation, and very much contributed to lessen the demand for slaves. Prior to 1790, the Dutch settlement in Surinam, and other parts of the West-Indies, were considered as the countries from which the manufactories in the United States might be supplied with cotton wool. In 1791 the first parcel of cotton of American growth was exported from the United States, and amounted only to 19,200 lbs!" p. 92.

1868. Can you state the year in which cotton was first imported into this country from India and from America, respectively?—Indian cotton was first imported into England in 1790, and United States cotton in 1791.

1869. Can you state the quantity of American cotton exported annually?—The total quantity in 1827 was 294,310,115 lbs., and the value 29,359,545 Spanish dollars, or £6,330,651.

1870. What

1870. What is the amount of cotton now imported from India?—The total export from all India in the year 1827 was 68,411,015 lbs., the value of which at 25s. per maund of 80 lbs., would be £1,068,922; so that the importation of the American cotton has increased from about 19,000 lbs., to 294,000,000 lbs., and the increase in the Indian cotton is but 68,000,000 lbs.

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1871. Are you of opinion, that supposing the same capital and skill had been employed in the cultivation of cotton in India as was employed in the United States, that a similar increase in the exportation of Indian cotton might have taken place?—Not to the same degree. I do not contemplate that there ever should exist so active a spirit of industry in India under any circumstances as in the United States, but to a great degree.

1872. Have you any statement of Mr. Colebrook with respect to the cultivation of cotton in the lower parts of India?—I consulted Mr. Colebrook respecting the Dacca cotton, and had an opportunity of perusing the manuscripts of the late Dr. Roxburgh, which contain an account of the Dacca cotton: he calls it a variety of the common herbaceous annual cotton of India, and states that it is longer in the staple, and affords the material from which the Dacca muslins have been always made. I have some documents respecting certain experiments for the cultivation of a good kind of cotton in Bengal. They consist of a communication from a gentleman in India to a house in Liverpool, transmitting samples of cotton cultivated by himself, with the report of the brokers upon those samples.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which were read as follows:]

To James Cropper, Esq., Liverpool.

DEAR SIR:

Not questioning but that, at the present crisis, every thing which tends to prove the capability of India to produce abundantly many of the commodities which we now import from other countries must be interesting to you, and to the merchants of Liverpool generally, I do myself the pleasure of forwarding to you two samples of cotton the field-growth of my estate here (about forty miles north-east of Calcutta), where it thrives so luxuriantly as frequently to oblige me to root it up. There can be no question but that it might be produced to any extent over a vast tract of country, and to considerable advantage; to judge from its very great productiveness. There is, I think, no fear of its degeneration, for I have now cultivated it for some years; a comparison with the first year's sample indicating rather an improvement in the opinion of the best judge of the article in Calcutta, himself a professional spinner. The Nankin colonial cotton is by no means so productive as the Bourbon. An intelligent Chinese informs me it requires oil-cake to become so. My object in forwarding the specimens is further to obtain valuations of them as compared with other cottons. As a guide for future speculations, should the article promise to answer, and both as foreign secretary to the Agricultural Society of Calcutta, and individually, I shall be happy to correspond with you, or with any of your commercial friends, on subjects connected with what I trust I may term our mutual interests. Specimens of cottons with their values, as compared with those now sent, models or drawings of the best American gins, &c. will be highly useful to us here.

You

15 March 1831. You are at full liberty to make use of this communication, and of my name, in any way you may please; and with my best wishes for the success of your endeavours, Pray believe me your's, very truly,

J. Crawford, Esq. HENRY PIDDINGTON,
Foreign Secy Agt and Hon^{ble} Socy of Calcutta,
Care of Messrs. Mackintosh and Co., Calcutta.

Nuintollah, 15th August 1829.

WE the undersigned cotton-brokers having been requested by Cropper, Benson and Co., merchants of Liverpool; to examine and value a sample of cotton received by them from Calcutta, and grown in its vicinity, do give it as our decided opinion that it is a very useful description of cotton, clean, and fair in colour and staple, and that it would now meet with a ready sale in this market at 6½d. per pound, whilst the average quality of other East-India cotton, commonly sold under the denominations of Surat and Bengal, is not worth more than 5d. per pound; and that of nine-tenths of the cotton grown in the United States of America is of the value of 6½d. per pound.

Liverpool, 6 mo. (June), 23d, 1830.

ISAAC COOKE. RICHARD TESLEY.
RICHARD BATESON. JAMES RYLEY, JUN.
ALFRED WATERHOUSE. WILLIAM MYERS.
COLIN CAMPBELL.

1873. Is there any cotton cultivated by Europeans in Bengal?—None, except as an experiment. There is now under cultivation some Sea Island or other American long-staple cotton in the island of Saugur.

1874. What is there to prevent them from cultivating cotton as they cultivate indigo in the same provinces where cotton is grown?—There are a great many circumstances which prevent it. The province of Bengal itself is unfit generally for the cultivation of cotton; that province affords no cotton for exportation; their cotton requires great skill and great attention; it requires great skill also in separating the seed from the wool; it is extremely liable to depredation; a whole cotton-field might be plucked in the course of a night in a country where there are no fences, and little protection from such depredations.

1875. Can you state the amount of cotton consumed at the present moment in the United Kingdom within any given period?—Fifteen thousand bales a week was the quantity consumed at Liverpool last year.

1876. Was there not a period very recently at which the stock was reduced to a very low ebb?—Yes; a merchant of Liverpool informed me that in the year 1815 the whole stock of cotton in the market, good, bad, and damaged, amounted to no more than 4,000 bales.

1877. Is not the consumption of cotton in this country increasing with great rapidity?—Yes, with extraordinary rapidity.

1878. Do you not conceive that it is necessary that some new source of supply should be opened for the cotton required?—Yes; I think we ought to be rendered, in a good measure, independent of a foreign country. The existence

existence of the manufacture at present depends almost entirely upon the supply of the article from the United States of America. 15 March 1831.

1879. Do you think, if all restrictions were removed, that Europeans would cultivate cotton advantageously in India?—It is very difficult to say to what objects capital would be applied under such circumstances, whether to cotton or other articles, but that capital would be extensively applied I have no doubt; and I think it very likely it would early be applied to the cultivation of cotton, considering the attempts that have been made to grow it, even under the present discouraging circumstances.

1880. Can you give the Committee any information with regard to the growth of the mulberry-tree in India?—As it is of importance that the exact species of the mulberry cultivated in India should be known, I consulted two very able botanists upon the subject, Mr. Henry Colebrook, who is intimately acquainted with India, and a man of great eminence, and Dr. Wallich, one of the first botanists that has ever been in India, and they tell me that there are three species of mulberry cultivated in India; the white mulberry, which is used for feeding silk-worms in Europe; the dark-purple mulberry, which is used for the same purpose in China; and the Indian mulberry, botanically a distinct species from the first two. It is this last alone which is ever used for feeding silk-worms in India.

1881. Is the mulberry largely cultivated in India?—For the purpose of feeding silk-worms it is confined entirely to Bengal Proper.

1882. Do you conceive it to be capable of considerable increase?—It has been increasing: it has never been tried, that I am aware of, in any of the northern provinces of India.

1883. Has the situation of the indigo planters, and the cultivation of indigo in India, attracted your attention?—Yes, a great deal.

1884. Are you aware that in the year 1829 certain enquiries were sent out from this country by the Court of Directors, as to the state of the indigo planters, and their relations with the natives and with the government?—It was so reported in Calcutta, and the report was credited there: I have no authentic means of knowing that it really was so.

1885. Are not the indigo plantations carried on principally by means of capital advanced by the inhabitants of Calcutta?—Carried on generally by the houses of agency, banking-houses, and merchants of Calcutta. But that is by no means always the case: there are men of large property in this country who are indigo planters; there are also indigo planters on this spot who are men of independent property.

1886. Are not the men in this country to whom you allude men who have come from that country?—Either they or their heirs.

1887. In consequence of the report which you state to have been current at Calcutta, that orders had gone out to investigate the relations subsisting between the indigo planters and the government and the natives, did the inhabitants of Calcutta also make similar inquiries?—Yes; the merchants of Calcutta

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15 March 1831. Calcutta addressed queries to the indigo planters, and the replies to those queries have been transmitted to me, and I now have them here, and will beg leave to offer them in evidence to the Committee.

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1888. Were those queries addressed to a great number of persons?—I suppose they were addressed to all the indigo planters; but I can only state, with respect to the replies which have been transmitted to me. I think they amount to about thirty-seven. I have made copies of some of them. I beg leave to state, before offering these documents to the Committee, that I am not authorized to give the names of the parties, nor of the districts in which they reside.

1889. Are you aware of the limits within which the indigo manufacture is carried on in India?—I think I may state generally that the cultivation of indigo is conducted from Dacca up to Delhi; indeed from the latitude of about twenty-two degrees up to about twenty-eight or twenty-nine.

1890. Can you state the average quantity annually produced for exportation?—About nine millions of pounds.

1891. Can you state what is the amount paid by British-born subjects at the places of production for rent and labour?—It is stated in one of the letters to amount to £1,680,000 sterling.

1892. Are you aware what proportion that bears to the rack-rent, or land-tax, of the whole ancient possessions of the Company thirty-eight years ago?—It is about one-half the whole rack-rent or land-tax that ruined three-fourths of the proprietors within a few years after it was established, and which tax, notwithstanding, is the best measure that I know of that the British Government has ever pursued in India.

1893. Do you know what is the value of the indigo which comes to Calcutta?—It is estimated at £2,400,000 on its arrival at Calcutta.

1894. What price does it realize in Europe?—According to estimates which I have seen, about £3,600,000.

1895. What is the effect upon the condition of the people of introducing the culture of indigo?—It has increased the rent of the land very greatly; it has raised the price of labour, and of course therefore improved the condition of the people.

1896. How does that improvement show itself?—By their being better housed and better clad.

1897. Have you resided at any time in any of those indigo districts?—I have stated that I have resided in the northern parts of India where indigo is cultivated; but it is a long while ago, and I have no distinct recollection of the culture. I am only giving the Committee the substance of the communications to which I have alluded, the letters themselves not being admitted as evidence.

1898. Have you taken pains to ascertain the state of the cultivation and manufacture of indigo in the East-Indies?—Yes, I have.

1899. Have

1899. Have you received a great number of letters upon the subject from those actually engaged in that cultivation?—Indirectly from those engaged in the cultivation, transmitted to me by their agents, bankers, and constituents in Calcutta.

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1900. Can you state any facts to the Committee, as to the progressive rise of labour and rent in consequence of the indigo cultivation in any particular district?—I am informed that in one district, which I believe to be the district of Tirhoot, the rent of land had risen from 2s. 8½d. and 3s. 3d. per English statute acre, to 4s. 7½d., and 7s. 6d.; and I think I may safely state, that in all the indigo districts there has been a rise of at least fifty per cent. in the price of labour; and with respect to rents in some districts they have risen fourfold, and very generally they have been doubled, since the first introduction of the indigo culture. The district to which I allude, in which they have been quadrupled, is Tirhoot.

1901. Can you state any facts as to the number of people employed in any district?—I cannot state the actual number employed in any entire district; I can state the number employed at particular factories.

1902. Was the land now employed in the cultivation of indigo under culture previously to the introduction of indigo?—I suppose in many cases it was. In the lower parts of Bengal the land used for indigo consists for the most part of sand-banks, produced by changes in the course of the great rivers, and on such land there were grown inferior crops, giving very low rents; they were fit only for such inferior crops as pulses and maize, and other low grains.

1903. Does the cultivation of indigo occupy a greater number of persons than the cultivation with which the land was previously occupied?—I cannot speak distinctly to that point; but in consequence of the augmented rents of those lands, there has been a necessity for clearing additional ones, and there has been a vast augmentation in the cultivation and clearing of the country in consequence of the indigo cultivation; consequently an increased population.

1904. What has been the effect of the introduction of indigo culture on the revenue?—I shall state it with respect to two districts. I understand that the original land-assessment and rack-rent of the district of Nuddea was ten lacks of rupees a year, or £100,000; the amount now annually laid out in rent and labour by the indigo planters, is three times that amount, or £300,000 sterling. In Tirhoot, a very great indigo district, the annual outlay of the indigo planters for rent and labour equals the whole original rack-rent of the year 1793 under Lord Cornwallis's permanent settlement, being £200,000 sterling.

1905. Has the introduction of indigo given any facilities to the Government for the collection of their revenue?—Very great, according to all the accounts I have heard. I think it almost impossible that it should not have

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done

15 March 1831. done so, considering that the indigo planter annually lays out on the spot, in rent and labour alone, a sum equivalent to the original rack-rent of Bengal and Bahar; which rack-rent was estimated about the year 1793, when the permanent settlement was made, at ten-elevenths of the rent of land, which rent of land was reckoned most commonly at about one-half the gross produce of the soil.

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1906. What do you mean by rack-rent?—Every thing that could be got and taken; the rent taken in the shape of land-tax by the Government, which ruined three-fourths of the proprietors of the soil in the course of four or five years. The Committee will probably allow me to explain, that with respect to the land-tax of India generally, the system of husbandry which prevails there is the Metayer system, the cultivator taking one-half and giving one-half to the proprietor. For the most part, both the Mahomedan government, and the British government after it, have taken the proprietor's share. That, I conceive, is generally a pretty accurate statement of the nature of the land-revenue of India throughout. It is, however, prodigiously modified in the old provinces of Bengal, in consequence of the permanent settlement of Lord Cornwallis, where a real property in the soil has been created, and where lands sell at sixteen or seventeen years' purchase; but no such thing as this prevails in any other part of India, where the land-tax is almost universally variable.

1907. Are the indigo planters men of influence in their neighbourhood?—They possess that sort of influence which property gives everywhere. I know no other influence they possess.

1908. Can you state any inconveniences or obstacles to which the cultivation of indigo and of other commodities in India is subjected?—Yes, a great many; the prohibition to hold lands, of course; the power vested in the government of transmitting or deporting parties at pleasure; the state of the administration of justice, and the condition of the police, are a few.

1909. Have you had any opportunity of forming an opinion as to the effect of the colonization of India?—I have been of opinion, for the last twenty years of my life, that it is necessary to the good government of India, to the stability of the British power, and to the improvement of the country generally.

1910. Will you state what you mean by the term colonization, particularly as to the class of persons that you would wish to see there?—Any one that chooses to go there, provided the laws are sufficiently good, equal to all parties; that no difference or distinction be made between persons, black or white or brown.

1911. What class of persons do you think would avail themselves of the permission?—Generally speaking, I think persons of some property, and artisans.

1912. Do you apprehend that labourers would go out from this country to settle in India?—I think certainly not to any extent; but a labourer in this country

country, if of any intelligence, would soon become something better than a labourer there.

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1913. What obstacles would present themselves to men in the condition of labourers going out to India?—The market for ordinary labour being already stocked, in a good measure so, at least; the climate not admitting the performance of ordinary day, or at least of field-labour; and the expense of the voyage.

1914. Has the condition of the Anglo-Indians in India come under your personal observation?—A good deal; I have been personally acquainted with some of the most respectable of them.

1915. Can you suggest any alteration in the mode of treatment with respect to them which would be advantageous to the country?—I am of opinion that they ought to be admitted to every privilege of British-born subjects; that every situation ought to be as open to them as to British-born subjects, or to natives of the country; in short, my opinion is that all classes ought to be put upon an equality, whether natives of the country, Anglo-Indians, or Europeans, being subjects of the crown.

1916. Do you mean that both natives and Europeans should be placed under the same system of law?—Yes, provided the law be good.

1917. And all admitted to the same privileges and employment?—Exactly so.

1918. Are the Anglo-Indians an intelligent and docile race of people, or otherwise?—Their intelligence is in proportion to the education they have received. I have known individuals among them equal to any European whatever. I beg to name two individuals, Mr. Kidd, the master ship-builder of the Company at Calcutta, and Colonel Skinner. There are many other individuals; but these two I can personally speak to, because I have known them well.

1919. Have you had an opportunity of ascertaining the opinions and wishes of the European and other inhabitants of Calcutta on the subject of free trade and colonization?—I think the best opportunities: they have petitioned Parliament for an extension of their privileges three times within the last three years and a half.

1920. Is there any native party in Calcutta hostile to the extension of the privilege?—Yes, there is.

1921. Is that a numerous party?—I cannot judge of their numbers; but I beg to say that it is the same party that is hostile to enlightened improvement of every kind; for example, it is that party that is at this moment sending home an agent to this country to petition Parliament for the repeal of Lord William Bentinck's regulation, or law, abolishing the suttee, or burning of widows. The same agent, I believe, has the charge of two petitions, one praying that Europeans shall not be allowed to colonize in India, and the other

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1922. Have you been able to form any comparison of the wealth, prosperity, and tranquillity of those parts of India where a great number of Europeans are settled with those where there are few?—I think I have never heard of any insurrections or disturbances in any part of the country where many Europeans have been settled. I apply that observation to India, and I apply it also to the island of Java, with which I was at one time very intimately acquainted from a residence of between five and six years there.

1923. Are the European settlers an orderly and well-regulated set of people generally?—I think, generally speaking, they are as much so as can be expected under a system of laws very imperfectly administered, and with comparatively very little protection to property.

1924. What do you consider to be the worst class of Europeans in India?—Necessarily and naturally the worst class are people that have got there clandestinely, such as deserters from ships, and others; convicts from New South Wales, &c. &c. I have known of a good many cases of the latter class.

1925. Is it your opinion that free adventurers to India would be a respectable class, supposing colonization were permitted?—I think a good class generally would go there; but their continuing respectable, or being otherwise, would depend upon the administration of justice and the state of society in the country to which they resorted.

1926. Are those native petitioners against free trade in India a wealthy set of people?—I cannot speak distinctly to that point, but I suppose there are many wealthy people amongst them.

1927. Do you suppose their objections arise from a feeling of jealousy to the employment of British capital interfering with their own capital?—I think, generally speaking, from all I understand, their objections apply to innovation of any sort.

1928. Not from any feeling of dislike to the English Government?—Not that I am aware of.

1929. Would you propose to allow colonization, without giving the Company or the Government of India any power to send colonists home?—Most certainly. I should propose to grant to the local government all legal power, but no other.

1930. What conditions would you lay down as such to justify the sending away any European from India?—I would not permit the government to send Europeans out of the country under any circumstance. It is an arbitrary power, that is destructive of all enterprise and security. No man can sit down quietly, as long as he has risks before him of being sent off even without a reason assigned. Such a power has the necessary effect of making

Europeans

Europeans in India the enemies of the existing government, under whatever name it may be exercised.

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1931. Do you apprehend that the number of colonists might increase, so as under any circumstances to become a source of danger to the permanency of the British government in India?—No; on the contrary, I think they would add greatly to the strength of the British Government of India: and I beg leave here to quote, for I have authority for doing so, the opinion of Mr. Henry Colebrook, once a member of the Supreme Government, and a man very eminent. I had an interview with him the day before yesterday, and he authorized me to state, that forty years ago he advocated the settlement of British-born subjects in India, considering it a safe measure, and that he adheres to that opinion now. Mr. Colebrook, I am sorry to say, is in such health as not to be able to attend this Committee.

1932. Do you attribute any of the existing defects of Government in India to the exclusion of colonists?—Yes; I think the law would be more cheaply and better administered, and the police of the country would be better, if there was an intelligent class of British proprietors and settlers in the provinces.

1933. If colonists had been admitted, do you conceive the present state of India would be different to what it is now?—I think it would be a better ordered country, and a wealthier country.

1934. Would it have been more easy to have carried into effect the different plans that have been attempted for the improvement of it?—All the good plans. It would have been more difficult to carry bad plans into effect; it would not be so easy to inflict very heavy taxation of course.

1935. Would the various plans that have been set on foot for improving the management of the revenue and the administration of justice, and other improvements, in your opinion, have been more effectually secured if the Government had had the assistance of a large body of colonists?—Yes. I will not say a large body, because I think such a body never would have gone there; but I have no doubt the administration of Government, justice and police, would have been more effectually carried on with the assistance of such a body of men.

1936. Would the improvement of the soil and of the manufactures also have been promoted?—No doubt.

1937. Is the Committee to understand that you conceive that unlimited access to India could co-exist with the present form and system of the administration of the Government in India; or do you contemplate, in that case, a material change in the form and system of the Government of India?—I think it might co-exist with the existing form of Government in India.

1938. Would it be necessary to alter the state of the law with regard to

Europeans

15 March 1831. Europeans in respect to the law-suits with the natives?—Yes; it would be necessary that the same laws should be administered to all parties.
J. Crawford, Esq.

1939. How is the case at present?—In the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, there is an administration of English law, the Hindoos and Mahomedans respectively having their own law of inheritance. In the provinces there is a superstructure of the Company's regulations upon the Mahomedan and Hindoo law, the Hindoo and Mahomedan law of inheritance with respect to those parties being generally observed. The criminal law is the Mahomedan law modified by the Company's regulations.

1940. Are the Europeans subject to this law in the provinces?—They are not; their case is provided for by Acts of Parliament.

1941. You resided at Singapore some time?—I did.

1942. Were Europeans allowed freely to establish themselves there?—When I was charged with the administration of Singapore it did not form by law an integral portion of the British territory in India; it was held as a sort of political dependency. The consequence of that was, that any body might come that pleased; and they did come in any numbers, and I never asked any questions about them. I do not recollect that amongst all the settlers that were at Singapore there were more than two persons that had licenses from the East-India Company.

1943. Did any difficulties arise to the Government in consequence of that free access?—I think not. It may be safely said that the Government owed a great deal to the British settlers at Singapore; if it had not been for the assistance given by them it would indeed have been impossible to carry on the administration of the place. There were twelve or fourteen thousand inhabitants of all sorts, Chinese, Arabs, Malays, Hindoos, and Mahomedans.

1944. By what laws were they governed?—In my time there was no law at all. I asked for authority from the Supreme Government, and found it could not be given. I was obliged to act for the best, and to the best of my judgment, as if I were vested with legal powers, but I never possessed any.

1945. What year did you go out to India?—In 1803.

1946. In the medical service?—Yes.

1947. How long were you employed in the medical service exclusively?—I think about eight years.

1948. Did you reside at that time in the interior of India?—Five years in the northern provinces of India, and three years in Prince of Wales Island.

1949. Were you then limited to the exercise of your own profession?—Exclusively, and to the study of the Eastern languages, which I paid attention to from a very early period.

1950. With

1950. With the exception of those five years in your early life, did you ever reside in India?—I resided afterwards about a twelvemonth in Calcutta.
J. Crawford, Esq.

Jovis, 17^o die Martii 1831.

Mr. JOSHUA SAUNDERS called in, and examined.

1951. You have been in India?—I have.
17 March 1831.

1952. How long have you resided in India?—More than five years.
Mr. J. Saunders.

1953. At what period?—From July 1824 till February 1830.

1954. When did you return to England?—In July last.

1955. You were employed in the silk trade?—I was employed in that trade.

1956. Had you any instructions in the silk trade before you proceeded to India?—I had.

1957. What was your object in going to India?—Merely to purchase raw silk for the London market.

1958. Are you acquainted with the districts where the Company's silk is raised?—I am.

1959. Can you state what number of filatures they have?—Eleven or twelve, I believe.

1960. In what district?—In several districts.

1961. Will you enumerate them?—Radnagore, Hurripaul, Santipore, Cossimbuzar, Bauleah, Comercolly, Sardah, Jungypore, Mauldhah, Rangpore, Sunnamukhi, and Gonatea.

1962. In what part of India are those districts?—Between the latitudes of 22 and 26, and the longitude of 86 to 90.

1963. Is that in the provinces of Bengal and Orissa?—It is.

1964. Is any silk produced in the Upper Provinces?—Not that I am aware of.

1965. Have you visited several of the districts you have mentioned?—I have.

1966. Did you, in the course of your travels, make any observation upon the culture of the mulberry?—I have, in passing through the silk districts. The mode adopted is by cultivating the mulberry from small strips instead of the large tree; it is cultivated in beds.

1967. Is it the same species of mulberry that is cultivated in Italy?—No; I believe it is altogether a distinct species.

1968. Are

- 17 March 1831. Mr. J. Saunders.
1968. Are there not two species of worm?—There are; viz. the decee, or country worm, and the annual.
1969. Is the latter the same as the Italian?—I believe it was brought either from Italy or China.
1970. Do you conceive the produce of the Italian worm to be better than that of the country worm?—Yes, in quality.
1971. Do you know how long that has been introduced into India?—Not exactly; I think some years.
1972. Is there not a wild silk?—There is; it grows on the north-east frontier.
1973. What use do they make of it?—It is wound and made into cloth for domestic use.
1974. Has it been exported?—It has been sent to this country in a manufactured state, a few pieces for curiosity; also samples in the raw state have been sent to this country, but it has not yet been considered worth the attention of the merchant. I have a sample of the pods with me.
1975. Is it very inferior to the cultivated species?—Very much so.
1976. Is the cultivation of the mulberry and the production of the cocoons confined to the natives?—Totally, or with a very few exceptions.
1977. Are they generally raised by the same parties, the mulberry and the cocoons?—Sometimes they are, but generally by distinct parties.
1978. Are you aware whether the Company make advances to the parties supplying the cocoons?—I have always understood that they do make advances.
1979. How are the prices settled at which the cocoons are delivered?—Generally subsequent to the delivery of the silk or cocoons.
1980. Do the parties who supply them know at the time they supply them what price they are to receive for them?—Generally they do not.
1981. For what market is the Company's investment generally purchased?—For the European market.
1982. Where are the cocoons purchased by the Company reeled?—Generally at their own filatures.
1983. By whom is that operation performed?—By natives.
1984. Besides the principal filatures, are there any out-factories?—In some districts there are out-factories, and I understand that they are from ten to twenty miles distant from the main factory.
1985. Are not the silk districts divided into circles?—They have been since 1827.
1986. Do the Company give the same price for the cocoons in each circle, whatever the quality may be?—I believe they do.
1987. Where

1987. Where do you reckon the best silk to be produced?—Gonatea, at present, is one of the best districts. 17 March 1831.
1988. Which do you consider the most inferior?—Bauleah. Mr. J. Saunders
1989. Do you know whether the same price is given for the silk produced in the best and in the inferior districts?—Only one price is given within each circle; and I believe Bauleah, Sardah, and Jungypore, are in the same circle.
1990. What do you conceive to be the quality of the silk produced in Sardah and Jungypore, as compared with that at Bauleah?—I should think that Bauleah is inferior to the Sardah and Jungypore, at least two rupees a seer.
1991. Is the Italian machinery used in the Company's filatures?—It is on the Italian principle.
1992. Is the machinery complex or simple?—Very simple indeed.
1993. Where is it made?—That which is used by the Company is made at their silk factories.
1994. Have the natives adopted the Italian mode of reeling?—They have adopted for filature silk the same reeling as that which is used at the Company's factories.
1995. Do they not continue the old mode of reeling?—For the manufacture of piece-goods they reel the silk differently, into putney silk, which is quite different from filature silk.
1996. Is the native mode of reeling by the hand?—It is.
1997. Is any of the silk that is produced by the natives purchased by the Company?—Yes, frequently in some districts.
1998. Are you aware whether any British-born subjects are at the present moment engaged in growing the mulberry, in rearing worms, or in reeling silk?—I know a Mr. Watson, and two or three persons, who have made experiments; but, at the present time, the only person I know is Mr. Watson, who is engaged in the produce of silk.
1999. Has Mr. Watson considerable filatures?—He had considerable filatures in the midst of the Bauleah, Sardah, and Comercolly districts.
2000. Do you know the reason why he has discontinued them?—From the encroachments of the Company in building factories close by his, and by that means preventing his carrying on his factories profitably.
2001. In what way did they encroach upon him?—Having established a factory, the Company built others near to his, by which they took the whole of the cocoons, and the produce of the district around him.
2002. Did the Company's agents use their authority in order to produce that result?—That I am not aware of.
2003. Was Mr. Watson in the habit of making advances to the producers of the cocoons?—I cannot answer that question decidedly.
2004. What

17 March 1831.

Mr. J. Saunders.

2004. What is the amount of Mr. Watson's production at the present moment?—At the present moment it is only a few bales.

2005. Does he reside in the place?—Yes, he resides in the neighbourhood of Ferridpore.

2006. Do you consider that Mr. Watson's silk was equal to that produced by the Company?—I consider it equal to the average quality of the Company's investments.

2007. Are you aware whether Mr. Watson introduced any process by steam for winding the silk?—I believe he was one of the first to introduce the process of winding by steam, which is now introduced at the Company's factories at Comercolly and Sardah.

2008. Is the attention of the natives engaged in the production of the silk directed more to the quantity or to the quality of the article they produce?—More to the quantity.

2009. Can you state the cause of the inferiority of the private or native silk to that of the Company?—Merely from quantity being their object, in consequence of the great demand for silk by the private trade. A certain portion of material, if wound into superior silk, will not produce the same quantity as if wound into inferior.

2010. Does not the silk vary considerably in quality according to the season in which it is produced?—It does; the best silk is manufactured in the dry and cold seasons.

2011. Upon what is it that the quality of the silk chiefly depends?—The quality of the silk chiefly depends upon the reeling of it.

2012. Do you consider Radnagore to be as congenial in soil and climate to the production of silk as the other districts, or not?—I think it is less so than the more northern districts.

2013. Were not the native growers and producers of silk, who had received advances from the Company previous to 1827, prohibited from selling their produce to other parties?—Yes; men under advance from the Company were prohibited from selling either silk or cocoons but to the Company's factory from which they had received the advance.

2014. Was that the case where the advance was very small?—I believe it was the general rule.

2015. Do you happen to know practically how the advance was made; were any means taken by the person making the advance in some measure to force it?—Cases have been known where natives have refused to take an advance. I know one case where a native refused to take an advance from the Company, and money was thrown into his house, and he was forced in consequence to consider himself as under advance to the Company. This was represented to me by a native.

2016. At what time was that?—That was in 1825 or 1826.

2017. Will

2017. Will you give the name of the party?—I do not know whether I can give the name of the native, but I assert it as a fact which was represented to me by a native of the district of Radnagore.

2018. Was he a respectable man?—He was as respectable as the generality of the men who receive advances from the Company.

2019. Is it the practice of the Company's residents always to keep the silk growers under advance?—I believe it is.

2020. Was not this practice annulled by an order from England in 1829?—It took effect in 1829; a local order placing the merchants on a footing with the Company.

2021. Has this order had the desired effect in completely establishing an equality?—Not altogether.

2022. Can you state in what way that effect is prevented?—Since the order of 1829, I requested a native merchant, who was in the habit of supplying me with silk from the Bauleah district, and whose relations reside in the Comercolly district, to try and procure me silk from the Comercolly district, and he told me in reply, that it was quite impossible for him to attempt it, being too much in awe of the Company to allow of his undertaking to supply me, a small factory of his having been once burnt, which he had established in the Comercolly district; and he gave me to understand that it was burnt from the interference of the Company, by the Company's peons.

2023. Was there not an European sent to the Radnagore district by Messrs. Palmer, for the purpose of collecting silk, in 1823 and 1824?—Yes; a gentleman was sent down by Messrs. Palmer and Co. to collect silk in that district, and he established a small factory for the purpose of making experiments in reeling a small quantity of silk. This factory was forcibly entered by peons belonging to the Company, who cut the silk from the reels and threatened to destroy it by fire, when the gentlemen in charge of the factory rescued it by forcing the peons out with sticks and staves.

2024. Was any representation made to the Government upon that occasion?—It was represented in the strongest possible terms to the Company by Palmer & Co., and I believe that no answer was given, and no notice taken of the application whatever.

2025. Do you know any other individuals, who have attempted to establish filatures in the silk districts, who were compelled to abandon the undertaking?—Yes, Mr. Gonger, and two other gentlemen, whose names I have forgotten.

2026. What are the districts that are peculiarly subject to the Company's monopoly?—Comercolly is one, Jungypore, Mauldhah, Sardah, and several others.

2027. Do you conceive that in the districts so subjected to the Company's monopoly

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17 March 1831. monopoly the private trader would be enabled to purchase silk?—Not at present, certainly.

Mr. J. Saunders. 2028. In what districts is it that this monopoly has been to a great degree broken through?—Chiefly in Bauleah, Hurripaul, Radnagore, and Cossimbuzar.

2029. When you first went out to Cossimbuzar did you find the monopoly a close one?—It was almost a close one, there was only a little silk to be procured in that district; but since I arrived in India it has become considerably more open than it was to the private trader, very much by my own means.

2030. How are the Company's residents paid upon their purchases of silk?—I believe by a commission on the quantity supplied.

2031. By whom is the price of the silk fixed that is purchased by the Company?—The districts are divided into circles, and the resident at the head of each circle, previous to the bund or season when the silk is produced, sends a circular round to the other residents in his circle, and they agree upon a price, which is afterwards confirmed or not by the Board of Trade.

2032. How long is it after this agreement as to the price that the producer is informed of it?—As soon as possible, but generally the delay is considerable.

2033. Do you not conceive that the fixing the price after the production has been given in, considerably interferes with the free trade that would otherwise be carried on?—Certainly it does.

2034. Can an individual who is engaged in purchasing silk for the free trade know with any degree of certainty what the result of his speculation would be?—I have always, in purchasing silk from the district of Cossimbuzar, been obliged to make my purchases altogether dependent upon the price paid by the Company, and therefore have been completely ignorant as to what the price would be until after the Company had fixed their price.

2035. Are the Company's residents allowed to purchase silk on their own account, or to act as agents for others?—Yes; after they have supplied the quantity required by the Company.

2036. Have you ever so employed them?—I have.

2037. What commission do they charge?—I cannot speak positively to the amount of the commission paid by the Company, but I believe it is two and a half per cent. In the case of private individuals it is an agreement between the parties.

2038. Was there a rise in the price of silk from the year 1814 to the year 1827?—Yes; a gradual rise, and a very considerable one.

2039. Did

2039. Did the produce from India increase consequently upon that rise?—Not in proportion to the rise of price. 17 March 1831.

2040. Supposing the trade had been free, do you conceive that increase would have kept pace in some measure with the rise of price?—I think it certainly would. Mr. J. Saunders.

2041. Has there been a rise in the rent of land and the wages of labour consequent upon the increased price of the silk?—Mulberry land has risen in rent; but land, generally speaking, has risen little or nothing.

2042. Do you conceive that the Zemindars are interested in maintaining the monopoly?—Certainly, so far as that by upholding the Company's system they are enabled to let their land at a higher rate, in consequence of the increased prices given by the Company for silk.

2043. Do you conceive that the actual producer is benefited to the full extent of the enhanced price for silk; for instance, the native who supplies the cocoons?—No; I do not think he makes more profit by rearing his cocoons than he did when the silk was at a much lower price than it is now; I mean, not in proportion to the price that silk bears at the present time.

2044. Does that arise from the mode in which the price of silk is fixed?—It is dependent altogether upon the system by which silk is reared. I conceive that, upon a different system, silk would be produced at a much lower price, and that the rearer of the cocoon would be as well paid.

2045. Were not orders issued in the year 1827 to reduce the price that the Company paid for silk?—Yes, orders were received by the Board of Trade in Calcutta, for that purpose.

2046. Has that reduction taken place accordingly?—Not to the full extent, but some reduction has taken place.

2047. Was that the period when the silk districts were divided into circles?—It was.

2048. Can you state the reason why that division into circles took place?—In consequence of the competition between the residents at the different factories to obtain the greater quantity of silk.

2049. Have you any document which would illustrate this subject?—I have a copy of a circular which was issued by the Board of Trade in Calcutta, in 1827, to all the residents in the silk districts; and in consequence of this circular the division into circles took place.

2050. From whom did you obtain this?—I beg leave to decline to answer that question.

[The same was delivered in, and read as follows:]

(Circular,

17 March 1831.

Mr. J. Saunders.

(Circular, No. 186.)

To: _____ Esq. Resident at _____.

SIR:—

It is with great regret that we have witnessed during some years past the increased and increasing price paid for raw silk provided at your factory. Our injunctions have been constant and uniform, that these prices should be reduced, risen as they have done progressively to a height which the occasional unproductiveness of bunds, and the actual state of the market, do not warrant; and this has occurred at a time too when the selling rates of the article at home have gone on to decrease, until a very great and ruinous depression has been experienced, as appears from the letter dated 9th August 1826, from the Honourable Court of Directors. The profit and loss account on the March sale of 1826 shows a loss on that sale to the large amount of £30,252, thereby reducing the out-turn of the invoice to 1s. 8d., 7d. per sicca rupee.

2d. It is now high time that the residents should make a general, united, and vigorous stand against the evil which has occurred, so as to bring back the price of raw silk to the level at which it stood in the years 1815-16, or to the annual average rate of about 10 r. 8 a. per seer, comprehending the cocoon cost of the silk, and the charges of winding it. The Honourable Court, in their commercial general letter dated 19th March 1822, give the following statement of the invoice cost and charges per bale of Bengal filature silk for the previous seven years, viz.

	S. Rupees.		s.	a.	p.
1815	838	per bale	10	7	7
1816	840	—	11	12	0
1817	941	—	11	12	0
1818	983	—	12	4	7
1819	1,046	—	13	1	2
1820	1,100	—	13	12	0
1821	1,178	—	14	11	6

Being per seer of silk, in 1815, at the rate of 10 r. 7 a. 7 p.; and in 1821, 14 r. 11 a. 7 p. per seer; an increase having taken place between the two periods of 4 r. 4 a. per seer.

3. We have caused a similar statement, in continuation, to be drawn up, of the average costs and charges per bale of filature silk consigned to England, from the year 1822 to 1826, both inclusive, by which the following result is exhibited:

	S. Rupees.		s.	a.	p.
1822	1,165	per bale	14	8	0
1823	1,162	—	14	8	0
1824	1,164	—	14	8	0
1825	1,207	—	15	1	4
1826	1,153½	—	14	6	6

4th. The Honourable Court, in their letter of the 17th May 1826, paragraph 22d, intimated their confident expectation that a considerable, and they trust a permanent, diminution in the cost of the silk will ensue, as a consequence of the extended cultivation of the mulberry; and as conducive to such reduction in the cost of the article, they observe in the next paragraph, "We trust that the absolute extinction of competition among the residents, by each confining purchases strictly within his own boundary, has by this time been fully effected." We should be glad to have been able to afford complete confirmation to the Honourable Court of the above-mentioned

tioned just expectation, but that a late representation of encroachment on his aurings, made by one of the residents against his neighbour, and which has not been satisfactorily refuted, forbids us from doing so. That every resident should strictly confine himself within his own limits, and scrupulously abstain from trespassing on the resources of his neighbour, is so primary and palpable an obligation of duty, and its infringement evinces so much disregard to the interests of the Honourable Company, that we are determined to bring any future instance of disobedience in this respect, but which we hope may not occur, to the special notice of Government.

5th. The next and most important duty of a commercial resident is to confine the rates paid for cocoons and silk to what will afford a reasonable profit, and no more, to the ryots, who rear the cocoons, and to the peons who vend them; that such rates have been greatly exceeded of late years we have abundant reason to believe; and that a speedy stop should be put to this practice, the discontinuance of competition in this market, in consequence of a ruinous market in Europe, manifestly invites to.

6th. From the statement contained in paragraph 3 of this letter, it appears that the average cost of silk exported to England in 1825 amounted to the very high rate of 1,207 sicca rupees per bale, exceeding by 29 rupees per bale the highest cost of any preceding year; and though the exportation of 1826 exhibits some reduction in price from that of the preceding year, yet much remains to be accomplished in this respect: 1,153½ sicca rupees, the average cost of the silk per bale in 1826, making its cost amount to the high rate of 14 r. 6 a. 8 p. per seer.

7th. As we have observed before, the average annual cost per seer of silk of your investment must be reduced to what it was in the years 1815-16. The rise that has taken place up to the present time since the year 1816, is a forced and unnatural rise; and although it may be urged that the state of the market, both in Europe and in India, during a part of the intervening period may have warranted the grant of some increase in the price of silk, yet the present state of things in both countries is such, and the article is in so little demand, that the time is fully arrived for bringing back the price of silk again to its fair and proper level.

8th. It will therefore be your duty to explain these matters fully to the peons and rearers of cocoons employed under your factory, so as to prepare their minds to submit without murmuring to the prices you may deem it necessary under these orders to determine on granting them for the silk and cocoons produced during the several bunds of the year, impressing it at the same time upon them as a matter of absolute necessity, that they will seek in vain to elude the operation of the system now about to be established, by carrying their cocoons away from their own factory, in order to deliver them at a neighbouring factory, for the sake of obtaining increased prices, because they will, by so doing, inevitably meet with disappointment, it being our firm determination not to allow any resident to give a higher price for silk or cocoons than his neighbouring resident within the same circle of locality; and should any resident, contrary to his duty and all just expectation, be found to countenance and encourage such a proceeding, his conduct will be noted with merited animadversion.

9th. The maintenance of an uniformity of price is a part of the detail which we now proceed to lay down, and to which we require your implicit and most undeviating attention, because on the exact observance of it depends the success we have every reason to expect as the result of our present orders and endeavours for reducing the price of silk to its legitimate and natural level; namely, that no one resident shall be supposed to give a higher price for silk than the neighbouring residents within the same circle.

10th. The

17 March 1831.

Mr. J. Saunders.

17 March 1831. 10th. The circles may be thus described, proceeding from North to South:—

Mr. J. Saunders.

1st.	2d.	3d.
Malda.	Bahah.	Comercolly.
Rungpore.	Surdah.	Santipore.
Bauleah.	Jungypore.	Hurripaul.
Surdah.	Cossimbuzar.	Radnapore.
Jungypore.	Soonamooky.	

11th. Shortly before a bund shall come to maturity, and when the circumstances of its produce, good, bad or indifferent, as well as the state of the market, shall have been ascertained, the resident placed at the head of the circle shall communicate by a circular to the other residents within it the state of things in his aarungs, and mention the price he proposes to pay per maund of cocoons, or per seer of silk; the other residents each to indorse his opinion on the circular, and in case of objection, stating his reasons for thinking the prices ought to be more or less; the majority being of the same opinion, to determine the result, to be communicated to us without delay, who will pronounce their final judgment of approbation or otherwise.

12th. We inclose a statement showing, as far as the reports of the residents entered on our records will admit, the prices settled for silk of the several bunds during the years 1815 and 1816, before adverted to, at the factories enumerated. We desire that these rates may be steadily kept in view, as those to which it is our earnest desire to bring them back in future.

13th. The operation of these orders will commence to have effect with the settlement for the March bund 1827.

We are your most obedient servants,
Fort William, 27th April 1827. (Signed) G. UDNEY,
CHAS. MACKENZIE.

Believed to be a true copy,
JOSHUA SAUNDERS, JUN.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 177

STATEMENT showing the Prices settled for each Bund during the Years 1815 and 1816, at the following Residences.

BUND S, 1815.								
	January.	March.	April.	June.	July.	September.	October.	November.
	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.
Bauleah	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Comercolly	—	5/ 7 12½	6/ 3/ 3	6/ 11/ 6	6/ 11/ 6	—	7/ 3/ 10	7/ 6/ 1
Cossimbuzar	—	7/ 7/ 7.34	6/ 15/ 12	—	7/ 12/ 4.75	—	—	9 1 5.37
Hurripaul	—	7/ 2/ 8	—	—	6/ 12	—	9/	—
Jungypore	6/ 10/ 9½	6/ 5/ 11½	—	6/ 6/ 11½	—	—	—	7/ 12/ 6½
Maldah	—	5/ 4/ 8	6/ 0/ 1½	6/ 10/ 11	7/ 0/ 11	—	8/ 9/ 6	8/ 1/ 7
Soonamooky	—	—	—	—	6/ 5/ 9.76	—	9/ 5/ 1	9/ 1/ 5.37

BUND S, 1816.								
	January.	March.	April.	June.	July.	September.	October.	November.
	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.	per Seer.
Bauleah	—	7/ 15	7/ 12	7/ 12	7/ 12	7/ 14	8/	8/ 6
Comercolly	—	7/ 6	6/ 5/ 7½	7/ 1/ 9½	7/ 1/ 9½	—	8/ 5/ 2½	8/ 3/ 6½
Cossimbuzar	—	9/ 9/ 0.41	9/ 1/ 5.37	—	9/ 3/ 4.34	—	—	10/ 8/ 4.96
Hurripaul	—	9/ 11/ 2	—	—	—	—	8/ 8	—
Jungypore	8/ 13/ 2	8/ 1/ 11½	—	7/ 13/ 10½	—	—	—	8/ 13/ 6
Maldah	—	7/ 11/ 5½	7/ 9/ 1	7/ 11/ 8½	—	—	—	8/ 14/ 4½
Soonamooky	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

N.B.—No Silk provided from Bauleah in the year 1815.

Prices settled at Cossimbuzar are for 76 S^a W^t to the Seer, but the price is calculated upon 72. 11. 7. per Seer, as at all the other Residences.

Fort William,
27th April 1827.

(Signed) W. NESBIT,
Secretary.

17 March 1831. 2051. Have you any other document which would illustrate this point?—
Mr. J. Saunders. I have an extract from Mr. Bell's review of the external commerce of Bengal, from 1824-5 to 1829-30, published by Mr. Bell, an officer in the custom-house, and I believe it to be authentic.

2052. Is it printed?—It was printed in Calcutta. Mr. Bell is an officer in the custom-house, and his work is dedicated to Mr. Siddons, the collector, and published by his authority.

2053. Could any work of that kind be published at Calcutta without the sanction of the Government?—It is sanctioned by Mr. Siddons, the collector.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

“It is sufficiently known that the trade in Bengal silk, both in its raw and manufactured state, has been almost entirely engrossed by the Company, or at least that portion which falls to the lot of private individuals has been so much enhanced by the powerful facilities of the former, that as an object of commercial gain it is impossible to stand the test of competition.

“It is difficult to foresee the result which is likely to crown this system of unprofitable traffic, pursued with so much avidity by the agents of the Company, who being remunerated in proportion to the quantity of raw material provided, have at once the power of crushing all private enterprise, and by setting up a strong competition among themselves have raised the prime cost to double of what it ought and might be.

“The consideration of personal gain has plainly, in this instance, introduced the most fatal consequences, and will ultimately lead to the total annihilation of so valuable a branch of Indian commerce.

“Before therefore it is too late, would it not be judicious on the part of the Company, who are merely maintaining this exclusive traffic to enrich their servants, who are surely handsomely paid by fixed allowances, without having recourse to this system to swell out their commissions, and fill the pockets of a horde of avaricious gomastahs and dependants—would it not be judicious, I say, to prefer farming out their filatures to private enterprise, when the Company might purchase the produce in the Calcutta bazaar at one half of what it now costs them, and would then constitute a solid medium of remittances to Europe, whilst it now forms but a hazardous speculation?”

2054. Do you conceive that the Company's resident agents are generally good judges of silk?—Certainly not. There may be some of them that understand it, but generally they are ignorant, I believe, of silk altogether.

2055. Do you know any instances in which residents have been appointed to that department having been taken from others?—Yes, the late postmaster-general was transferred only a short time ago to a silk residency.

2056. Do you know any instances of salt agents taken from the one department and put to the other?—Yes, I know an instance where either a salt or a saltpetre agent was transferred to the silk department.

2057. Upon whom practically does the business of collecting and managing the silk generally devolve?—Upon the head native of the establishment.

2058. Is the head native a competent judge of the quality of the silk?—I cannot answer for the whole of the head natives; they are more or less so.

2059. Do

2059. Do you conceive that the raw silk of Bengal has deteriorated or improved in quality lately?—Deteriorated in quality. 17 March 1831.

2060. Has the quantity exported increased since 1824?—It has. Mr. J. Saunders.

2061. To what cause do you attribute that?—To the opening of the trade.

2062. Have not the duties in England been diminished also?—They have.

2063. What are the principal faults of the Indian silk?—Its foulness, unevenness, and want of staple.

2064. What do you conceive would be necessary to improve the staple of the Indian silk?—Greater attention in cultivating the mulberry, in rearing the worm, and in reeling and manufacture of the article.

2065. Can you state the reason why Europeans do not engage largely in the manufacture of silk in Bengal, as they do in that of indigo?—The Company engross at present, the whole of the silk districts, and for that reason they have not entered into the trade.

2066. Do you conceive that the competition which goes on between the Company's residents, and the private traders is a fair or an unfair one?—Unfair, so far as that they are not placed upon the same footing.

2067. Do you mean that they have not the same capital?—They have not the same power.

2068. Do you conceive, that if Europeans were to engage largely in the production of silk, its quality would be improved?—Certainly it would.

2069. Do you conceive that Europeans would be induced to enter upon such a speculation without greater security for property and persons than exists at the present moment in India?—I think they would not: the want of greater security has been one of the reasons of their not having heretofore entered into the silk business.

2070. Are you of opinion that the Indian silk, under the management of Europeans, might or might not be rendered as good as the Italian silk?—As good as the average quality of the Italian, and in some cases equal to good Italian.

2071. Do you know any instances of silk of a good quality having been imported into this country from India?—Bales have been sold of East-India silk in London, realizing nearly the same value at the same period as that which the best Italian fetched.

2072. Do you know the relative prices at which the Company's silk and the private traders' silk have been sold at the East-India House?—Relatively speaking, considering the quality, they have sold equally well.

2073. Which is the best quality?—The Company's is generally the best quality, and in consequence sells at a higher price.

2074. Can you state why the Company's silk is of the best quality?—From greater attention being paid at the Company's factories than at private factories, the natives' object being to produce quantity not quality.

17 March 1831.

Mr. J. Saunders.

2075. Supposing the private trader to be allowed to produce silk in Bengal as he now produces indigo, do you not conceive that he would produce as good silk as the Company do?—Equally good.

2076. Supposing the Company were to cease to trade in silk, do you conceive that capitalists in Bengal would purchase their filatures?—Yes, I do; and that the silk trade would be taken up by indigo planters.

2077. Could the production of indigo and the production of silk be carried on by the same parties?—Certainly, without any difficulty whatever. Indigo is grown on the low lands, and the land adapted for the production of silk is the high land; contiguous to almost every indigo factory there are certain portions of land fitted for the mulberry, and the two might very profitably be conducted together.

2078. Can you produce any document showing the produce and cost of a small silk farm?—Yes; I have here an estimate upon a farm of thirty-two begahs of land. It was an experiment tried by an indigo planter, whose factory was situated in the midst of the mulberry plantations of Comercolly, Bauleah, Sardah, and Cossimbuzar, and this shows that good silk can be produced, allowing twenty per cent. for failure of bunds and casualties, at the rate of six rupees seven anas per seer, which is less than half the average price of the Company's investment in 1826, and one-third less than it was in 1815. The samples of the produce of this experiment are now on their way to England.

2079. Will you put in that paper?—

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

ESTIMATE OF PRODUCE AND COST of a Silk Farm of 32 Begahs of Land

Buildings on first Establishment.

Rearing Houses: say,

4 Houses, 34 feet long by 20 feet broad, and 22 feet high, R. a. p.
including roof as well as walls, completed a' 60/ each 240 0 0

Fittings of Houses:

16 Gurhs or breeding Mucharis, a' 1/ each..... 16 0 0
100 Chunderkhus for shelves of ditto, a' 5/ each 31 4 0
Ghurahs or Spinning Frames 12 8 0
Baskets 2/, Gunnus for sheets 2/, Soorais for
Mucharies 4/ 8 0 0
Roolahs and Rulsas 1 4 0

69 0 0

Winding House:

24 feet long, 15 broad, and 7½ high within the walls, with
foundation, chimnies and boiling places, 1,352 solid feet..... 120 12 3

Roofing of tiles with 6 inch terrace, 477 feet, a' 25/ per 100,
including timber 119 8 5

Flooring, 477 square feet, a' 8/7/10 per 100 40 7 11

280 12 7

Total Sicca Rupees 589 12 7

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	1st Year.	2d Year.	3d Year.	4th Year.	5th Year.	TOTAL.
Cultivation:						
Land Rent, 1/4 per Begah.....	40	40	40	40	40	200
Ploughing, a' 2/ per ditto.....	64	—	—	—	—	64
Roodaling, a' 1/ ditto.....	32	—	—	—	—	32
Transplanting, a' 1/ ditto.....	32	—	—	—	—	32
Weeding and earthing, a' 1/8 for the first, and 2/ per Begah for every succeeding year.....	48	64	64	64	64	304
Slips for plants, a' 1/4 per Begah.....	40	—	—	—	—	40
	256	104	104	104	104	672
Rearing Worms:						
Eggs, but lightened by preservation of cocoons in an established concern....	70	70	70	70	70	350
Bussree Roolers, 2/ per house; 8 for twelve months, a' 4/ per month.....	384	384	384	384	384	1,920
Roolers attending ditto, 2/ per house; 8 for six months, a' 3/ ditto.....	144	144	144	144	144	720
	598	598	598	598	598	2,990
Winding:						
4 Kuttaners or rulers for four months, a 5/ per month.....	80	80	80	80	80	400
4 Pagdors for four months, a' 3/ per month	48	48	48	48	48	240
Levolers supplying wood, water, &c.; 4 for four months, at 3/ ditto.....	48	48	48	48	48	240
Wood:						
500 maunds, a' 14/ per 100 maunds... 70						
Tabaldars cutting wood, 3/ per 100 maunds.....	15					
	85	85	85	85	85	425
	261	261	261	261	261	1,305

Total, Sicca Rupees 4,967

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PRODUCE.

BUNDS.	Ghurals.	COCOONS.				SILK.						
		By Cocoons.		By Weight.		Rate per Mauud of Cocoons.	NET PRODUCE.					
							1st Year.	2d Year.	3d Year.	4th Year.	5th Year.	TOTAL.
		Rate.	Quantity	Rate.	Amt.							
					m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.	m. s.
Ughun.	16	67½	1,080	1½	24	2 ½	1 20	1 20	1 20	1 20	1 20	7 30
Cheyt .	16	62½	1,000	1¼	20	2 ½	1 5	1 5	1 5	1 5	1 5	5 25
Fisth ..	16	33¾	540	¾	12	2	0 24	11 24	0 24	0 24	0 24	3 0
Shaboon	16	33¾	540	¾	12	2	0 24	11 24	0 24	0 24	0 24	3 0
Bhadur	16	22½	360	½	8	2	0 16	0 16	0 16	0 16	0 16	2 0
Kartick	16	27½	440	½	8	2	0 16	0 16	0 16	0 16	0 16	2 0
	96.	—	3,960	—	84	—	4 25	4 25	4 25	4 25	4 25	23 5

Which is equal to 5 r. 6 a. per seer; to which must be added, for failure of bunds and other casualties, 20 per cent., which increases the cost per seer to *Sicca rupees* 6/7.—Shoots of each bund, and slips on change of land, not included in this return; and which will be in reduction of this calculation.

2080. Have you any comparative statement of the exports of silk made by private merchants and the East-India Company for twelve years, from 1817 to 1828?—This is a statement I made up in India from the best information I could obtain, which shows an increase in the private trade within the last six years, from 1823 to 1828, over the preceding six years, of 35½ per cent., while in the same period the increase in the Company's has only been 17½ per cent.

2081. Will you deliver in that statement?—

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

Private

17 March 1831.

Mr. J. Saunders.

Private Shipments of Raw Silk to England.			Honourable Company's Investments.		
	Bales.			Bales.	
From 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1817	778		For the sea-son - 1817-18	5,153	
Ditto - 1818	1,242½		Ditto - 1818-19	3,736	
Ditto - 1819	666		Ditto - 1819-20	5,484	
Ditto - 1820	1,330		Ditto - 1820-21	5,548	
Ditto - 1821	903½		Ditto - 1821-22	5,759	
Ditto - 1822	1,715	6,635	Ditto - 1822-23	5,756	31,436
Ditto - 1823	2,096½		Ditto - 1823-24	4,485	
Ditto - 1824	1,447		Ditto - 1824-25	5,212	
Ditto - 1825	2,233½		Ditto - 1825-26	5,655	
Ditto - 1826	864		Ditto - 1826-27	6,255	
Ditto - 1827	544½		Ditto - 1827-28	7,004	
Ditto - 1828	1,878	9,063½	Ditto - 1828-29	6,364	34,975

Increase of the last six years, from 1823 to 1828, over the previous six years, from 1817 to 1822, 2,428 bales, or about 35½ per cent.

Increase of the last six years, 1823-4, to 1828-29, over the previous six years, 1817-18 to 1822-23, 3,539 bales, or about one-half of the private, being only about 17 per cent.

2082. When you went out to India in 1824 had you a license?—I had not a license. Application was made by the parties interested in my going out, to the Court of Directors and to the Board of Control. I was not in London at the time these applications were made, but I understood that the applications were refused, both by the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, and in consequence I was obliged to smuggle myself out to India. I went out as the purser of a private ship.

2083. Did you reside some time in India before you obtained the license?—Several years before I obtained a local license.

2084. Did you reside with a feeling of security in India during the time you had no license?—Knowing that a license had been refused me before I went out, I was certainly under apprehensions till I got a local license.

2085. How long did you reside before you got a local license?—I believe it was in 1827, or in the beginning of 1828, that I obtained a local license.

2086. Was any reason assigned for not granting that license?—I was not in London at the time. I am aware of no other reason than that it was refused in consequence of the application coming from a house engaged in the India silk trade.

2087. Do

17 March 1831. 2087. Do you know in what terms the application was refused?—I have not seen the correspondence, but I believe I could obtain it.
Mr. J. Saunders.

2088. Do you know what pretence was assigned for the necessity of your going to India?—I have stated before, that I have not seen the correspondence.

2089. Who made the application?—I object to mention names, but if it is absolutely necessary I can do so. This circumstance was mentioned in the House of Commons by a member at the time it happened. The gentleman who made the application is not in England, and for that reason, not having his permission, I cannot mention his name.

2090. Do you happen to know the reason why the license was refused?—I understood that it was in consequence of the application coming from a house which was interested in the Indian silk trade; my going from that house, I understood, was the reason of its being refused.

2091. Were you born in this country?—Yes; I am the son of an English clergyman.

Lunæ, 21^o die Martii, 1831.

JOHN IRVING, Esq. in the Chair.

21 March 1831. *PETER GORDON, Esq. again called in, and further examined.*

2092. HAVE you any statement to make in explanation of your former evidence?—In my former examination I have stated that the market price of grass was lower than the tariff price of grass. This arises from the dimensions of the bundles not being fixed, so that the tariff price applies to large bundles, and the market price to small bundles. The same with regard to straw and fire-wood. I have also stated on a former occasion, that the lowest price of rice at Ramnad was four pounds for a penny; I find, by referring to a memorandum, that it is eight pounds to a penny. I have also stated that the sum of £60,000 annually had been expended on the water-works; by reference I find it is £40,000 only.

2093. Have you devoted any attention to the history and present state of the circulating medium in India?—I have for a number of years paid considerable attention to it in the way of business.

2094. Have you endeavoured to make yourself acquainted with the state of the circulating medium in India at some distant date?—I have, commencing with Ayeen Akbery, the official record of the emperor Ackbar, translated by Mr. Gladwin for Warren Hastings, under the express patronage of the Company.

2095. From

2095. From the researches you have made, what appears to have been the currency of Hindostan on the accession of Ackbar?—Copper coin called the dun, weighing about half an ounce, appears to have been the official money, and the most frequent coin; however, in some of the soubahs, the revenue accounts were kept in cowry shells, in almonds, and in measures of rough grain.

2096. Is it supposed that gold or silver were current at that time?—Both were coined occasionally, but not as national coin, neither were they circulated at any fixed rate; they were coined and circulated at the market rate that they would fetch.

2097. Do you know whether Ackbar had any standard of value, or in what that consisted?—The dun was the money of account.

2098. Were there any mints in those days?—There were, of gold, silver, and of copper also. At Delhi might be the principal mint of gold; and in many of the other soubahs, where silver bullion was met with, there were mints for silver coin; and at most of the principal stations throughout the empire there were mints for copper coin, to the number of about forty.

2099. By whom were the mints managed in the different provinces?—By a separate board at Delhi, not by the soubahdar of the province in which the mint was situated; the mints were independent of the local governments in the soubahs.

2100. Do you know how the mint charges were defrayed?—By a tax on coinage. Mints were open to the merchants and other persons to bring their bullion at pleasure, and all the expenses were paid by a duty on coinage, which was apportioned out to the different labourers and officers of the mint.

2101. Were the coins current by the tale, or by weight?—When they were in a perfect state they were current by tale; when they were clipped, or in an imperfect state, they were current by weight, and they were also subject to touch.

2102. Were the revenues paid in coin?—In some places they were fixed in coin, and in other districts they were in kind, and also in services; frequently in land, also the revenues were paid; as in jaghias for the possession of land, and also for the produce of land.

2103. Can you state at what period the English began to coin in India?—The first English Indian coins seem to have been a copper coin for Bombay, and at Bombay the Company very soon began to coin a copy of the Mogul's rupee of the Surat mint.

2104. Do you know when the Calcutta mint was first established?—In 1717 the Mogul granted a firman for coining, but the soubahdar of Bengal would not allow the Company to act on it; it was first established in 1757, on the capture of Calcutta by Admiral Watson: the soubah of Bengal was then forced to enter into an arrangement allowing the Company to coin at Calcutta; immediately the mint was erected, and rupees were struck bearing the Moorshedabad impression.

2 B

2105. Do

21 March 1831.
P. Gordon, Esq.

21 March 1831.

P. Gordon, Esq.

2105. Do you know the regulations of the Company's coinage?—At a very early period, by Royal charter or by Act of Parliament, the Company was authorized to coin in India copies of Indian coins, with the permission of the prince, and on condition of their bearing the same impression, and being of the same weight and touch with the Indian coins of which they were copies.

2106. Are you speaking now of any particular presidency, or of the whole of them?—The charter or Act was not limited in its application to any particular presidency, but was general with reference to the Company's factories in India.

2107. Do you mean to say that the Company's mints in India were regulated by Act of Parliament?—When they began to coin, or perhaps before they began to coin, for their own security, of course, not to be liable to the punishment of coiners, they received a Royal charter or Act of Parliament, authorizing them to coin in India, with the permission of the prince whose coin they copied.

2108. Are the mints still regulated by the provisions of that charter?—I am not aware of the provisions of this charter having been extended, and the Company being allowed to originate coins, or to coin without the permission of the prince, or of a different standard and touch; but they actually do these things, which I believe to be illegal by the law of England.

2109. Are all the Company's mints under the same administration, or has each presidency its own mint?—There is no general administration in India of the mints; each presidency manages the mints of that presidency uncontrolled in India.

2110. During the last twenty years what have been the most important alterations in the Company's coins?—At Madras, in 1818, the standard of value was gold, then it was altered to silver; the weights and touch of the coins have also been altered very frequently. The last considerable alteration has been within two years, assimilating the rupee of Bombay to that of Madras, in all but in its impression; they are exactly of the same weight and touch, but they bear different impressions, consequently they are not mutually current.

2111. Has the proportion of value between gold and silver been maintained?—It has been frequently altered within a very few years.

2112. Can you state the proportions which the value of gold has to silver?—At present it is one to fifteen. At Madras and Calcutta the proportion was very different indeed up to 1818: in 1818 I think it was established at one to fifteen, and has remained so ever since in all the three presidencies; that is the only point in which the three presidencies agree in their coinage.

2113. Do you mean to say, that in coins of the same denomination there is a different weight of silver in each presidency?—Yes; for three years ago

in

the presidency of Bengal there was the Calcutta rupee and the Furruckabad rupee, differing in weight from each other; at Madras, the Madras rupee differing in weight from the Bombay rupee, or from any of the Bengal rupees.

2114. What effects do alterations in the coinage produce upon the natives?—The slightest alteration, even when there is no alteration in the impression, any new coinage which they can detect, causes a difference in the value of the rupee; it bears either a premium or a discount, usually a discount upon a new coin of a halfpenny or a penny. In 1824 there was a new coinage at Madras, exactly the same weight and touch and impression with the former rupee; but the new rupees as they came into circulation were constantly at a discount of one or two pice, that is, one halfpenny or one penny, on the rupee.

2115. By touch do you mean the quantity of alloy in the metal?—Yes.

2116. Does the quantity of alloy in gold differ in the different presidencies?—At present in all the presidencies silver and gold are of the same alloy with Tower of London gold coin; twenty-two carats of pure in twenty-four carats of coin, is the established touch for silver and gold at present in all the three presidencies.

2117. Do those alterations in the coinage subject the natives to impositions from money dealers?—Yes, to very great imposition. Those alterations are profitable to the money dealers as they increase their trade, but are very oppressive to the lower classes of the natives; the lower they are the more oppressive it is to them.

2118. Do you conceive it desirable that the coinage should be uniformly and well executed?—Extremely so. In no country in the world is it so necessary that the coin should be perfectly executed, and kept in perfect order; for even if the coin wants the jingle, that is, if it will not ring, or if it has the slightest scratch, or appears damaged at all, it is subject to a discount.

2119. Can you refer to any period in the history of India at which the coinage was equal to its present state?—Machinery was never in the state in which it is at present.

2120. How many mints are there under the management of the Company in India?—In Bengal the mint of Calcutta and the mint of Furruckabad may be the only mints; at Madras one mint; at Bombay one mint.

2121. Besides those avowed mints, are there others under the management of the officers of the Company?—There are numerous mints in the Nizam's territory, in the kingdom of Oude, and in the Mahratta states, under the management of the Company, though not avowedly.

2122. In what respect are those mints under the control of the Company's officers?—In the same manner as every other branch of the government of those countries managed by the will of the resident; the sovereigns of those countries are actually the residents of those countries.

2123. Do

21 March 1831.

P. Gordon, Esq.

21 March 1831. 2123. Do you consider it advisable that the money circulated in India should be coined in India, or in this country?—In this country.

P. Gordon, Esq. 2124. For what reason?—It would be more cheaply coined and better executed.

2125. Did you ever reside in any of those places where you say the mint is under the influence of the British Government indirectly?—No, I did not.

2126. Upon what authority do you assert that those mints are under the control of the British ministers?—In the same way that I assert that the sun rose this morning: I have no personal knowledge of it, I did not see it rise; but from many official reports and examinations into the state of those countries.

2127. Will you take for example the state of Oude, and refer to any one official report which proves or even insinuates that the British Government possess or ever did possess, directly or indirectly, the smallest influence upon the mint of Oude?—I remember several official reports that mention that the treasury was in the resident's house, and I know that the collection and all the detail of the treasury is managed by the resident, and has been for many years.

2128. Do you mean the Company's treasury, or the treasury of the state?—I mean the treasury of the state.

2129. From whence do you derive that information?—From the Hyderabad papers, and prior to that from the documents published by this House relative to Warren Hastings's trial.

2130. Can you refer to any particular document or any statement of that nature?—I have no doubt I can do so, but I have no document here with me.

2131. In what mode would this country be supplied with gold, silver, and copper, for the circulation of India?—As it always has been ever since the communication with India has been opened, by the natural operations of commerce; the mines of America and the mines of Europe would supply it. The greater part of the cargoes sent from this country to India and to China always has been in specie for the purchase of Indian commodities. Venice did the same, and Rome did the same. It has always been the course to export bullion to India and China.

2132. Is it not the case, that from the rate of exchange between India and Europe, the precious metals in some years, especially at particular junctures, have taken an opposite course, and have flowed from India to Europe?—They have.

2133. That being the case, would it not be a great expense to have the coinage made in England, and transmitted to India?—It would be an advantage to merchants to have a mint in London, where they could apply for Indian coins, or for coins which had circulation throughout British India, at their

their pleasure. If it was not for their interest, they would not apply. But the principal causes that operate on the exchange between India and England are political transactions, and the duties imposed upon Indian goods in England; it is quite an artificial rate.

2134. Without reference to the political causes or to the operations of commerce, when the exchange between India and Europe is unfavourable to India, if the coinage for India were in England, would it not, in proportion as the rate of exchange was unfavourable, enhance the price, and of course the expense of that coin which is destined to circulate in India?—The bullion goes out at present, and is coined dearly in India, whereas it might be coined cheaply in England, and then be sent out.

2135. Would not the expense of insurance and other charges be necessarily added to the cost of the metal, and consequently enhance it when it arrived in India precisely in proportion to those charges, and would it not, in addition, be burdened with the difference of exchange?—The charges enumerated would be the same on coin as on bullion, but I do not see how it would be burdened with any particular rate of exchange. The transaction would be profitable or unprofitable according to the rate of exchange.

2136. Do you suppose that India and Europe would be mutually supplied with specie, as they happened to have a demand for them?—Certainly, the rate of exchange adjusts itself.

2137. According to the comparative cheapness or dearness of money in different countries?—And a comparative demand for it, affected principally by political and commercial events, also by natural causes, as dearth and scarcity in the countries.

2138. Do you suppose that as cotton grown in America is brought to this country, and after being manufactured is exported to India, so, if there was a demand for it, silver would be brought to this country and coined, and then exported to India?—Exactly.

2139. Supposing one presidency requires a supply of money from another, how is the remittance made?—In specie.

2140. Supposing a remittance is made from Madras to Bengal in the coins of Madras, what becomes of those coins on their arrival in Bengal?—They go into the melting-pot, because they have no currency in the adjoining presidency of Bengal; even the coins of Furruckabad have not currency at Calcutta; in that other part of the same presidency of Bengal they are mere bullion.

2141. Can you state what is the amount of loss on every remittance of specie sent from Calcutta to Madras?—The dollars, when coined into rupees at Madras, pay a duty of two per cent.; the rupees of Madras sent up to Calcutta have to pay, even on board the Company's own ships, at present, I understand, two or two and a half per cent. to the commander, added to which ought to be charged the freight due to the ship, also the risk and the loss of interest. When they arrive at Calcutta they are mere bullion, and have

21 March 1831. have to be recoined; and if on private account pay two per cent. seignorage to the Company, including the charges of the mint for fuel, &c. If it is silver of another standard, it has to pay also for refining; but at present, as the silver and gold are the same standards at each presidency, it is merely recoinage.

2142. The Committee understand, that you conceive the best remedy for it would be one general coinage for India, and you would recommend that coinage to be struck in this country?—Undoubtedly. Under the Mogul there was one coinage; it is only under the Company's administration that the rupees have been altered. Since the Company have coined at Surat, the rupees of Surat were of the same touch and weight as at Calcutta; but it is by being under separate superintendence that the Mogul's Delhi-rupee has branched into Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta rupees, and those three species of rupees have sprung up from one source. The Company has always been desirous of reverting to one fixed standard. Two years ago, in Calcutta, the Finance Committee from the three presidencies had that subject under their consideration, to adopt one rupee for the whole of the three presidencies; but they were not able, I believe, to fix on a standard.

2143. Do you mean that before the Company established itself in India there was one universal standard?—There was one universal standard, the Delhi standard; even as late as the time when the Company began to coin rupees it had not been lowered. The Company coined rupees at Bombay at an early period, of the Delhi standard. Even in 1757, when the Company began to coin at Calcutta, the rupee coined by the Company at Bombay had been but very slightly depreciated; but the Bengal rupee, in which, then, the Company had never interfered, had been kept up to the Delhi standard.

2144. Upon what principle is it that the calculation is formed of the exchange between the three presidencies?—It is on an arbitrary principle, for the convenience of the Company's accounts; that is, the Company's exchange in their accounts between each other. At Calcutta, the current rupee, which is an imaginary coin, is estimated at 2s.; at Bombay, the rupee is rated at 2s. 3d.; and at Madras, the pagoda, which is the currency, is rated at 8s.; all arbitrary assumptions.

2145. Are not those rates of exchange referable to the coins in circulation?—Not at all. With respect to the current rupee at Calcutta, there never has been such a coin struck; it was fixed on by the Factory in Bengal before the Company had any territory, merely for the convenience of their mercantile accounts.

2146. Is there no positive ground or principle which regulates the exchange?—The same as in Europe, the demand of the day, the fluctuating exchange; the actual exchange between the different presidencies fluctuates daily.

2147. Are you not aware that the exchanges of Europe have reference to the quantity of metal, and the value of that metal contained in the coins of each country?—What is called the par of exchange has, and of course the same

same might be applied; but the plan which has been fixed on for keeping the Company's accounts was not on that calculation, it was fixed in round sums of 2s., 2s. 3d. and 8s.; and those fixed rates of exchange for the Company's accounts were kept steady, though the currencies of the different presidencies were frequently altered.

2148. Are you not aware that exchanges between countries are regulated by the quantity and the value of the metal contained in each, and in addition thereto, by the expense of transmitting those metals from the one country to the other?—Those are the principal causes operating on the rate of exchange; but if they were the only causes, they would always be stationary.

2149. Supposing that were a principle admitted to govern the exchanges of Europe, is there anything in the intercourse between the three presidencies which ought to vary that principle?—Nothing; the three presidencies are situated as three different countries in Europe.

2150. Do you think the proper regulation for fixing the value of the coin would be the quantity of pure silver in the coins?—Certainly.

2151. Do you think that two-shilling and one-shilling pieces, with the sterling stamp upon them, would be a suitable coin for circulation in India?—It would become current; the two-shilling piece would become current as a rupee; in fact, the rupee at present is just a two-shilling piece. I think the sicca rupee is heavier than two shillings, and the Bombay and Madras rupee is lighter than two shillings; but since the standard in England is gold, and in India is silver, there can be no par of exchange.

2152. What is the difference in value between the Calcutta sicca rupee and the Bombay and Madras rupee?—Within two years the Bombay rupee has been altered to the same standard of weight and touch as the Madras rupee, consequently they are exactly the same, they differ only in the impressions they bear; their weight is fifteen-sixteenths of the Calcutta sicca rupee, and their touch is exactly the same.

2153. In the event of Europeans being permitted to settle freely in India, and to introduce capital there, under good laws and proper security for persons and property, are you of opinion the banking establishments would be extended to the principal provincial towns?—Undoubtedly; they would be among the first undertakings of Europeans in India, as they have been at Calcutta.

2154. In your opinion, what would be the effect of such establishments on the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce of the country?—Extremely beneficial, as in every country capital is the principal staple of every manufacture.

2155. Are there not native bankers established in all the principal towns in India?—Throughout all India; and money-changers in every street, in every town; in every village.

2156. Do

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- 21 March 1831. *P. Gordon, Esq.* 2156. Do you know at what rate the native bankers discount bills of exchange?—Even as high as five per cent. a month, in small dealings.
2157. What number of European banking establishments are there throughout India?—At Bombay I am not aware that there is any bank; at Madras there is one bank, the Company's bank entirely, which receives deposits, and discounts, and issues bank notes, which have no currency beyond the limits of the city of Madras, in the Company's treasuries. At Calcutta there is one bank, of which the Company holds one-fifth share, and four private banks.
2158. Has the bank, of which the Company is a shareholder at Calcutta, a charter under the provisions of the 47th of Geo. III.?—The Company's bank at Calcutta is a chartered bank, and is a joint-stock concern under the 47th Geo. III., c. 68, ss. 8 to 10, which empowers the Government to grant charters to banks in India.
2159. Have any other banks charters under the provisions of that statute?—None of the other banks have charters; they have applied for them, and have been refused.
2160. Do you know the reason why they have been refused?—It is impossible to know the reason, but it is supposed that the Company is desirous of monopolizing to itself as much as possible the trade in money at the presidency of Calcutta.
2161. Can you state the present value of a share in the bank of Bengal in which the Company are partners?—The original subscription was 5,000 rupees; at present they are usually worth above 10,000, and as high as 11,000 rupees, and I think they have been higher than that.
2162. Do you conceive that the profits of that bank would be materially reduced were other banks to obtain charters?—If the other banks were chartered, it is most probable that the profits of banks under private management would be greater than that of the bank directed by the Company, and administered in a considerable degree by the Company's officers ex-officio.
2163. Do you know what was the original stock of the chartered bank?—Half a million sterling.
2164. Do the notes of the different banks pass among the natives as specie, without discount?—As specie, and of course they always will while they are exchangeable on demand for specie. They have always done so, with the exception of one day during the Burmese war, when it was stated in the public prints that the Company's bank had refused payment of its notes.
2165. Do the notes of the Calcutta bank circulate beyond the town?—Among Europeans and private persons they do, but they are not receivable in the Company's treasuries beyond the city of Calcutta.
2166. Are they received in the treasury of Calcutta as cash?—They are received as cash in the government offices in the city of Calcutta.

2167. Do

- 21 March 1831. *P. Gordon, Esq.* 2167. Do you know whether the notes of the Bengal bank are received by the country collectors in Bengal or not?—If they are received it is on their own private responsibility, but it is understood that it is against orders to receive them.
2168. Do you mean that it is against the regulations of the Government?—Not the printed regulations, but the instructions for the guidance of officers.
2169. Have you ever known them refused by the country collectors?—Outside of Calcutta, in Bengal, I have never had occasion to pay any money into a government office, but I have with me a correspondence refusing them at Madras.
2170. Are the notes of the government bank at Madras received as cash at the provincial treasuries throughout that presidency?—They are not.
2171. What do you understand to be the reason of their being refused?—I have heard it stated that it is in order that specie may not leave the country; the taxes are not received except in specie.
2172. Is not paper money convertible into specie on demand?—At Madras it always has been, since the establishment of the bank.
2173. At what do you estimate the amount of paper money in circulation throughout India?—In bank notes at half a million sterling.
2174. Do you conceive that the commerce of the country could beneficially employ a larger paper circulation in the shape of bank notes?—It would immediately employ at least £50,000,000 sterling, if banks were on the same footing that they are at present in England.
2175. Do you think that native as well as European capitalists would place confidence in European banking establishments?—They would, as they do in other transactions with Europeans, not entirely from the personal character of Europeans and the integrity of their dealings, but also from their connections with England. The bankers of Calcutta are connected with the House of Lords and the House of Commons, with the Government in England; the native bankers, who are spread all over India, have not this support; they can be ruined by an act of the Company's officers, without appeal further than the Sudder dewanee adawlut. The administration of justice, of course, is the chief security and means of giving confidence to a bank.
2176. Supposing that what you recommend were adopted in India, and that banking by Europeans in the different provinces were admitted, how would such banks be conducted; what manner of securities would they lend their money upon, and how far would the circulation of paper displace the circulation of metallic money?—They would be conducted as at present in the cities of Calcutta and Madras.

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Jovis, 24th die Martii, 1831.
SIR HENRY PARNELL, BART. in the Chair.

PETER GORDON, Esq. again called in, and further examined:
2177. Do you wish to state any thing with respect to your last examination?—I beg leave to correct a statement I made concerning the authority given to the Company to coin. It was by the fourth charter, in the year 1677, the 28th of Charles the II^d; the Company were “authorized to coin money at Bombay, and other places, so that any of such coins be not called by the name of any current in the King’s dominion, excepting the East-Indies.” And the next charter on the same subject was the sixth charter granted to the Company, in the year 1686, the 2d James the II^d: “the Company may also coin in their forts any species of money usually coined by the Princes of those countries, so that it be made agreeable to the standards of those Princes in weight and fineness, and so that they do not coin any European money;” “all such money shall be current in any place within the limits, but not elsewhere;” and Mr. Auber states, under Bombay, “there is one principal mint at the presidency, and several subordinate mints; but as such mints are not wholly under European superintendence, the coin issued from the former will be alone noticed;” also, “the whole of the accounts relating to the British possessions on the continent of India are kept in the same denomination of money, namely the rupee.” A question was put to me on my last examination, as to whether the coinage of India was ever in so good a state in former ages as it is at present; I replied with reference to the state of machinery, which is limited merely to the coin; if the question extends to currency, I consider that the currency has been in a much better state at former periods than it is at present.

2178. Are the promissory notes of Government carefully and skilfully executed?—They are not; they are very coarsely executed on thick paper, and with common letter-press.

2179. Have they been fabricated with more care since the detection of certain forgeries?—It was understood that copper-plate notes had been prepared on fine paper, but I have seen none of them.

2180. Has convenience or inconvenience accrued to the commercial interest of India from the mode in which the Company’s debt has been heretofore managed?—Very great inconvenience.

2181. Will you describe it?—From the great fluctuations in the money market, occasionally advertising for payment as much as ten millions sterling,

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ling; this debt convulsed all the monied interests in Calcutta, by throwing that amount of money into a city that had no territory surrounding it. Of course the interest of money depends entirely upon the will of the Company, and at Madras every house a few years ago had failed, and they imputed their failure principally to the financial operations of the Company; every mercantile house of consequence had failed.

2182. At what period was that?—Twenty years ago; there is scarcely a house now that has been established more than twenty years, at Madras.

2183. And you ascribe that to the great fluctuations?—It is so considered generally. There was one case in Calcutta of the house of Barretto, who were unwilling to comply with the Company’s rate of interest, on the reduction from eight to six per cent.; in consequence they refused to accept six per cent. paper; and not having any place convenient for keeping so large a sum of money as half a million sterling, or perhaps a million sterling, as it was supposed belonged to them, they requested of the Governor to secure it for them, but the Governor General refused, and forced them to take to their own cellars any of the specie which they had refused to lend the Company at the reduced rate.

2184. By what principle is the interest of money generally controlled in any country?—Supply and demand.

2185. According to this principle, how is it in the power of the Company, or any individual, to regulate the general interest of money?—By throwing ten millions sterling at once into the circulation of a city, of course money becomes a drug, an encumbrance.

2186. What interest would the Company or any individual have in producing that state of things?—In the saving of interest which arises to the Company from the reduction in the rate of interest.

2187. Previous to the large expenditure occasioned by the Burmese war, could the Government of Bengal have reduced the interest of their debt below five per cent.?—It could, and a loan was actually opened at four per cent.

2188. What would have been the effect on the Calcutta market, reducing the interest to four per cent.?—A great deal of private distress, as respects persons who were dependent on annuities; it also affects the military and civil servants of the Company, whose emolument had been derived in a great measure from the high rate of Indian interest, reckoning on which they had provided, as they imagined, sufficient for their families, who are now reduced to a state of poverty by the reduction of interest from twelve per cent. and upwards, to four per cent. and under.

2189. Do you conceive that reduction of interest was warranted by the actual condition of the market or not?—It was not; for beyond the limits of Calcutta, among the natives generally, the interest of money is much higher.

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2190. In what way do you conceive that they had the power of making this violent reduction of interest?—By taking advantage of the moment.

2191. Do you know what the circumstances were under which they endeavoured to raise this loan at four cent.?—I am generally acquainted with the circumstances of the times, and with the operations which took place there.

2192. Did you mention the precise period of this circumstance?—1821 or 1822; the 1st of May 1822.

2193. In any case within your knowledge, in which the rate of interest has been reduced by these operations of the Company, has the rate of interest continued low, or risen again afterwards?—It has always fluctuated. At the Burmese war it immediately rose to five per cent. and upwards; I believe money was not procurable at five per cent., immediately after the declaration of the Burmese war; and Calcutta was exceedingly distressed, never more distressed for money than it was after the Burmese war. The reduction of interest caused a great deal of capital to be withdrawn from India, both to Europe and to the native states beyond the limits of Calcutta, perhaps beyond the Company's territory.

2194. Why was that capital not employed in the Company's territory?—When there was a high rate of interest, it was brought into the Company's territory for the sake of security; but when there was low interest arising from the war, not more than four or five per cent., they preferred having it in their own native territory, exposed to greater risk than in the Company's territories, but yielding ten or twelve per cent.

2195. Do the Committee understand the rate of interest in the province was lowered at the time it was in Calcutta?—I do not consider that the natural rate of interest was lowered among the natives, but merely the Company's rate of interest.

2196. What do you mean by natural interest?—The general interest among the native mercantile community; the agricultural and mercantile interest of the community.

2197. You mean by natural, the general?—The general, that which finds its own level.

2198. What is the present amount of the funded and floating debt of India?—Forty-two millions sterling.

2199. In your judgment, would any advantage accrue to the commercial interest of India, from the whole of the Indian debt being managed in England?—It would be a very great advantage to the commercial interest of India to be rid of so great a power over the currency of India.

2200. How do you imagine the Indian debt would be best managed in this country?—It would be better under any management in England than under its present management in India: it might be managed by the Company,

pany at their house in Leadenhall-street, by the Bank of England, or by the King. In either case it might be managed with greater economy, and the rate of interest would be lower on a debt in England than it is on the debt in India.

2201. What annual saving do you consider would arise from the debt being transferred to the management of England?—If the debt was reduced from five per cent. to four cent., I believe the saving would be about half a million sterling.

2202. State in what way the transfer of debt from India to England could be effected in the first place?—By opening a loan in London, and offering payment of the debt according to the terms on which it was contracted, whether in coin in Calcutta, or by bills on London, according to the terms of the existing debt.

2203. Is the interest on this debt paid chiefly in Calcutta at the present moment?—The greater part of it is optional, on demand, in Calcutta in the sicca rupee, or in London by the pound sterling.

2204. Do you know what proportion is paid in England, and what proportion is paid in India?—The proportion fluctuates according to the fluctuations in the exchange; at present it is advantageous, and consequently the greater part of the interest is paid in London.

2205. You conceive a loan might be effected by the East-India Company in this country, by which the debt would be transferred from India to England?—Undoubtedly.

2206. How would you contemplate the payment of the dividends which were to be paid in Calcutta?—By transferring the debt to London, I consider that the dividends would be payable in London only.

2207. Must you not transfer the capital from India to London in that case?—No; the capital has been expended, it does not exist.

2208. Do you conceive the measure of transferring the Indian debt to England would tend to strengthen or weaken the connection between England and India?—Undoubtedly it would strengthen the connection, as every other measure of good government would strengthen it: the connection can only be supported by good government, or by absolute force.

2209. Would not great inconvenience accrue by such a measure to the native subscribers to the Indian debt?—None whatever; they would have an offer of the money which they had subscribed, on the terms on which they subscribed it, or else a share of the debt in London, which they could sell in the market at the current rate of the day.

2210. Is the amount of the native subscriptions to the Indian loan large?—Several investigations have taken place, and each successive investigation seems to have reduced the number of native subscribers. I have heard the proportion stated as low as one-tenth of the debt being held by natives.

2211. Has

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2211. Has the great abundance of money which has flowed to India in consequence of the free trade conducted in any respect to afford facility to the East-India Company, in the financial operations of reducing the interest on their loan?—Every increase of trade and of prosperity of course renders it easier to borrow money; the greater the capital in the country is, I should suppose the easier it is to borrow money.

2212. In the event of the Company being deprived of the trade to India, in what manner do you conceive remittances could be made by the Indian Government to India for the payment of the Indian debt, for political purposes?—By bills of exchange.

2213. Would that be more advantageous than the present mode of remittance in produce?—Undoubtedly the private trade is managed more advantageously than the Company's own commerce.

2214. Upon what foundation would these bills of exchange rest, and how could an additional quantity be obtained, seeing that, from the present state of the trade, the demand for bills of exchange upon England has altered the rate of exchange unfavourably to India?—The ground, on which the Company at present takes bills of exchange, is goods actually shipped, two-thirds of their value; the amount of these bills of exchange could be augmented by altering the rate of exchange which they demand at present, from twenty-three pence to a lower rate, according to circumstances, and relaxing in their other regulations concerning these bills, which are granted only on goods to the port of London, I believe warehoused with the Company.

2215. Does not the rate of exchange betwixt India and Europe depend on the general demand for bills in India upon Europe, and not upon any particular regulations of the East-India Company, or any other individuals whatever?—It does, and private bills find those rates; but the Company fixes its own rate at twenty-three pence, and will not deviate from it. If the Company put up their bills to auction, then the Company's bills would find their natural rate, as His Majesty's bills do at the various colonies, the Cape of Good Hope, the Isle of France, and New South Wales.

2216. Is that a fixed rate of the Company?—In 1814, immediately on the present charter being granted, the Court of Directors sent out instructions to their Government in India to grant bills of exchange to private merchants, taking security on goods: this order was not complied with by the local Government until last year by Lord William Bentinck.

2217. If it was the case, by the transference of the Indian debt to England, that the demand for bills in India upon England was augmented two millions per annum, would not that of necessity produce *pro tanto* an effect on the exchange?—Every bill brought into the market in its degree produces an effect on the exchange; but I consider that the present remittance of tribute from India to England is two millions sterling actually, public and private tribute.

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2218. In what way is a bill of exchange bought in India?—The Company advances to the merchant coin, with which the merchant purchases a cargo, and grants to the Company bills of exchange, payable in London, on the security of this cargo, with the bill of lading.

2219. The transaction is a transaction of coin in India against coin in England?—Coin in India against coin in England. In India the Company lends coin to the merchant, and in London the merchant repays coin to the Company.

2220. And then the coin of each country being of a fixed standard, under the circumstances of the free trade, will not any demand of bills of exchange come to settle themselves finally at a regular steady rate?—Undoubtedly, among private merchants; but when the Company says it will grant bills of exchange at a fixed rate, and at no other rate, of course that rate does not alter.

2221. And whatever would be the necessity, under circumstances, of making large pecuniary remittances, would not it be practicable at all times to obtain bills of exchange finally at regular and steady rates?—It would be practicable, but not if the rate was determined by one party: if the bills were put up to auction, as by His Majesty in his colonies, they would find their natural rate.

2222. And would not that, after a new system of remittance had been introduced and established, become a steady rate?—Undoubtedly.

2223. Is the basis of all bills of exchange from one country to the other, the produce of the country remitted from one country to the other?—The produce and goods which are obtainable in the country.

2224. Has not the rate of exchange a direct reference to the amount of the metal and the fineness of the coin in which that exchange is calculated?—Undoubtedly.

2225. Then when the exchange is low, metallic money flows from India, and supplies the place of bills of exchange?—The direction in which metallic money flows is influenced by the rate of exchange.

2226. Is not the rate of exchange then influenced by the remittances in metallic money?—I consider that the remittance is influenced by the rate of exchange; one influences the other; if the one country is full of money, it overflows to another country: the one rate is fixed, the other rate is variable.

2227. Does not the remittance of metallic money from one country to another operate on exchange precisely in the same manner as the remittance or shipment of any other commodity; and, in that view, is not metallic money a commodity, and nothing else?—Metallic money I consider as a commodity, and nothing else.

2228. What is the effect of the purchase of the Company's investment in India

24 March 1831. India for remittance to Europe, on the state of the Indian market?—There have been frequent examples of the immediate rise of an article in which the Company began to trade; for instance, cotton ran up very high indeed a few years since, when the Company began to remit it to Europe from Calcutta; other articles of course are affected in the same manner. At Madras the merchants were complaining extremely that after they had been at the trouble of introducing indigo, and promoting the cultivation of it, as soon as it became of the slightest importance whatever, the Company interfered in the purchase of it, depriving the agency houses of their usual channel of remittance to this country.

2229. Supposing a similar amount of articles sent from India to England by the free trader, would the effect you have described in the market have been produced?—Certainly not: their agents would have been distributed throughout the country, instead of the Company's agents at one or two fixed stations, who were obliged to buy a certain quantity of cotton, whatever the price was, to complete the investment: the free traders would have been scattered over a greater extent of country, and when they found one article rising, they would have directed their attention to other articles, which it was not in the power of the Company's residents to do; they were acting under express directions.

2230. Would not their transactions also have been spread over a larger period?—They could have delayed their remittances until the next season.

2231. What effect on the Indian market has the knowledge that the Company's agents are purchasing for remittance to Europe?—Of course it is expected that the article will rise in the Indian market, and that it also may be lowered unnaturally in the London market.

2232. What is the condition of the Indian weavers and persons connected with the culture and preparation of raw silk for the Company?—I have not a personal knowledge on the subject, but of course I know it from official papers which I have seen on the subject; I know their condition to be that of persons constantly in debt, under advances to the Company, and that it is the system of the Company to keep them in that situation.

2233. What manufactures of European machinery have been introduced into India by British-born subjects of late years?—Several steam-engines have been introduced for pumping out docks, making and pressing paper, watering the roads, boring cannon, coining money, grinding flour, and spinning and weaving, and printing of cotton.

2234. Into what parts of India have these been introduced?—Bengal almost exclusively, and especially the neighbourhood of Calcutta: also steam-vessels have been introduced.

2235. What kind of paper is manufactured?—Very coarse, very indifferent and inferior.

2236. Is that, in the hands of natives or of Europeans?—The Baptists' Missionary

Missionary paper factory at Serampore is the only one, I believe; I am not aware of any other. 24 March 1831.

2237. Are the flour-mills on an extensive scale, and are they a profitable concern?—They are the most extensive mills known, upwards of twenty pair of large stones; it is a new undertaking, like most other new undertakings considered not a profitable concern.

2238. Do you allude to that at Calcutta?—Yes, Calcutta; the only flour-mill is set up at Calcutta.

2239. Has the machinery for spinning cotton answered?—It has scarcely commenced its operations.

2240. Was it considered likely, by intelligent persons, to answer?—Lookers-on, of course, considered that the prospect was not promising.

2241. Is not the scarcity of fuel and the absence of falls of water, in the most populous parts of India, a serious obstacle to the establishment of extensive manufactories and of industry in that country?—It is in many parts of the country, especially in the Carnatic, where there is neither water nor fuel which can be made use of for the purpose of machinery; however it does not require many favourable stations to supply a large extent of country.

2242. What are the daily wages of a Hindoo, Chinese, and European artizan at Calcutta?—A Hindoo carpenter may be considered at 6d. per day, the Chinese at 2s., and the European, the lowest superintendent of carpenters, at 6s. a day.

2243. According to this statement, the labour of a Chinese is equal to that of four natives of Bengal?—It is.

2244. And the combined skill and inspection of an European equal to twelve natives of Bengal?—Yes.

2245. Judging from that data, do you not conceive the fixed price of labour in India is not low, but in reality high?—It is generally considered high in most branches; for instance, cabinet makers for many years were accustomed to fix their prices by the London prices, substituting the rupee for a shilling; if the price of making a chair in London was 5s., they paid in Calcutta five rupees.

2246. The rupee being of what value at that moment?—Two shillings.

2247. Was it then actually worth 2s.?—It was then 2s. 6d., and even 2s. 10d.

2248. What is the proportion, in respect of skill and labour, between an Indian and an English seaman?—In India, two lascars may be considered equal to an European; but of course in a cold climate the lascar becomes of no value.

2249. In the case of seamen, the proportion is less than in the case of other labourers; can you state the reason of that?—There is an advantage in

24 March 1831. in division; two lascars can be keeping watch much easier than one seaman can, and doing many small jobs; there are not many jobs on board a ship that require main strength.

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2250. What is the condition of an Indian ship without European officers?—As slovenly and dirty and ill managed as possible.

2251. Are the natives of India ever employed as steersmen or quarter-masters in ships navigated by Indian seamen?—The Christian natives of Manilla are especially employed as steersmen, native Portuguese also; but Mussulman lascars are not employed in that line.

2252. What branches of industry, manufacture or otherwise, do you consider most natural to India in its present condition?—Agricultural.

2253. Has not rice been exported from India to England in the husk, of late years, in considerable quantities?—It has; in 1829 it had amounted to 1,000 tons, in consequence of being better cleaned in this country by machinery than by manual labour in India.

2254. Do you know the freight that rice pays in the husk, in comparison to clean rice?—Double that of clean rice.

2255. Does it occupy double the space?—It occupies double the space.

2256. Is not iron ore abundant in many parts of India?—I understand that in 1808 the Company sent out Mr. Duncan, who had been in Russia, and acquainted with iron works in that country, to examine the situation of the iron ore in India; he established a factory under the protection of the Company, at Cossimbuzar, but I believe at his death it came to nothing. I know that iron ore is abundant in most parts of India; it is worked by the natives, especially at Salem.

2257. Do you happen to know whether the iron ore is found in conjunction with coal in India?—Except from Mr. Bracker, I never heard of that coincidence.

2258. What is the quality and price of Indian iron compared with British iron or Swedish?—At Ramnad it is sold at a higher price than British or Swedish iron; it is more pliable, but I understand there is a great waste in the working of it, which renders it pliable and adapted to many purposes for the natives, but it is expensive.

Jovis, 14^o die Aprilis, 1831.

SIR JAMES MACDONALD, Bart. in the Chair.

WILLIAM WILDEY, Esq. called in, and examined.

2259. You are Captain and Paymaster in His Majesty's army?—I am. 14 April 1831.

2260. Have you served in the East-Indies?—I have. W. Wildey, Esq.

2261. In what part?—Ceylon, Madras, Bombay, the Deccan, and Cutch, are the principal parts of India I have served in. I have visited Calcutta, and most of the foreign stations of India.

2262. When did you go to India first, and when did you return?—I went to India first in 1804; I have been three times to India, serving in different regiments, and the last time I returned from that country was in 1827.

2263. Have you made the country of Cutch the object of study with reference to its soil and productions?—I have.

2264. What has been the nature of your researches?—Principally the ores of Cutch, and the coal-mine; I think in most parts of Cutch coal would be found in abundance.

2265. How is it situated?—The mine which has been worked by the order of the Bombay Government is situated about three miles from Bhooj, on the banks of a ravine; it has not been worked to any extent in consequence of our force being removed from that country.

2266. Have you made any experiments on the Cutch coal?—I have made several experiments.

2267. What was the result?—I found them satisfactory beyond my most sanguine hopes.

2268. As compared with what?—As compared with English coal. There is a coal in Bengal called the Burdwan coal, but I never had an opportunity of comparing it with that coal.

2269. How is it as compared with English coal?—It ignites quicker, and from the superior quality of the gas it contains I considered that it would answer for steam-machinery better than what is generally used in this country, and in India. In fact, its bitumen is so pure that it would not incrust the flues of the steam-engines like British coal: it burns to a white ash like the Kennet coal.

2270. Is it of rapid combustion?—It is rather so, but not so rapid as to exhaust itself in a very short space of time.

2271. Have you brought any samples of it with you?—I have.

14 April 1831. 2272. Has it been used in the public works at Bombay?—It has never been used in any of the public works of Bombay, but an experiment has been made on it.

2273. At what distance is it from Bombay?—Cutch is about three degrees by sea from Bombay; Bhooj, where the mine is, about thirty miles from the sea.

2274. Is there any water-carriage?—It could be brought by water probably during the monsoon, because at that period the river would be more navigable.

2275. What is the latitude and longitude of Bhooj?—The latitude about 32°, and the longitude about 69°. It is bounded by the Indus on the north-west, and the Gulph of Cutch on the south-east.

2276. Have you made any report of the result of your researches to the Bombay Government?—I made a report to the Bombay Government in the year 1826.

2277. Have you a copy of that report?—I have (*producing the same*). The report was founded upon a communication I made to the Chief Secretary, Mr. Newnham, in consequence of which I was desired to make a report to the Government by the request of Mr. Elphinstone, the then governor of that Presidency. Mr. Newnham's letter bearing date the 18th of May 1826. I shortly afterwards received a communication dated from Bombay Castle, communicating to me the Governor in Council's thanks for the report I forwarded to the Government upon the coal mine.

2278. Did you hear any thing further upon that subject from the Bombay Government?—Nothing further.

2279. Had you any communication with the Court of Directors after you returned?—None whatever. I made a private communication to one or two of the Directors, but no public communication to the East-India Company. I received a private letter from Mr. Henry Alexander, one of the Directors, stating it as his opinion, that unless it had been strongly recommended by the Bombay Government, the Company would not work the mine.

2280. Was your attention drawn to any other productions of Cutch?—Of iron ore, particularly copper, sulphur, towards the alum which is made in Cutch in considerable quantities, and also the wool of the Cutch sheep, which is particularly long in staple, though not fine; it is principally exported to Persia to make carpets with.

2281. Of what quality is the iron?—Extremely fine; I have made experiments on it in this country, and found its ore to possess about twenty-two per cent. of iron. It has been assayed in London: here is the proof from the Assay-office, which bears out my experiments.

2282. What proportion does that bear to common iron ore?—I should think from ten to twelve per cent. more than common iron ore. The ore of Cutch is found mostly upon the surface; the natives gather it in baskets and throw

throw it into the furnace; it runs out shortly afterwards in a liquid state; furnaces are working night and day; they cast cannon in Cutch.

2283. What fuel do they use?—Mostly charcoal; though they must have abundance of coal they are wholly unacquainted with its use.

2284. Do you know the quality of the Swedish ore?—Not in the form of ore, but I have seen Swedish iron in this country.

2285. Can you make steel of the Cutch ore?—Yes: steel is made in Cutch: it is the finest steel probably in India. In fact, the natives of Cutch make steel chain armour, sabres, pikes, and various sharp-edged tools; they are the best blacksmiths in Asia; their horseshoes are particularly fine, the iron being more malleable and soft, and not so likely to break. I have heard the veterinary surgeon of the 4th Dragoons say that they are the finest shoes he ever saw, and far preferable to those made in England.

2286. You belonged to the 4th Dragoons in India, did you not?—I did.

2287. Do you suppose that if encouragement were given by the government the coal-mines and iron-mines might be wrought with great advantage?—I have no doubt about it.

2288. Would there be any difficulty in obtaining permission of the Cutch Government?—I am not aware of that. The country is under a regency, consisting, I believe, of Major Pottinger, Mr. Walter, and a native; how far permission would be given to Europeans to locate in Cutch I know not.

2289. Was there any difficulty contemplated in that quarter?—None that I am aware of, as I made no application to the regency.

2290. You have mentioned a letter which you received from Mr. Newnham, and a report which you made in consequence to the Bombay government; will you have the goodness to read them?

[*The witness read the same, as follows:*]

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Newnham to Captain Wildey, dated Bombay, 18th May, 1826.

My Dear Sir:
A pressure of other matter has prevented an earlier acknowledgment of your letter, which, with the sample of coal, came at a very auspicious moment; just as orders were received from the Court of Directors in England, desiring that the sources of coal in this country might be examined, to know the extent in which they might be depended upon for steam navigation. I lost no time therefore in laying your letter and specimens *privately* before the board at the first meeting of council; and they were looked upon with as much interest as is usually done by people not conversant with the arcana of such matters. Mr. Elphinstone desired me, however, to say, that any report which you can at your leisure draw up on the subject of the Cutch coal will be most acceptable at head quarters; I shall hope, therefore, to hear further from you on the subject.

(Signed) WILLIAM NEWNHAM,
Chief Secretary to Government.

14 April 1831.

Copy of a report on the Cutch Coal-mine, made by request of the Honourable Mount Stuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay, by William Wildey, Paymaster 4th Light Dragoons; dated Kaira, 12th June 1826.

W. Wildey, Esq.

The coal-mine of Cutch lies on the right bank of a large ravine, through which runs a small stream of water, distant from the entrance of the mine eight or nine yards, and about five feet below its level. The mine has been worked in the usual method of driving, following the vein of coal in a direct line nearly twenty-two yards, dipping gradually across the face of the mine, and varying in thickness from fourteen to seventeen inches; the level then takes a turn to the right, and inclines in that direction about three yards, when it resumes its original direction by a turn to the left, which it continued six or seven yards farther in, when the miners were withdrawn. The different strata through which the level has been driven, are those most commonly attendant on coal-mines, but other strata, pyrites, and various other appearance of ores, fully indicate that coal is not the only valuable which will be discovered in it.

The coal of the Bhooj mine I conceive to belong to the class of ampetites, as nearer approaching those of that species in quality and specific gravity; at the same time it partakes of the qualities both of the Kennet and Jet coal in its combustible properties, and will be found to answer every purpose either for the forge or steam-engine. As far as my judgment serves me, and under all the disadvantages I had in making my experiments on the coal of the mine, I conceive that there are different classes of coal in it, and that a still more superior quality than the specimen which I had the honour of forwarding to Government through the Chief Secretary, will, on sinking a shaft, be discovered. The best coal of the mine I consider to contain, charcoal seventy per cent., bitumen twenty per cent., sulphur five per cent., iron three per cent., and calcareous earths two per cent. The second sort, charcoal sixty, bitumen fifteen, oxyd of iron nine, earths ten, sulphur four, hydrogen and carbon acids two per cent.

I have also observed, on examining the coal heaped for cartage to Mandavie; that there was a great proportion of it resembling the Welch culm and Kilkenny coal. I have observed in the Bombay Courier of the 25th of March last a statement of the experiments tried at Bombay on the Cutch coal. I am induced to notice that part of the letter signed "A Friend," as regards the failure of the coal, and its combustible properties, for two important reasons; as the writer of this letter states that the specimens "which have been obtained under the operations which have been lately instituted, and which have been forwarded to the Presidency, do not, we understand, give such encouragement to persevere, as on trial the Cutch coal has been found to have little more than half the power, as a combustible body, possessed by common English coal." Now with regard to the specimens forwarded to the Presidency, I beg leave to state they were of the most inferior quality, and not the same coal as now worked in the mine. The coal of which these experiments were tried at Bombay was from a stratum which drove across the face of the mine from its first working, and continued dipping gradually to nearly where the fourteenth couples which support the timbers of the roof are placed. I am happy that it lies in my power to state this, because, on my first visiting the coal-mine the miners had only driven their level twenty-two yards, and no coal had been sent to Bombay beyond fifteen yards, working from the mouth of the adit; their working of the seven yards farther into the face of the mine, on my first examining it, was then lying ready for cartage to Mandavie; consequently, as the best coal was not discovered till the miners had driven their level nearly twenty-five yards, the experiments of the best coal are still unknown at the Presidency. I am willing, however, to admit, that the trial at the Presidency was good and such as stated, that the combustible properties of the coal with which it is made only contained little or more than half the power, as a combustible body, possessed by common English coal. What a consideration is this, that the worst description of coal found

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in the Bhooj mine should on trial be found to contain half the properties of combustion that coal sent from England possesses: this simple fact must alone argue in favour of a mine just opened, and worked under all the disadvantages of the coal being exposed for many weeks to the dews of Cutch at night, and the sun by day, ere it reaches the Presidency; that alone would be sufficient to destroy its best properties. Having stated thus much on the inferior coal, I will now say a few words on the best quality to the period of my last inspecting the mine, which was the day after the miners were withdrawn, and which I feel assured will not admit for a moment a doubt or prejudice against its combustible qualities.

I had expressed a wish to my friend Colonel Dyson of making a party to the coal-mine; and my first visit was with him, Colonel Mitford, Captain Capon, and several other officers, to a *pic-nic*. After breakfast we proceeded to examine the mine, and then looked at the coals that were heaped ready for cartage to Mandavie. On closely examining the heap I was satisfied that coal was not the only valuable production that would be discovered in the mine, in consequence of which I paid frequent visits, and made several experiments, the result of which have partly been laid before you. But to return to the *pic-nic*; I proposed that our dinner should be dressed by a coal fire, and I undertook the superintendence of it. A few baskets of coal from the heap were brought up, and the fire made, which burnt in the clearest manner, and precisely with the same flame and appearance of the finest quality of Kennet coal in England. I had some little difficulty in regulating the heat for the country oven, from the fierceness of the fire; but by moving it nearer or farther from the fire at different times, I was successful enough in the baking, and I cannot speak too highly in favour of the coal-fire for boiling, roasting, and broiling. The novelty of dressing a dinner by a coal fire in India afforded us the highest delight and gratification. This trial led me to make other experiments to ascertain its combustible qualities, and also the proportions of its composition, from which I conceive the best coal of the mine superior to the English coal, and the secondary nearly composed of the same qualities as the "common pit," the "boney," the "slate," the "bitumen," the "sea," and the "caking" coal, the whole of which belong to the same species, and mostly used in steam-engines, and seldom varying from fifty to sixty per cent. of charcoal, twenty-five to thirty per cent. of bitumen, the remaining parts consisting of oxyd of iron, acidulous water, calcareous earths, and such other substances as are generally met with in coal-mines. I had nearly forgotten to state one important circumstance connected with the *pic-nic*, namely, the fire by which the dinner was dressed was made in the open air, merely a few stones making the back and sides of the fire-place, and wholly unprotected from the sun either by tree or hedge. Now how far English coal would have stood this test would be an experiment worth knowing. Having thus confidently spoken of the combustible properties of the Cutch coal, I will now make a few observations on the quality of its smoke, which, in the present era of scientific knowledge and invention, ought not to be overlooked, as I consider it much superior in quality and specific gravity to the smoke or gas from coals generally used for any purpose in England, and would not require that process of purification which the English coal undergoes to procure gas, being in itself extremely pure; and from my experiments, I have no doubt, would be found highly valuable for every purpose which gas is at this present moment used in almost every part of Europe. From the purity of the gas the Cutch coal could not fail to be of the utmost importance in steam-navigation, as it would in a great measure increase the heat of the fire by consuming its own smoke, and would not foul the flues by incrustation, in the same manner as the smoke from a coal-fire on board a steam-vessel. I will now add a few remarks on the method which the mine has hitherto been worked, and also of the difficulties which are likely to arise from its locality, situated as it is nearly in the bed of a large river, which, on the increase of the water in the monsoon

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monsoon, will in all probability wash away the couples which support the timbers of the roof, or, by bursting the gallery altogether, thereby rendering the mine unfit to work for a considerable length of time. A long and laborious work was continued in driving the present level, which might have been saved by sinking a shaft, and working by intersections, as the different strata were found, which might easily have been accomplished by the use of the windlass or whims, worked by bullocks, until a satisfactory trial had been made whether the mine was of sufficient importance to render the aid of British miners and machinery necessary. As it is well known that a horizontal level cannot be driven to any great distance, neither can a single shaft, not communicating by one level to another, be sunk to any considerable depth, without some contrivance for procuring currents of air, to make up the deficiency of oxygen, which is so rapidly consumed by respiration, combustion, &c., to the want of which may be attributed the many dreadful effects of the gases so frequently occurring from fire-damp, choke-damp, and other incidents too common in mining; it is therefore most essential that every precaution should be taken to protect the miners by the use of safety-lamps, &c., as well as procuring them free ventilation, which can only be complete by either sinking other shafts, or by air-pipes to the surface itself. To carry on all the process of mining requires the combination of much skill in the various branches of engineering, and it is also the essential part of the miner's art to distinguish and select the most advantageous spots for breaking ground, where he may not be opposed by streams of water, by unwholesome air, or be cramped for room. Having now stated my opinion, as far as my observations and judgment permit me, on the Cutch coal, and the working of the mine, it is needless to quote as to the general principles of mining, which seldom deviate from those practised in the coal-mines of England. But where the want of machinery, the difficulty of procuring timber, the locality of the Cutch coal-mine, and other obstacles and difficulties intervene, it may be requisite to deviate from the beaten track to obviate such difficulties, under whatever circumstances they may present themselves. It is therefore for the consideration of Government to decide how far it may be advisable to continue the working of the mine by the best means that can be adopted on the spot, or to send to Europe for scientific miners and machinery. It however may be worth the attention of Government to cause research to be made in Cutch, in the hope of discovering coal at a much nearer point of shipment, and I have no hesitation in saying that I think it would be attended with success; but in the event of its failure, I think the cartage of the coal from the Bhooj mine may be rendered much easier and less expensive by constructing railways. From the general observations I have made in Cutch, I firmly believe, from the various volcanic eruptions, and the many revolutions of nature which that country seems to have undergone, that almost every production of mineral would be found embowelled in its earths. I therefore hope and trust that, under the present Government of Bombay, every exertion will be persevered in in making research, the result of which may be the first step towards placing that Presidency in the highest point of view, independent of her present great commercial interests, and the advantages her port must derive from her local situation, in the event of a communication with the Mediterranean and Europe by steam navigation, as well as to every port of Foreign and British India.

No. 1322 of 1826.

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General Department. W. Wildey, Esq.

To Captain William Wildey, Paymaster of His Majesty's 4th Dragoons.

Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo, to the address of Mr. Chief Secretary Newnham, and to return to you the thanks of the Honourable the Governor in Council, for the able and encouraging Report which you forwarded to Government on the coal-mine in Cutch, and for the public spirit which induced you to undertake so useful an inquiry.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Bombay Castle,

(Signed) D. GREENHILL,

3d July 1826.

Acting Secretary to Government.

2291. You have spoken of Cutch wool; to what extent could it be attained?—In any quantity, I should think, as a flock of sheep to any extent might be procured in Cutch.

2292. At what price a head?—I should think from 3s. to 3s. 6d. would be the price of the finest sheep in Cutch.

2293. To what purposes would it be applicable in this country?—I have shewn a sample of it to a gentleman conversant with the wool-trade in London, and he has stated to me that wool of that sort has been very much wanted in this country. Though not particularly fine, it is a long staple, and would make excellent blankets, carpets, and other coarse articles.

2294. Is the fleece large?—It is nearly the size of the sheep of this country.

2295. What is about the average weight?—I should think about four pounds and a half to five pounds. The wool is particularly long in staple, I should suppose six inches on some parts of it: the sheep are fully as large as in England.

2296. Did you in that country meet with many European cotton manufactures?—Yes, in the bazars of all the towns I passed through from Bhooj to Kaira.

2297. Are they much worn by the natives?—Yes, much worn by the natives, and particularly sought after.

2298. Do they use any British woollens?—They use British woollen cloths; but I have seen horse-cloths and dulees made from the wool in Cutch.

2299. Did you see any British manufactures?—I have seen British manufactures of all sorts, both woollen and cotton. I have seen British muslins and British shawls worn by natives; I have also seen the natives give a preference to them to the shawls of this country, even at Mandavie, which is a large depôt for shawls from the Persian Gulf.

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2300. Do you conceive the district of Cutch to be capable of much improvement if capital were employed upon it?—Yes, I have never seen a country where I think there is so fine a field as Cutch for British emigration and capital; in fact, had I not been a Paymaster in the King's service, I would have remained in Cutch as a resident; that is, could I have obtained permission and a grant of land.

2301. What is the extent of the district of Cutch?—It may be about one degree wide, north and south, and about two degrees long, east and west.

2302. Is it a populous district?—Yes, it is, in some parts; some of the villages are very large; Bhooj, which is the principal city, has an immense population.

2303. Are the natives an industrious race?—They are particularly so, much more so than the natives of Bombay or Madras; they are a very fine race of men, mostly six feet high, and nearly the same size as the Bengalese.

2304. Are the prices of labour low?—They are.

2305. Are they generally deficient in capital?—Quite so.

2306. Would the introduction of capital on the part of Europeans settling there be of great importance to the country?—It would.

2307. Are you acquainted with other parts of India?—I am with almost all parts of India, particularly with the Malabar and Coromandel coasts.

2308. Do you conceive that the same principle which you have stated as applicable to Cutch, and productive of advantage for the settlement of Europeans there, would be equally advantageous in other parts of India?—In every part of India I have visited; and particularly on Ceylon.

2309. What is the climate of Cutch?—It is extremely fine; particularly cold at night, and in the morning it is more temperate than in any other part of India; we rode constantly about during the heat of the day. Pic-nics to the coal-mine were made during the heat of the day; shooting parties were made the same as we should do in this country.

2310. Are there not very unhealthy winds from the great Run?—Not that I am aware of.

2311. Are you aware whether it is considered so unhealthy that the native troops are unwilling to go there?—That might be so to the south of the Run, but not to the northward: Mandavi must be extremely healthy from its position, lying in the Gulph of Cutch, and being a sea-port.

2312. Does not Cutch produce large quantities of cotton?—There is a great quantity of cotton grown in Cutch, but not in proportion to what it might be cultivated: it is particularly fine in the staple and well cleaned, much better I should say than any that is grown in the Guzerat. I have brought samples of the Cutch cotton with me to England.

SIR

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SIR CHARLES FORBES, Bart. (a Member of the Committee) examined.

2313. CAN you give the Committee any information with respect to the injury sustained by Mr. Wilkinson, on account of the interference of Government in a contract which he had been allowed to make for the purchase of saltpetre in the year 1811?—I undertook to bring that case before the Court of Proprietors on behalf of Mr. Wilkinson in the year 1819. Upon Mr. Wilkinson's return from Calcutta to this country, he called upon me with a letter of introduction from Mr. Palmer, of Calcutta, drawing my attention to the great hardship of his case, and soliciting my assistance in endeavouring to obtain redress from the Court of Directors. I went over the case very fully with Mr. Wilkinson, and found it to be one of the most oppressive that I had ever heard of on the part of the East-India Company towards individuals. It appeared that in the year 1810 the Bengal government resolved to throw open the trade in saltpetre, in consequence of representations made to them of the great injury to the public and private interests from the existence of the monopoly. Accordingly in 1811 the trade was declared to be free, and Mr. Wilkinson, with others, entered into contracts for the article to a large extent; he was then residing at Gorruckpore. An extended manufacture of the article took place in consequence of the freedom of trade and rise of price. He engaged to pay seventy per cent. more than the prices of the Company's commercial resident at Patna. The Bengal government, however, thought proper, in 1812, to rescind their previous resolution, and to declare the trade in saltpetre shut; they resumed their monopoly in the most rigorous manner, without reference to the contracts which had been entered into by Mr. Wilkinson and others, and by which they suffered a most serious injury and loss, whilst the Company took to themselves all the advantages. Mr. Wilkinson remonstrated with the Bengal government for several years, but with very little effect; at length they determined to refer his case to the consideration of a committee of five gentlemen, chosen by themselves; two of them Mr. Bayley and Mr. Wood, civil servants of the Company, Mr. Compton, their junior counsel, lately appointed Chief Justice at Bombay, and Mr. Cruttenden and Mr. Clark, two merchants of Calcutta. Those gentlemen, after the fullest investigation of the whole case, came to the unanimous resolution of recommending to the government to pay to Mr. Wilkinson the sum of 288,800 sicca rupees, or £36,100 sterling, as the lowest compensation they would have been disposed to give had the matter been left to them as arbitrators, although Mr. Wilkinson estimated his loss, or rather deprivation of profit, as exceeding £79,000 sterling, and which profit, with much more, went into the treasury of the Company. Mr. Wilkinson's suspense and anxiety did not however end here; the Bengal government rejecting the decision of its own committee, referred the case to the Board of Trade at Calcutta, which recommended that only 75,000 sicca rupees, or £9,375 sterling, should be paid to Mr. Wilkinson, together with interest at six per cent.

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cent. from the 11th of October 1816. Mr. Wilkinson, however, did not consent to this arrangement; and, despairing of obtaining justice in India, returned to England to bring his claim before the Company. The Court of Directors, having brought before the Court of Proprietors, on the 24th of March 1819, a resolution to the effect of granting to Mr. Wilkinson the sum of 75,000 sicca rupees, for the purpose of its being confirmed by the General Court, I moved an adjournment of the question for fourteen days, in order to amend the motion by inserting the larger sum to be paid to Mr. Wilkinson, agreeably to the unanimous recommendation of the Bengal committee, as the lowest compensation to which he was entitled; it being observable that the said committee was appointed without Mr. Wilkinson being a party to it, or his having any share whatever in the nomination of its members. After considerable discussion, the question of adjournment was put and carried, and on the 30th of March, Sir Charles Cockerell and myself gave notice to the Court of Directors, that upon the 21st of April following we should move and second the larger sum being paid to Mr. Wilkinson, with interest at eight per cent. from the 30th of April 1817, until paid. Accordingly, on the 21st of April, at the adjourned Court, I submitted the amendment above stated, and after a very full discussion the Court divided, when there appeared for the original motion 32, and against it 32: there being no casting vote in such cases, a subsequent division took place upon the amendment, of 32 for, and 33 against it, when the Chairman declared that both questions were lost. This rendered it necessary to bring the question again before the Court of Proprietors, which was accordingly done, after due notice, on the 19th of May 1819, when another very full discussion took place. I ought to observe, that in order to meet what appeared to be the wish of several Proprietors, Mr. Wilkinson was advised to reduce his claim to 180,000 sicca rupees, being the medium between the two sums before mentioned, and the motion being framed accordingly, was carried by 59 for it to 50 against it. The Chairman and others demanded a ballot, which took place upon the 2d of June, when there appeared for the motion 269, against it 482, leaving a majority against it of 213. Mr. Wilkinson, tired of the anxiety and expense he had been exposed to for so long a period, was at length under the necessity of receiving what the Company chose to give him, being the sum of 75,000 sicca rupees, at 2s. per rupee, £7,500 sterling, with interest at six per cent. The whole of the proceedings on this cruel and oppressive case are fully detailed in the Asiatic Journal for 1819, published by the booksellers to the Company, and are well worthy the perusal of those who can have any doubt of the injurious effects of the union of the two characters of sovereign and merchant in the East-India Company, as well to the true interests of the Company themselves as of individuals.

2314. Is not Mr. Wilkinson since dead?—Mr. Wilkinson is, since dead; he went to Paris, where he set up a bank; and died, I think, about a year ago.

2315. Are

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2315. Are you aware whether any political necessity existed in the year 1812, inducing the Bengal government to adopt the course which they pursued with respect to the transaction you have now mentioned?—I am not aware of any. It was a period of perfect peace in India, though there had been a war with France for many years before.

2316. Are you aware of any other instance of injury arising to trade on account of the interference of the government of India?—I am aware of several instances, but particularly with respect to Malwa opium. I have been informed, that in the end of the year 1828 the Bombay government announced to the public that the trade in opium would be thenceforth free, upon the payment of a certain duty on the importation of it at Bombay. This, I believe, arose from their finding it impossible to prevent what they call a smuggling trade from Malwa, the territory of Holkar, with Demaun, a Portuguese settlement about a degree to the northward of Bombay. In consequence of this intimation, the native merchants in that part of India were naturally encouraged to go considerably into speculation in the article of opium; but soon afterwards, I believe in the course of a few weeks, another intimation was issued by the government that the monopoly was resumed. This was understood to be in consequence of the Company having made contracts for the article, which the contractors declared their inability to deliver at the low prices stipulated, in consequence of the trade being thrown open; and it has been stated to me, upon authority which I believe to be correct, that the Company having contracted for and received opium to the value of twenty lacs of rupees, sold the same at a profit of 300 per cent., which I consider in no other light than a robbery, on the part of the East-India Company in their character of sovereigns and merchants, of the property of their ally Holkar and his subjects, and of the private merchants of India.

2317. Do you adduce this as an instance of the injury arising from the Company sustaining the double character of merchants and administrators of the government of the country?—Yes.

2318. In what way were the Company, as a commercial body, benefited by this arrangement?—I think that fully appears by their selling the opium for eighty lacs of rupees which they purchased at twenty.

2319. Did they sell it as a commercial body or as the government?—Their characters are united, and I do not see how they can separate them as it suits their convenience.

2320. Are you not aware that the separation is effected, not according to the convenience of the Company, but by an arrangement made in many respects against the desire of the Company, and under the authority of an Act of Parliament?—They are bound to keep their political and commercial accounts separate, but I believe it would be exceedingly difficult to separate them under the existing system.

2321. Do

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2321. Do you conceive that the separation which is enjoined by law of the territorial and commercial accounts has any bearing upon the question of the supply of opium?—I cannot see it. I would also mention, with regard to their cotton investments for China, that great inconvenience and injury to the interests of the private merchants on the western side of India arises from the Company going into the market to purchase cotton, the period of their doing so, and the quantity they require, being quite uncertain, insomuch that the cotton growers and dealers will fix no price, nor enter into no contracts with the private merchants, until they ascertain whether the Company are or are not to come into the market. The first intelligence of this comes from the northward to Bombay, announcing that the Company's agents have gone into the market, and made engagements for the purchases of twenty or thirty thousand bales of cotton, as the case may be, and which it is quite understood must be brought down to Bombay, wind and weather permitting, by a certain time. The price, of course, immediately rises for what remains of the crop, sometimes to an exorbitant rate, and the private merchant is either obliged to go without his investment or submit to purchase the article at a price which ultimately makes it a losing concern to him in the market of Canton. It is nothing uncommon for a rise of ten, fifteen, or twenty per cent. to take place in the course of a few weeks.

2322. Supposing any large capitalist were to be engaged in a similar trade in purchasing cotton, would not his purchases produce precisely the same effect as that of the East-India Company?—I conceive not, because the private capitalist would go into the market upon a footing with other merchants, having only the advantage of his superior capital; whilst the Company bring into the field their weight as sovereigns. It is perfectly well known, that when the Company announce that they require a certain quantity of cotton, the growers and dealers look upon themselves as bound to supply it.

2323. Are you speaking of Bombay?—Yes; but I believe that the effect produced is precisely the same at the other Presidencies.

2324. Supposing that the Company were not to take advantage of their situation of sovereigns, but that they were to go into the market as an individual purchaser, would not the circumstance of being an individual purchaser give them an advantage over the sellers, and enable them to buy cheaper than a variety of merchants could, who would meet in competition in the same market?—I do not conceive so; but I consider it impossible for the Company to lay aside their character of sovereigns so long as it is united with their character of merchants, in India.

2325. Do you mean that the Committee should understand that the Company in their capacity of sovereigns exclude the competition of individual merchants, while they are purchasers in the same market?—The natural effect of the union of the two characters is such. I have always considered it so, and found it so, during a residence of twenty-two years in India.

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2326. Is it your opinion that this is an unprofitable mode of the East-India Company having made their purchases of cotton?—I believe it will be found so, on their own showing, if I mistake not, from what I have seen of the Papers lately laid before this Committee, and which exhibit a heavy loss upon their trade between India and China.

2327. In speaking of the effect of the Company's purchases of cotton, are you speaking of your own knowledge while you were resident in India, or from subsequent information?—From both.

2328. Then your evidence is meant to apply to a very late period?—To a very early, as well as to a very late period; I would say down to the last season.

2329. Are you aware of any case in which the growers of cotton have been subject to any oppression on the part of the Company's servants in consequence of selling their cotton to individuals rather than to the Company?—I am aware that such has been the case, from the system of the Company's servants insisting upon the growers of cotton taking advances, and compelling them to deliver their cotton. I allude more to a former period than lately; it may not be the practice at present so much as it used to be.

2330. Are not private traders at liberty to make advances if they think fit?—No doubt of it, and they generally do so, but at great hazard of never getting cotton in return.

2331. If they make advances, have they not the same legal means of enforcing the delivery of the cotton on account of which advances have been made as the Company have?—When you speak of legal means, I am not aware of any such means that can be applied by a merchant residing at Bombay to compel a grower of cotton in Guzerat, or in any other district out of the Company's dominions, to fulfil his contract.

2332. Have the Company any means which the private trader has not?—Yes, they have the name and the authority of the Company, which carries every thing before it in India.

2333. Does it not come back to this, that the advantage of the Company is derived from the immense amount of their pecuniary means?—No, I decidedly deny it; and in explanation allow me to state, that the time has been when the Company had not the means of going into the market to purchase cotton, or any other article of trade; when they were obliged to apply to the merchants of Bombay for assistance to carry on their wars, instead of their commerce; and which assistance, under arrangements entered into with the Bombay Government, was afforded to them in a degree, and in a spirit of disinterestedness, beyond what perhaps was ever known under similar circumstances in any part of the world. I allude to the period of 1803-4 and 1805, during the war which was carried on by Sir Arthur Wellesley, now Duke of Wellington, against Scindia and Holkar, when, in the course of little more than two years, the houses of Forbes and Company, and Bruce, Fawcett and Company,

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Company, supplied their wants, and relieved their difficulties, to the extent of nearly two millions and a half sterling; the effect of which assistance was, in one short week, to reduce the discount upon the Company's nine-per-cent. treasury bills from eight or ten per cent. to one or two per cent., by undertaking, as those houses did, to receive the said paper, and to pass it current in their transactions at par, although then at so heavy a discount. At this period, so great was the distress of the Government, that many lacks of rupees of the Duke of Wellington's bills were lying in the bazaar under protest for nonpayment, and the exchanges for Government bills on Calcutta had fallen to 85 Bombay rupees for 100 siccas; the relative intrinsic value of the two coins being 106 Bombay for 100 siccas.

2334. Was not all this before the last charter?—It was so.

2335. Did the houses at Bombay become responsible for the paper circulated by them?—They received it in all payments as cash, and passed it as cash in all cases when they could do so, having the Company's security for it of course; but such was the state of alarm in which the native merchants and bankers were, that they would not lend their money to the Company, although they readily did so to the two houses before mentioned.

Luncæ, 18^o die Aprilis, 1831.

SIR CHARLES FORBES, Bart. (a Member of the Committee) again examined.

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2336. Do you wish to add anything to your evidence on a former day?—I do; I wish to show the particular motive I had for entering upon the subject of the assistance afforded by the Bombay merchants to the Government in the years 1803, 1804, and 1805. It might naturally be expected that, on the principle of one good turn deserving another, the Company and their governments would be disposed to assist the merchants of India in cases of emergency, which have happened and may hereafter occur. That such disposition has been evinced by the Government in India upon a late occasion there can be no doubt. They afforded, and very properly so, considerable assistance lately to the merchants and agents in Bengal, in a manner perfectly consistent with the security of the Company, and greatly to the advantage of the merchants, and the public generally. But I understand that this has been disapproved of by the Court of Directors, and likewise that there is a standing order of the Court, which has been often repeated, that no assistance in the way of loans and accommodations should be afforded to the merchants; and on a late occasion, that they had even gone the length of proposing to send out orders to India to publish such their determination and

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and orders in the Government Gazette at Calcutta. Whether such orders have gone, or will go out, I do not know; but have reason to think that the good sense and the justice of the majority of the Directors either has prevented, or will prevent, so extraordinary a measure, which, if persisted in, must necessarily affect the credit of the European merchants and agents in India with the native community, already, I am sorry to say, considerably shaken, by some recent events which have taken place at Calcutta. This was chiefly my object in stating what I did respecting the assistance afforded to the Government by the houses in Bombay. I have also to state, that pecuniary assistance has at various times been afforded by the merchants in India to the Government, particularly during the Mysore wars against Tip-poo Saib. Such assistance was thankfully acknowledged by the governments in India, particularly during the administration of the Marquis Wellesley; but I am sorry to say, that I have observed a jealousy existing on the part of the Directors of the Company towards the private merchants in India, and those here connected or trading with that country. In fact, the Company entered upon the present Charter with that feeling strongly expressed. I remember the Chairman of that day saying to the Court of Proprietors, "Let the private traders come on, we will soon give them enough of it." Accordingly one of their first operations was a speculation in claret, to India, to a large extent, which I understood glutted the markets, and ended in great loss to the Company, and injury to the private speculators.

2337. Have you been during the present charter, and especially during the time when Mr. Canning was at the head of the Board of Control, concerned in any representation to that Board, as to the interference of the Company's agents in the purchase of cotton under the presidency of Bombay?—Very possibly I may, although I have no distinct recollection of it.

2338. Do you not recollect that the parties were assured that orders had been sent out, that the Company should go into the market, if possible, with no other advantage than that which they derived from their larger capital?—I recollect that the system of taking the revenue in cotton was abandoned, and it was understood that the Company should go into the market for the purchase of cotton.

2339. And that it was the intention of the Government that they should have no other advantage than that which they derive from their capital, without deriving any assistance from their character as administrators of the government?—As far as possible.

2340. Were you then desired to state any cases that might occur of oppression or undue interference on the part of the Company or their agents?—Very possibly.

2341. Do you recollect having occasion to make any such statements?—Not on my part individually. It may have been done by the agents in Lon-

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don of the houses in India. I have no partnership concern with any house in London.

2342. With respect to the speculation in wine of which you spoke, can you give any further information to the Committee upon the subject?—I understood that it proved very inferior in quality; and that some of it was sent home by Sir Eyan Nepean, the governor of Bombay, of a quality so indifferent, that it was almost unsaleable in India, and did not bring near prime cost.

2343. Is it your object to show that the Company exported the article without due consideration of the profit to themselves, with a view to injure the private traders?—It really seemed to bear that complexion, when coupled with the Chairman's threat, because it was a new article of trade with them.

2344. Had they been before in the habit of exporting wine?—No; the trade in it was chiefly carried on by the captains and officers of their own ships, previously to the period to which I allude.

2345. Is it your opinion that the trade of India would be conducted with more security and more advantage, if the sovereign power of India were entirely debarred from any competition in that trade, other than what may arise from any necessity derived from their character as sovereigns?—That has always been my decided opinion, and is at this moment my firm conviction. I am perfectly satisfied that the separation of those two characters in the Company which are now combined, would be attended with incalculable good effects, not only to the natives of India, and the merchants there and in this country, but also to the Company themselves. Those sentiments I have always expressed. I did so during the discussions in the year 1813; I have done so upon every occasion since, and I continue to hold them most strongly. In saying this, I beg to add, that it is with no hostile feeling towards the Company or their Directors. I have a great stake in the Company's prosperity, I mean in the stock of the Company held by myself and family, and consequently, so far as my own individual interests are concerned, I should naturally be disposed to support all those measures which might tend to their real prosperity; but, whatever effect my opinions upon those subjects may have upon the interests of the Company, I consider it of little importance compared with the welfare of India and the happiness of its native population, to which, if I know myself, I would sacrifice every personal consideration.

2346. Do not you think it must be attended with great danger to merchants to carry on general commerce to any great extent, where they are liable to be in competition with a body who, from their capital and from the general character of their constitution, are indifferent about small profits?—Certainly; as I know from experience.

2347. Are you not of opinion that some extent of permission to trade is necessarily

necessarily required by the Company in their quality as sovereigns in India?—I really cannot see it; I think not. I know that it is stated by the Company, that they are under the necessity of carrying on what they call a remittance trade from India to this country; but I have always been of opinion that such remittance would be infinitely better conducted through the medium of the private trade, than by the Company themselves, even to a larger amount than they require for their political payments in England. I think it is incalculable the extent to which the trade between this country and India might be carried, if the Company were out of it, and a fair scale of duties established by Parliament.

2348. Should you not apprehend that, in consequence of the limited number of wealthy houses of trade at the different presidencies of India, the Company, as a body having sovereign power, would be constantly having combinations made against them, by which they would be very much imposed upon, if they had not the means of occasionally trading for the purpose of their remittances?—I am not aware of such combinations being usual in India. I have heard of such combinations in this country on the part of capitalists against the Government, but I never heard of them in India.

2349. Do not you think it is possible that the absence of those combinations in India may arise from the parties knowing the power of the Company to trade themselves, if necessary?—No, I believe that the disposition of the European and native merchants in India towards the Company is amicable and liberal, and would be more so, if all clashing of interests were removed, by the Company having no concern in trade in or with India.

2350. Are you not of opinion, that the most amicable and most liberal merchants will, in prosecuting their own trade to the best advantage, now and then use those powers which they have of forcing any profit that they may be able by combination to force?—I have not been accustomed to consider it so in India; at least during my residence in that country I always found the merchants, both European and native, disposed to act fairly and liberally towards the Company and each other.

2351. Are you therefore of opinion, that if Parliament were by a law to prohibit any commercial adventure on the part of the East-India Company, it would be a benefit to the general trade of India, and no injury to the Company in the exercise of its sovereign power?—I am decidedly of that opinion; and that it would be most advantageous to the Company in every point of view, as well as to the native population.

2352. Is the assistance which you mention to have been granted liberally by the government in India to the merchants, but which you apprehend to have been at home, the sort of assistance which one commercial body lends to another, or is it the assistance which is due from the sovereign power of a country towards the merchants living under its rule?—The assistance alluded to was, I understand, given in advances of money upon

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deposits of the Company's and other securities, fully protecting the Company from any risk of loss.

2353. Of what nature was the assistance that was required by the merchants at Calcutta?—The Committee are aware that a very extensive failure took place lately at Calcutta, the house of Palmer and Co., which naturally excited great alarm in the minds of all descriptions of persons there, Europeans and natives; a run was consequently made upon many of the most respectable houses, one or two in particular, who upon application to the Government, received from Lord William Bentinck the most ready and handsome assistance, which enabled them, with their own resources, in the course of two or three months to pay off nearly a million sterling. By these means confidence was restored, and things are, I hope, again going on well. I have understood, however, that the assistance thus afforded was disapproved of by the Court of Directors, and, as already observed, that a proposition was made to order the publication before mentioned in the Calcutta Gazette.

2354. What effect would that publication have in India?—I should think one of the most prejudicial nature; as much so as if the Government, or the Bank of England, were to publish in the London Gazette, that they would, under no circumstances, afford any assistance whatever to the merchants or bankers of this country.

2355. Will you state how you got this information of an intended procedure on the part of the Court of Directors?—Such things will get out; I heard it from more than one quarter.

2356. Are not the natives in India in the habit of trusting the merchants and agents in Calcutta?—Very much so; all over India.

2357. Has not the practice of advancing money from the Government of Calcutta to the houses of agency prevailed to some extent?—I believe so, particularly at Calcutta.

2358. Did not great alarm prevail when the house of Palmer and Co. failed?—Undoubtedly.

2359. Were not many families, European and native, all but ruined by it?—I am afraid that many were completely so.

2360. How then are the natives of India to be put upon their guard against the expectation, that Government would advance money to the houses of agency, unless publicity is given to the order by which that practice is condemned?—I do not conceive that the natives give credit to the Europeans upon such grounds, and consequently that such caution is not necessary, nor called for.

2361. Did not the Government advance large sums of money for the support of Palmer and Co., which eventually had no effect?—I am not aware of that.

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2362. Is not it the duty of all governments to protect their native population?—Undoubtedly it is.

2363. If they have suffered by trusting those houses of agency, is not it incumbent upon the authorities at home, if they shall cease to continue that practice, to inform the natives that it no longer prevails?—I believe the Court of Directors might safely leave that between the natives and the houses of agency.

2364. You have stated, that it would be to the advantage of the Company that they should cease to trade; are you aware that evidence was adduced last year before the Committee, taking the price of bullion, taking the price of bills, and looking also to the question of commerce, the Company have rather gained a larger sum by trade than they could by bullion, or by bills, or by both united?—I am not aware of that fact; but I see by a statement laid before the Committee a few days ago, that the loss upon their trade between India and this country has been very great. I do not think the bill operations of the Company have had a fair trial. I have often recommended the plan of opening their treasury here, as well as at Canton, for money against bills upon India, by which they might get funds to a large extent, and I have no doubt effect their remittances upon fair terms, if not generally better than they have hitherto done.

2365. You have been asked, whether, in case the Company were debarred carrying on trade, even a remittance-trade, hard terms might not be forced upon them by combinations of the merchants in India; and you have said that you do not think that would be the consequence, by reason of the liberality of the merchants of India, and their not being persons that would join in such a combination?—From my experience of them, they must be very much altered from what they were twenty years ago, if they would do so.

2366. Supposing their nature to be changed, and that they should not be so liberal as they were in your time, do you think they might not perhaps press upon the Government by making hard terms, if the Company were prevented from carrying on a remittance-trade?—There is no saying what might be the consequences of a change in their nature.

2367. If they were to be like the capitalists of the Royal Exchange, do you think there might not be some combination to force hard terms upon the Company in the way of remittance?—I do not wish to say any thing to reflect upon the capitalists of the Royal Exchange; but I confess I felt rather strongly that a line of conduct should be imputed to the merchants of India, which, from my experience, I could not allow they were capable of.

2368. If they were not persons of the liberal views you have stated, could you then answer for it, whether there might not be a combination that might press hardly upon the Government in the way of remittance?—It is impossible for me to answer such a question.

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2369. If there was a combination, would not their first object be to raise the price of remittance as against the Company?—Possibly it might; but I believe that of late years the number of merchants and agents has been much extended, and that such combinations, if ever practicable, would from the increase of houses at the different presidencies, now be impossible.

2370. Without any direct combination on the part of the merchants, would there not be a natural combination, from the general knowledge there would be of the demands of the Company to make remittances?—I think the competition would be so extensive that such combinations would be impossible. By opening the trade to the extent that it has already been opened, such a variety of new interests have been thrown into India as to put it out of the power of any set of men to combine effectually in that way.

2371. Is not the greater part of the business of Bombay in the hands of a very few houses?—The greater part of the money agency is in the hands of the old houses, perhaps two or three.

2372. Would not they be the persons that would have to deal with the Company in case they required remittances?—I do not know that; they act as bankers and agents, more than traders, and are more in the way of buying than selling bills, except for the accommodation of their own constituents. There are also many new houses at Bombay, which manage consignments from this country; and the native merchants carry on a considerable trade with England.

2373. Would not the natural consequence of this trade of remittance ceasing be to create an unusual demand for bills on the part of the Company?—Undoubtedly it would; but there are such various modes of effecting remittances from India to England, that I think they would always be able to accomplish them on fair terms. In the first place, by opening their treasury in Leadenhall-street for money against bills upon India at the current rate of exchange; in the next place, by receiving cash, as they now do at Canton, for bills upon India, for their tea investments; and in the third place, by advancing money in India to the merchants trading to this country and to China, upon the security of their goods. By these means, I should think the Company would eventually have it more in their power to dictate terms to the merchants, than the merchants would to the Company; particularly as they might, in cases of necessity, have recourse to bullion remittances occasionally.

2374. Are you not supposing that the Company's trade to China continues upon the same footing that it is on now?—Not their trade from India to China. I am decidedly against that. What I am anxious to see is, that they should altogether abandon their commercial character in India, and carry on no trade, either from India to China, or from India to Europe.

2375. What do you say with respect to their trade from China to Europe?—I am decidedly of opinion that it ought to remain with the Company.

I was so eighteen years ago, I have continued so ever since, and I am so at the present moment.

2376. In order to enable the Company to obtain the remittances which they now obtain, is not your reasoning upon that subject founded upon the facility of their obtaining remittances through China?—Undoubtedly, to a certain extent. I should regret to see the China trade taken out of its present channel. If it were taken out of the hands of the Company, and thrown open, I firmly believe that there would be great danger of losing it altogether.

2377. Supposing a remittance to take place from one country to another, is not it of necessity that such remittance must be made, either directly or indirectly, in the produce of the country from which the remittance is to be made?—Certainly.

2378. Supposing that to be the case, would not the remittance be made easier if the trade were larger, and if the terms upon which the trade were carried on were cheaper?—No doubt; but in seeking for the extension of the trade you might lose it altogether.

2379. Supposing the monopoly of the trade of China to be removed from the Company, and that that trade was to continue in the hands of the private merchants, and that it were to be considerably increased, do you not conceive that there would be a greater facility in obtaining remittances from India to England than exists at the present moment?—I should say that would be a matter of great doubt; and that where a certainty of good, to the extent which now exists, is within our reach, we should prefer it to running the risk of throwing the trade open.

2380. If the trade is considerably augmented, would there not be a greater facility in making remittances from India by that means?—No doubt of it, if you were sure of retaining that trade; but in making the experiment you might lose the trade altogether.

2381. Is it the habit of other Governments to make their remittances through the medium of trade carried on directly by themselves?—I believe that, to a certain extent, this very objectionable system is in force between the island of Ceylon and Great Britain; and I consider it a most important fact, which it would be well worth the attention of the Committee to receive information upon, connected as the interests of Ceylon are with those of India generally, and trading as they do with each other. I have it in my power to produce to the Committee evidence upon this subject, which I consider to be of great importance; I mean the evidence of Mr. Stewart, who was last session a member of this Committee, and who, I believe, knows more of Ceylon, has made it more his study, and is able to give the Committee more correct information upon it than any person in this country. The government of Ceylon carry on a monopoly of the trade in cinnamon to England, and also in other articles on the island. The trade generally is heavily loaded with import and export duties, even upon the raw produce of the island. The people are discontented; they are subject to forced labour, under the Dutch law,

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18 April 1831. law, and upon the whole, from what I learn, it is considered the worst colonial government under the sun.

Sir C. Forbes, Bart. 2382. Did not they find that system in existence at the time when the King's Government took the administration of it?—The system of forced labour, compelling the poor people to labour from morning to night, and to raise cinnamon and other articles, to be taken from them at Government prices. To such an extent is this vile monopoly of cinnamon carried, that if any person has a garden, and a cinnamon-tree happens to spring up in it, he is not allowed to consider it his own, nor to remove it, but is compelled to nurse and rear it for the Government; and by the Dutch law, if a man is found cutting down a cinnamon-tree, he is liable to have his right hand cut off.

2383. Are you aware what the nature of the payments at home are, for which those large remittances of the Company are necessary?—Chiefly for paying the pensions and allowances of their retired servants, and other political charges, including interest upon the Indian debt to a certain extent.

2384. Are they payments which might by any alteration be made in India instead of in England?—That is a very important question, and I believe that such a principle has been in agitation.

2385. It being stated that the East-India Company having large remittances to make at home, cannot make them advantageously unless they have the power of trading, if those payments could be transferred to India, instead of making them at home, would not any necessity for the power of trading upon that account be done away?—No doubt it would, and such a system might perhaps be introduced in a certain degree prospectively; but it would be attended with great difficulty and inconvenience.

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Sir CHARLES FORBES, Bart. (a Member of the Committee) again examined.

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2386. Do you wish to make any statement to the Committee with reference to your former evidence?—With the permission of the Committee I shall state what I conceive will set at rest the question as to any danger of combination being entered into by the merchants of India, and particularly those of Bombay, to impose hard terms upon the Company in making remittances to this country. It is well known that the revenues of Bombay are not sufficient to pay its expenses by a very large sum, at least one crore of rupees; so that, in fact, the Company would have no remittances to make from Bombay to this country. All their remittances must be made from Bengal, so long as there is no surplus revenue at Bombay; consequently the merchants there would have no opportunity of forcing their bills on England upon the Company, except on such terms as the Company thought proper to

to take them. At the same time, if a favourable opportunity should occur of making remittances to England through Bombay, the Government could always draw on Bengal for that purpose; and by supplying the private traders with advances on consignments to this country, particularly the natives, who have shewn themselves much disposed to enter into it of late, they would have the power of outbidding the European merchants. Again, the Company could always resort to shipments of bullion, by which they would be enabled to regulate the exchange for bills to the rate of a fair comparative remittance. I would also beg to add, in explanation of the opinion I have given with regard to the Company withdrawing from the trade between India and England and China, that my object is, that they should abandon their commercial dealings of every description in India, their monopolies and all, leaving the trade, internally and externally, entirely in the hands of the private merchants, European and native, upon condition of their retaining the China trade.

2387. The whole China trade, or the tea trade exclusively?—I should say the tea trade to England exclusively, if it shall appear that the trade in other respects might be thrown open without the risk of losing it altogether, which I very much doubt.

2388. Does your opinion of the power of the Company to resist combination upon the part of merchants in the price of bills of exchange, depend at all upon their retaining exclusive possession of the tea trade of China?—I think so, undoubtedly, except so far as they might protect themselves by bullion remittances, which they would have always in their power, but not perhaps to so great an extent as they would require. As I have already stated, I think the Company ought to continue to receive money into their treasury at Canton for bills upon India, which they now do to a large amount, and bring home those funds through their tea investments, and also in bullion, as I learn they have done this season, to the extent of £150,000, being, I believe, the first time that they have brought home bullion from China.

2389. When you state that there would be danger of losing the trade from China, do you take into your consideration that a very large and increasing trade is carried on at the present moment by the Americans with the Chinese, without the intervention of any factory such as that which exists under the direction of the East-India Company?—Yes, I am quite aware of that.

2390. Are you also aware that a very large trade is carried on by the private traders between India and Canton?—No doubt of it.

2391. Has any serious interruption to either of those trades occurred since they have grown to the height they have now attained?—I believe many years ago an interruption took place, in consequence of one of the country ships having accidentally killed a Chinese in firing a salute; and some years ago an American seaman accidentally killed a Chinese; in both

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which cases, the innocent men were delivered up to the Canton government, and inhumanly strangled.

2392. Have not the interruptions to the trade carried on by the Company at Canton been more frequent and of longer duration than any interruptions which have occurred in the trade carried on by Indian free traders, or by the Americans?—It may be so; but I do not judge so much from what has taken place as from my apprehensions of what might take place in the event of an unrestricted opening of the trade, from the peculiar character of the Chinese, knowing it as I do. I was there forty years ago, and believe they are the same now as then, in every respect.

2393. In the event of the Company discontinuing their operations as traders in India, in consequence of the small number of commercial houses of opulence, might there not be a danger of facility being given to combination, which would throw difficulties in the way of the Company's remittances to Europe, and in that event do not you think it probable that the number of such houses in Calcutta would gradually increase?—Undoubtedly; in India generally.

2394. Must not the consequence of that necessarily be, that that danger would be proportionably diminished?—Certainly; if under any circumstances it could exist.

2395. If there was a considerable demand for bullion, by way of remittance, would not the price of bullion of course rise?—No doubt.

2396. Would not dear bullion, that is, bullion the least above the ordinary price, together with the cost of freight and insurance, make a bad remittance, generally speaking?—I believe, at present, it is the safest and the best. The current silver coin of India makes a fair remittance, and the gold a better; but it is not always procurable.

2397. Is not the exchange now lower than it ever was before?—It perhaps was never lower than it is now.

2398. Do you remember the exchange at Calcutta upon England at 2s. 8d. the sicca rupee?—I doubt not it may have been so, or even higher, because I have known it at that rate for the Bombay rupee, which is six and a half per cent. below the value of the sicca.

2399. Is not the remittance from Calcutta now 1s. 10d. the sicca rupee?—Perhaps the average exchange may be about 1s. 11d.; but I have heard of considerable remittances lately in good bills upon the first houses in London, at 2s.

2400. Is not the lowness of the exchange an inducement to make remittances in bullion?—No doubt of it.

2401. If the exchange was to rise, would not the remittance in bullion be less favourable?—Comparatively so, of course; but a remittance in the current coin would remain the same. It must be kept in mind, that the higher the

the rate of exchange the more favourable for the Company as remitters, I mean the more British money given for the rupee; and should it fall below a bullion remittance, they would always have it in their power to resort to that medium, so that they could never be compelled to take a remittance on more unfavourable terms than what bullion or coin would give them.

2402. You must add freight and insurance?—Yes, although the Company never insures; but, adding freight and insurance, and even commission, it is found advantageous by private merchants and agents to send home bullion from India and China, and to draw against the proceeds at the present low rate of exchange for bills.

2403. If the Company were to give up trading, and not have the means of making remittances in bills, and to remit in bullion, would not the demand for bullion be more than it is now?—Of course; but the greater the demand the greater the supply would be. Bullion and dollars pour into India from all quarters; from China, from America, and, within the last eight or ten years, they have been sent from England to India, and would be so again, should commerce improve, and the exchange turn against England as heretofore.

2404. Do you think that bullion remittances could at all times be effected?—At all times, in bullion or coin.

2405. And that without straitening the circulation inconveniently?—Yes, particularly from Calcutta, where they have bank-paper in circulation; at Bombay there is none, and I hope never will be.

2406. Then no combination of merchants could subject the Company to any greater expense than that of remitting bullion?—Certainly not; whilst they would have it in their power to avail themselves of all favourable opportunities of making remittances by advances to the private merchants on shipments of goods, which they are making now, and on terms, I believe, more favourable than the houses at Calcutta can afford to make them.

2407. Then you do not contemplate they should make all their remittances in bullion, but only that they should have it in their power as a check against combination on the part of the merchants?—Yes; or rather that they should take whichever suited best.

2408. Supposing subsidies were paid by this country to a foreign country, and they were habitually continued, do you think it would be necessary that the Government of England should become traders?—No, I do not think so; and I believe that never has been the case.

2409. When you say that the Company should abandon all their trade and monopolies, do you allude also to the government monopolies of opium and salt?—Undoubtedly; I cannot draw any distinction between their trade and their monopolies, nor between the Company as sovereigns, and the Company as merchants.

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2410. Are you not aware that any profit that the Company make upon their trade goes to the payment of their dividends, and any profit they make upon the salt and opium does not go to the dividends, but that it goes to a fund which is more peculiarly for the benefit of the government?—I believe it is much the same thing whether it goes into the right or left-hand pocket.

2411. Do you conceive that it would be possible, in any other way than by monopoly, to raise, as it was raised in 1829-30, £1,931,000 from salt, and £1,757,000 from opium?—I think it might be raised, in due time, to perhaps as large, if not a larger amount, through a much less objectionable medium, through the medium of increased and increasing revenues and customs, upon an increased and flourishing trade, carried on by an improved and improving population, having perfect confidence that they would in no way be interfered with by the Company in their operations, either agricultural or commercial; and that under such a system, if happily it shall be introduced, the prosperity of India would rise to a degree incalculable, and consequently in every way tend to the advantage as well as the credit of its rulers.

2412. Do you mean that this revenue of customs would be raised, upon those particular articles, or that there would follow such a general improvement of the condition of the people as would increase the general revenue of customs?—Partly both.

2413. Are you aware that the profits of the customs now are not more than one-fifth of the joint amount of the salt and opium monopolies?—It is very probable that may be the case; the greater the latter, the less the former.

2414. Then you conceive that the customs revenue could be raised to six times its present amount?—I can only state, as an example in favour of my argument, that, when I went to India forty years ago, the duties were six per cent. upon all imports throughout India. Lord Cornwallis very judiciously lowered them to three per cent., and I believe in the course of eight or ten years after that reduction, the revenue was more than doubled.

2415. Do you think it would be politic to reduce the customs below two and a half per cent., which is the present rate of duty, with benefit to the revenue?—Perhaps not; on the contrary, under a more liberal system generally they might be raised.

2416. Then the same advantage could not now be derived from those regulations of Lord Cornwallis, reducing the duties?—No; but I am speaking with reference to the monopolies, that from the enormous price of the article of salt, for instance, in Bengal, it is beyond the reach of many of the natives. It is well known that many of the natives cannot afford to buy salt to eat with their rice.

2417. In what manner, by the abolition of the salt monopoly, would you increase the amount of the receipt of the customs?—In Bengal I would abandon the salt-works altogether, and allow it to be imported on paying a duty; it could afford to pay a handsome duty, and would yield a handsome revenue

revenue in a most unobjectionable manner: we could even send it from this country, in ships going to India, which instead of going, as they now do, almost empty, would load with salt.

2418. Is there any other article, by the importation of which in place of a monopoly in the interior, you would propose to increase the revenue?—They might still lay an excise upon the salt, upon opium, and upon tobacco, as they do in this country, and upon spirits: they might collect a revenue in the shape of an excise instead of through the monopoly.

2419. Would it not depend upon the amount of that excise-duty whether it was an exchange that was favourable to the people or not?—No doubt it would; and I am aware that it would be attended with great expense in the collection.

2420. Do you think it would be safe to destroy those monopolies upon the speculation of increasing the revenue of customs?—Indeed, I think it would be most desirable at any rate to attempt it, and it might be done gradually; they might by degrees, for instance, relax the rigid monopoly of salt in Bengal, and then again upon the coast of Coromandel.

2421. If you were to import a great proportion of the supply of salt for Bengal from Madras, would not the prosperity of the people of the Madras presidency, of course, be increased by the additional labour?—No doubt.

2422. And in proportion to that, would not the population of Bengal that now exist upon their labour in preparing salt, be diminished?—From all I can understand that is a most objectionable mode of employing the people of Bengal: it is, in fact, worse than the worst description of slavery. But there are other gentlemen more competent than I am to speak upon that subject.

2423. Supposing there was a considerable import of salt from Madras into Bengal, do you not conceive there would be an export of rice or some other article from Bengal to Madras?—Unquestionably there would, in proportion.

2424. And therefore each province producing that which they could produce with the greatest advantage, would tend to the benefit of the whole?—No doubt of it, and that is the principle upon which I recommend the alteration of the system.

2425. What is the enhancement of the price of salt above the cost at which it might be produced in consequence of the monopoly?—I have heard 800 to 1,000 per cent. in Bengal.

2426. Is not the system of producing salt at the present moment at the mouth of the Ganges, a very oppressive servitude on the part of those that produce it?—I have always heard so, in a degree far more oppressive than the worst description of slavery in the West-Indies.

2427. Is not the article produced by that means of a very inferior description

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description?—I believe it is far inferior to the Coromandel coast salt, or to the Bombay salt. Both shores produce a very fine salt; they are in fact covered with it: and on the Madras side it is extreme cruelty that a man cannot go to the sea-side, and take a handful of salt for his own use, without being subject to a heavy penalty.

2428. Do you mean to say that the persons concerned in the manufacture of salt are in the power of their masters, in the same way that the slaves in the West-Indies are?—Perhaps it would be well for them if they were so; they would be better taken care of.

2429. They are not then in the power of their masters in the same manner that the slaves in the West-Indies are?—I believe they are not actually slaves, but they are so in every thing but the name.

2430. Will you state how?—I believe they are compelled to work for very low wages in the salt-pits, which is the most destructive to the health of man that can be imagined.

2431. Could a power be used to compel them to labour in the salt-pits as the slaves are compelled in the West-Indies to labour?—I have no doubt that it may be, and has been done.

2432. Do you know it?—Not of my own knowledge of those salt-pits, because I have never been there: but that the rattan, which is, perhaps, not much preferable to the whip, has been used in former times to force labour in India, I have no doubt, though it may not be the case now: it has been used even to the weavers.

2433. Do you not know that any person to whom such treatment was applied would find redress in the courts, according to the regulations of the East-India Company?—Perhaps so; but it is a very tedious and a very expensive thing to get redress in any country, and more especially in India.

2434. Have you any knowledge upon this subject, except from what you have heard?—I have not; but I have no doubt of it.

2435. Was there not, formerly, considerable trade carried on between Madras and Bengal, in the import of salt into Bengal, and the export of rice?—Certainly; in my time there was, and I hope it is not yet altogether gone.

2436. Are you aware that that has fallen off?—I believe so.

2437. Do you know on what account that has fallen off?—I suppose on account of the heavy duty on salt in Bengal, which has prevented the trade being carried on.

2438. Does not the duty amount almost to a prohibition?—I believe it does; that is to say, they are obliged to deliver the salt to the Company, and get so little for it as to be hardly worth the carriage.

2439. Is not it limited to a certain quantity?—Undoubtedly it is; that is the spirit of all the Company's monopolies. If they were to supply the market

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equal to the demand, at a fair price, there is no saying to what extent the consumption would go: in the same manner that if you would allow the importation of sugar here from India at a fair duty, I think it is incalculable the quantity that would be consumed, by bringing it within the reach of the consumer. We see this in coffee, and in every article upon which the duty has been reduced.

2440. Are you of opinion that the destruction of those monopolies, and the opening of the commerce in India, would consist with the present system of regulations respecting access to India?—I confess that I am not aware of any great difficulty in obtaining access to India on the part of Europeans from this country. It may be otherwise generally, but in any case in which I have had occasion to apply to the Court of Directors, I have never found the least difficulty in obtaining permission. At the same time I should certainly be for all restrictions and difficulties being removed, as much as possible, consistently with a due regard to the welfare of the native population and the safety of the government.

2441. You are understood to be of opinion, that the revenue that would fall off in consequence of the destruction of these monopolies would be supplied by increased commercial speculation?—Undoubtedly, in due time.

2442. Do not you consider the present system regulating the access to India as an obstruction in the way of commercial speculation?—No doubt; any obstruction whatever must operate in a certain degree against the extension of trade.

2443. Are not you acquainted with parts of the country in which there are productions of coal and iron, and other things, which would be worked and brought into action if the settlement of Europeans was allowed?—I have no doubt of it. Indeed, I can see no objection to the settlement of Europeans of a certain description in India. I would not be for throwing open the sluice altogether, although my impression is, that even that would be attended with little or no inconvenience; but still I should be disposed to adopt such a measure with great precaution, because India is already fully peopled.

2444. Do you think the natives of India would like the unrestrained admission of Europeans into the interior?—As far as I can form an opinion, I should certainly think not; but I do not apprehend that any such concourse of people would resort to India as is generally supposed; I think the number would be very limited. It is a long and expensive voyage to India; very few, comparatively speaking, would be able to find their way there, except men of capital and respectability, from whom no danger nor inconvenience whatever could arise.

2445. Would not great benefit accrue to India from the introduction of capital and skill in its cultivation?—No doubt; particularly from the introduction of European skill. The native capital is considerable, if they had encouragement

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encouragement to apply it, though I am afraid it has not been increasing of late years.

2446. To what cause do you attribute that?—So far as I can learn, the natives are over-taxed; their agriculture and internal commerce are over-taxed. I am afraid that the increase of revenue has always been the chief object of the governments in India. The Company carry on wars, and incur large additional debt; they then tax their subjects, and cut down the salaries of their servants, in order to pay the interest of that debt, always excepting the allowances of their governors and others high in rank, which are never touched, except it may be to increase them.

2447. Are you aware that an attempt was lately made at Bengal, on the part of some Europeans, to get up a petition from the natives against the settlement of British subjects in India?—I have heard so.

2448. You have stated, that the Company has increased the taxation of India, in consequence of the expense which they have incurred in wars; do you refer to any particular instance in which taxes have been increased under those circumstances?—I have stated, that the natural consequence of carrying on wars and increasing their debts is to raise additional revenue and reduce the expenditure. I believe I am borne out in that; and I will now state to the Committee an instance which came to my knowledge a few days ago of a proposed tax on imports into India, which will, I think, strike them very forcibly. I have in my hand a copy of a letter signed by W. H. Bannerman, Officiating Secretary to the Finance Committee at Calcutta, dated the 15th of November 1830; it is a circular which appears to have been addressed to the merchants at Calcutta to this effect:

Circular from the Finance Committee.

GENTLEMEN:

With reference to my letter to your address dated the 28th of July last, I am directed by the Finance Committee to state, that under the information they at present possess, they have it in contemplation to recommend that a general duty of ten per cent. be imposed on the import by sea, at the three presidencies, of the several metals noted in the margin,* and to request that, if any serious objection to the proposed modification of the tariff occur to you, you will favour them with a statement of the grounds of your opinions.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Calcutta,

Finance Committee Office; (Signed) W. H. BANNERMAN, Officiating Secretary, 15 November, 1830.

That is a duty which, I should say, would be almost tantamount to a prohibition; at least, it must greatly tend to injure the trade in those metals from this country to India.

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* Copper, iron, lead, spelter, tin.

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2449. Is not it probable that the opinion you have now expressed would be conveyed to government by those merchants?—It is very probable. I only produce this as a proof of the lengths to which they are disposed to go to raise revenue.

2450. If they should get such an increase of their customs as to enable them to relax their monopolies, would not it be a good thing?—If they would renounce their monopolies altogether, I think the trade might then be able to afford a higher rate of duty.

2451. With the exception of this, which is an instance in which the government consulted the merchants with respect to a measure of taxation, are you aware of any instance, during the present charter, in which the taxation has been raised?—Not upon the commerce; and I believe this could not be carried into effect without the sanction of the Court of Directors and the Board of Control.

2452. Are you not aware that, during the same period, orders have been sent from home, which have been obeyed, for considerably reducing the custom-duties, and also some of the inland-duties?—I am glad to hear it.

2453. Do you think that the same amount of revenue could be raised by any other arrangement of the taxes, which would press less upon the resources and the industry of the country?—I have already stated my opinion to be, that the revenue generally, in every branch, would increase by a relaxation of the government monopolies and imposts, according as the prosperity of the country advanced. It could not be expected all at once to produce that effect; it must be allowed time to work. The evil has long existed, and it cannot be expected that the consequences should cease suddenly; but that a gradual amelioration would take place I have not the least doubt, and to the full extent of my most sanguine wishes.

2454. When you stated that no other tax had been raised since the granting of the last charter, are you not aware that there was a stamp-tax imposed upon the inhabitants of Calcutta in the year 1827?—Undoubtedly. I thought the question referred to customs. The stamp-tax is a highly objectionable one, and has created more dissatisfaction than anything that ever occurred in India. In former times, it would have gone far to have produced an insurrection in the country. I have heard that an attempt was made many years ago to impose a house-tax, which was effectually resisted by the natives of Bengal.

2455. Was not a similar tax ordered to be imposed upon Madras and Bombay?—Orders to that effect were issued, but Sir Thomas Munro declined carrying them into effect at Madras, and they were arrested in their operation at Bombay, by the refusal of Chief Justice West to register the Government Regulation laying on the tax, one of the many good consequences which resulted to the island of Bombay from the administration of that able, upright, independent, but ill-used judge.

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2456. Was this stamp-duty altogether a new tax, or did it consist in the extension to the presidencies of taxes previously existing elsewhere?—I believe so, in Bengal; but it is equally obnoxious wherever it exists.

2457. Do you not believe, that considering the present resources of India, the taxation of that country is carried to its fullest possible extent?—I am afraid, generally speaking, far beyond its power to bear, and the consequence is a gradual falling off in the prosperity of its population.

2458. Are you not aware that some of the most important instances of the suspension of the trade of the East-India Company at Canton were on account of objects in which the private trade and the foreign trade were equally concerned with their own, namely, the reduction of the number of Hong merchants, and other acts of general oppression on the part of the Chinese government?—I have no doubt of that; and I believe the late interruption of the trade arose from an interference with the Chinese government on the part of the Company's supercargoes, at the instance of the Bombay government, who recommended to their consideration a memorial from the merchants of Bombay upon those subjects: and this brings to my recollection, that by the last accounts from China the trade was again very nearly stopped, in consequence of a fatal accident which happened in a rencontre between an American Captain and two Parsees, natives of Bombay, who had gone there in a private ship in the employ of private merchants. The supercargoes being called upon by the Chinese government, very properly refused to deliver up the men, and the consequence was a threatened stoppage of the trade, which, but for the vigorous and firm conduct of the Company's supercargoes, would no doubt have taken place. The two Parsees were sent back to Bombay to be tried there.

2459. Are you aware of any memorial that has recently been presented to the Board of Trade in this country by the East-India agents in London, respecting the duties?—I have in my hand copies of two such memorials, dated the 8th and the 31st of March 1831, addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Board of Trade, upon the subject of the reduction and modification of the duties on East-India goods, which I beg permission to put in.

[The same were delivered in, and are as follows:]

To the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Privy Council for Trade.

THE undersigned Merchants of London, interested in the trade with India, crave the consideration of your Lordships to the following Statement:

The reduction and modification of duties, and the fixing of them on certain admitted principles, being now of universal interest and discussion, permit us to draw your Lordships' attention to the predicament in these respects of articles of East-India produce. For this purpose we enclose a list thereof, with the market prices of each annexed, and their respective rates of duty. Comparing the duty with the price, it will be seen that the former is in many instances exorbitant, but a grievance common to all is, that they can only be imported into a few of the ports of the United Kingdom,

dom, and cannot be removed thence to other places coastwise, or in the interior (as goods from other countries can), without the aforesaid duties being in the first instance paid.

This is a regulation which materially impedes distribution and consumption, and consequently affects in proportion the receipt of revenue. We would notice, for example, three articles, which may be considered comforts, if not necessities of life to the poor, viz. tea, sugar and pepper. At present these commodities cannot be conveyed from the ports of landing to other ports or places not privileged to receive India goods, without the duties thereon being first wholly paid.

The evil of this regulation is threefold:

First, The trader is obliged to advance a sum of capital of from 100 to 400 per cent. above the cost-price of the articles before they can be distributed in the kingdom for general consumption.

Secondly, The price to consumers is enhanced, not only by the great amount of the duty, but by the profit, which must be returned on the employment of a capital twice or five times as large as would otherwise be necessary; and,

Thirdly, These enhanced prices operate as a constant incentive to the grossest adulterations.

The ports of the United Kingdom into which India goods are now received and warehoused, are only twelve in number; viz.

Bristol.	Liverpool.	Greenock.	Dublin.
Goole.	London.	Leith.	Belfast, and
Hull.	Glasgow.	Port Glasgow.	Cork.

The general warehousing ports of the Kingdom are sixty-six; viz.

Arundel.	Grimsby.	Shoreham.	Leith.
Barnstaple.	Hull.	Stockton.	Montrose.
Bideford.	Ipswich.	Sunderland.	Port Glasgow.
Boston.	Lancaster.	Swansea.	
Bridgewater.	Liverpool.	Weymouth.	Dublin.
Bristol.	London.	Whitby.	Belfast.
Chepstow.	Lynn.	Whitehaven.	Cork.
Chester.	Maldon.	Wisbeach.	Coleraine.
Chichester.	Milford.	Yarmouth.	Drogheda.
Colchester.	Newcastle.		Dundalk.
Cowes.	Newhaven.	Aberdeen.	Galway.
Dartmouth.	Plymouth.	Borrowstoness.	Limerick.
Dover.	Poole.	Dumfries.	Londonderry.
Exeter.	Portsmouth.	Dundee.	Newry.
Falmouth.	Rochester.	Glasgow.	Sligo.
Gloucester.	Rye.	Grangemouth.	Waterford.
Goole.	Southampton.	Greenock.	Wexford.

Besides very many other towns and places in the interior and along the coast, having regular establishments of customs or excise.

There is consequently no good reason why East-India goods should not be removed under bond from one town to any other, where such an establishment of officers now exists, and certainly none why they should not be removed in like manner, and to such ports and places as is permitted to all other foreign merchandize. Were this to be allowed, and the duties at the same time on the before-mentioned articles to be reduced, there can, we submit, be no doubt that the home consumption thereof

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Sir C. Forbes, Bart. Traders (country dealers more particularly) would also be greatly relieved by being enabled to purchase and to keep up sufficient stocks of these articles with a far less outlay of capital. The question of capital, indeed, is of so much importance in the consideration of this matter, seeing that small dealers universally, ever since the memorable alteration of the currency, can no longer look for aid to those artificial means they formerly derived from banks, and a redundant paper circulation.

It is further obvious, that the extension of this privilege to articles employed in the manufactures of the country would be of essential use in promoting productive industry. Finally, the privilege has been enjoyed for some years by Londonderry.

The experiment may therefore be said to have been already tried, and to have succeeded; but no good reason, certainly no apparent reason, exists for exclusively limiting the indulgence to this single port.

(Signed) Baring, Brothers, & Co. Palmers, Mackillop, & Co.
Inglis, Forbes, & Co. Rickards, Mackintosh, & Co.
Cockerell, Trail, & Co. Small, Colquhoun, & Co.
Fairlie, Bonham, & Co. Gregson, Melville, & Knight.
Fletcher, Alexander, & Co. Rawson, Holdsworth, & Co.
Finlay, Hodgson, & Co.

London, 8th March 1831.

To the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Privy Council for Trade.

THE undersigned Merchants of London interested in the Trade with India, in reference to their interview with your Lordships on the 8th instant, beg to offer such remarks as they deem likely to promote the reduction or modification of duties on articles of East-Indian produce.

The present scale of duties on East-India goods shows a variation from less than 1 per cent. up to 400 per cent. on the present value of many important commodities; on some minor articles the duty varies from 1 per cent. to 1,000 per cent., and in one trifling instance the duty is 3,000 per cent. It is evident such a scale requires revision, equally for the benefit of the revenue, and the encouragement of trade.

The inconsistency of the present scale of duties is apparent on the slightest inspection of the table. Why should unrefined borax, which is used extensively in potteries and in the smelting of metals, pay a duty of 50 per cent., while the next article in the list, camphor, a drug, pays only 10 per cent.? Cinnamon, classed with luxuries, pays only 6 per cent.; pepper, an article of general consumption, pays 400 per cent.; shell-lac, made from seed-lac, the refuse of lac-dye, and of which the consumption is increasing in various branches of manufacture, is charged a duty of 20 per cent. *ad val.*, while lac-dye is charged only a duty of 5 per cent., also *ad val.*

Accompanying the present remarks is a list, marked (A.), of articles subject to excessive duties; to each article is annexed the market value, with reference to which a table of new duties, marked (B.), is submitted. Under the existing duties, the amount of revenue on all these articles is only £40,000 (exclusive of £95,000 on pepper), and with the proposed moderate duties an increase of consumption may be fairly

fairly expected, to counterbalance any deficiency arising from so desirable an alteration.

A fixed duty is considered preferable to an *ad val.* duty; the revenue officer not being competent to estimate correctly the value of goods, Government is frequently defrauded, and the fair trader made to sustain an unequal competition with those who do not scruple to take advantage of the customs, by declaring a fictitious value. In the new scale now submitted, the guide has been to follow several of the established rates, by charging about 5 per cent. on materials of manufacture, 25 per cent. on luxuries, and 30 per cent. on drugs.

The proposed reduction of duty on the last class will appear very considerable when compared with the present scale, otherwise still lower rates would be recommended. The proposed new duties are calculated to fall on the average value; inferior qualities pay more in proportion; but this is an inducement to improve the quality of goods, and is not therefore objectionable.

If the great object of duties be the production of revenue, that object has always been most effectually secured by the imposition of moderate rates, as may be briefly proved by a few examples; *viz.*

The duty on Coffee at 1s. per lb. amounted to £400,000.

Ditto.....ditto..... at 6d. per lb. it amounted to £500,000.

and a further reduction might be made, with every probability of advantage to the revenue; *viz.*

To 4d. per lb. on West-India;

To 6d. per lb. on East-India;

which rates would still amount to 5 per cent. on the market value here.

The following statement shows the advantages consequent on reductions of duty, the annual consumption having increased most rapidly; *viz.* on,

	Lbs.	Lbs.	Former Duty.	Present Duty.
Coffee, B.P. from 8,000,000 to 20,000,000 increased 150 per cent	1/	1/6	1/	1/6
E.I. ...	300,000 to 1,000,000	200	1/6	1/9
Pepper.....	900,000 to 2,000,000	120	2/6	1/
Rice, Bengal 40,000 bags to 100,000 bags	150	5/	1/	1/

Rice being brought from Bengal, principally for the purpose of making a small freight of about £5 per ton, the present duty of £1 per ton falls rather heavy, and might be reduced to 10/, the same as the duty on saltpetre, which is double the value of rice, the consumption of which is likely to increase with the lower orders.

Sugar may be considered, more generally than any one of these articles, a necessary of life, and would without any doubt increase in the same proportion, by reducing the duty to the same extent; the last reduction was too trifling, a small reduction of duty injures the revenue, and does not benefit the community.

Bengal sugar now pays a duty of 120 per cent. on the gross price, which, after deducting freight and charges in England, is equal to 200 per cent. on the proceeds here. It is recommended that the duty on sugar be reduced from 24/ to 12/ on West-India, being at the latter rate 50 per cent. on the gross price; and from 32/ to 16/ on East-India, being the proportionate reduction on this description of sugar.

The annual consumption of sugar in this country being 170,000 tons, the quantity, if increased in the same ratio as the preceding less essential commodities, would soon amount to 350,000 tons, the magnitude of this increase being such as to give additional employment to 150,000 tons of shipping.

All

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Sir C. Forbes, Bart.

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Sir C. Forbes,
Bart.

All the trades connected with shipping, sailors, agents, merchants and underwriters, would thereby be better able to bear direct taxation, and by additional expenditure and consumption, all these classes would indirectly and extensively contribute to augment many other sources of revenue; besides which, a reduction in the price of sugar would be an essential benefit to every family throughout the Kingdom, and especially to those in the middle and lower classes of society.

(Signed)

Inglis, Forbes, & Co.
Cockerell, Trail, & Co.
Finlay, Hodgson, & Co.
Fletcher, Alexander, & Co.
Fairlie, Bonham, & Co.

Palmers, Mackillop & Co.
Rickards, Mackintosh, & Co.
Small, Colquhoun, & Co.
Gregson, Melville, & Knight.
Rawson, Holdsworth, & Co.

London, 31st March 1831.

21 April 1831.

Sir C. Forbes,
Bart.

PRICES CURRENT of East-India Produce, 1st January 1831.

GOODS.	PRICES.		Per	DUTIES.	DUTY, Rate per Cent.	
	from	to			from	to
Aloes	£2 10	£10	cwt.	1/3 p' lb.	70	280
Assafœtida	15/	40/	—	/10 —	233	622
Benjamin, 1st.....	none.		—	—	—	—
2d.....	£15	£20	—	2/ —	56	74
3d.....	£3	£6	—	—	186	373
Barilla	5/	6/	—	£2 p' ton	33	40
Borax, refined.....	55/	56/	—	/6 p' lb.	100	102
unrefined, or Tincal.....	56/	58/	—	/3 —	48	50
Camphor.....	£4 10	£4 15	—	/1 —	9	10
Cardemoms, Ceylon.....	9	1/4	—	2/ —	150	266
Malabar	3/	4/6	—	—	44	66
Cassia Buds	—	80/	—	1/ —	—	140
Lignea	60/	70/	—	/6 —	80	93
Cinnamon.....	8/	9/6	lb.	/6 —	5	6
Cloves, Bourbon.....	/10	1/2	—	2/ —	171	240
Amboyna.....	1/6	2/2	—	2/ —	92	133
Coculus Indicus	—	20/	cwt.	2/6 —	—	1,400
Cochineal	1/1	1/2	lb.	/4 —	28	30
Coffee, Mocha	65/	801	cwt.	/9 —	105	128
Java, brown	nil.		—	1/ —	—	—
Cheribon	31/	38/	—	1/ —	295	361
Sumatra.....	30/	35/	—	—	320	373
Cotton, Bengal.....	/4½	/5	lb.	—	5/6	5/7
Madras	/4½	/5½	—	/4 p' cwt.	5/6	5/8
Surat.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cubebs	70/	80/	cwt.	2/ p' lb.	280	320
Dragons' Blood.....	£2	£15	—	1/8 —	62	465
Ebony.....	4/	5/	—	15/ p' ton	15	19
Galls	50/	65/	—	5/ p' cwt.	7	10
Gamboge.....	£5	£16	—	1/8 p' lb.	58	187
Ginger, Bengal.....	20/	24/	—	11/6 p' cwt.	47	57
Gums, Ammoniac	30/	100/	—	1/3 p' lb.	140	466

(continued..)

21 April 1831.

(A.)—Prices Current of East-India Produce—continued.

Sir C. Forbes,
Bart.

GOODS.	PRICES.		Per	DUTIES.	DUTY, Rate per Cent.	
	from	to			from	to
Gums, Animi	£6	£12	cwt.	/6 p' lb.	23	46
Arabic	50/	55/	lb.	6/ p' cwt.	10	12
Gum Lac: Lac Dye, fine D.T.	—	3/	lb.	—	—	—
other marks, good	1/6	2/	—	—	—	5
middling	1/	1/6	—	—	—	—
ordinary	/6	1/	—	—	—	—
Shell-lac, dark	£4	£5	cwt.	—	—	20
orange	£6	£7	—	—	—	—
Hemp	—	£20	ton.	free.	—	—
Hides, Buffalo	/3	/5	lb.	1/2 wet p' cwt.	4	5
Ox and Cow, dry	/3	/4	—	2/4 dry —	6	8
Indigo	—	4/	—	/3 p' lb.	—	6
Mace	4/	5/6	—	3/6 —	63	87
Mother-o'-pearl Shells, China	85/	90/	cwt.	—	—	5
Bombay	50/	60/	—	—	—	5
Musk	20/	50/	oz.	5/ p' oz.	10	25
Myrrh	£5	£12	cwt.	1/8 p' lb.	77	187
Nutmegs, 1st	3/6	4/	lb.	2/6 —	62	88
2d	2/10	3/2	—	—	—	—
Nux Vomica	7/	8/	cwt.	2/ —	233	266
Oils, of Aniseed	/4	/5	oz.	4/ —	60	75
Cassia	/3½	/4	—	1/ p' oz.	300	343
Cinnamon	10/	12/	—	1/ —	8	10
Cloves	/6	/8	—	2/ —	300	400
Mace	/1	/2	—	2/6 —	1,200	3,000
Nutmegs	1/	1/8	—	2/6 —	150	250
Olibanum	10/	46/	cwt.	£2 p' cwt.	87	400
Pepper, black	/3	/4½	lb.	1/ p' lb.	266	400
white	/4½	/8	—	—	150	266
Rhubarb, common	/8	3/	—	2/6 —	83	500
fine Dutch, trimmed	2/6	4/	—	—	62	100
Rice, Patna	15/	20/	cwt.	—	—	—
Bengal, white	14/	18/	—	1/ p' cwt.	5	10
yellow	10/	12/	—	—	—	—
Java	—	10/	—	15/ —	—	150

(continued..)

(A.)—Prices Current of East-India Produce—continued.

21 April 1831.

Sir C. Forbes,
Bart.

GOODS.	PRICES.		Per	DUTIES.	DUTY, Rate per Cent.	
	from	to			from	to
Rum, Bengal	—	1/9	gln.	£1 p' gal.	—	1,142
Safflower	£2	£9	cwt.	2/6 p' cwt.	1	6
Sago, common	6/	12/	—	1/ —	8	16
pearl	10/	30/	—	10/ —	33	100
Sal Ammoniac	55/	70/	—	/3 p' lb.	40	50
Saltpetre	35/	37/	—	/6 p' cwt.	1	1½
Sapan Wood	5/	10/	—	15/ p' ton	7	15
Sanders ditto red	12/	15/	—	12/ —	4	5
Seeds, Aniseed Star	—	80	—	30/ p' cwt.	—	37
Silk, Bengal	12/9	14/6	lb.	—	—	—
China	11/6	17/6	—	/1 p' lb.	10	11
Persian	12/	12/6	—	—	13	14
Sugar, Bengal, white	27/	34/	cwt.	—	94	118
middling white	25/	27/	—	£1 12s. p' cwt.	118	128
low ditto and brown	21/	23/	—	—	139	152
China and Siam, white	22/	25/	—	—	250	286
yellow	16/	23/	—	£3 3s. —	273	393
Mauritius, fine	51/	54/	—	Duty paid.	80	90
yellow	46/	50/	—	£1 4s. p' cwt.	84	100
brown	40/	44/	—	—	120	141
Teeth, Elephants	£19	£23	—	20/ p' cwt.	4	5
Terra Japonica	25/	35/	—	3/ —	8	12
Tumeric, Bengal	12/	14/	—	2/4 —	16	19
Java	12/	15/	—	—	—	—
China	18/	22/	—	10/ —	66	83
Tortoiseshell	30/	45/	lb.	/6 p' lb.	1	1½
Vermilion	2/6	3/	—	1/ —	33	40

2 I

21 April 1831.

Sir C. Forbes,
Bart.

(B.)

GOODS.	Average Value.	Proposed Duty.
Aloes	£5 per cwt.	35s. per cwt.
Assafoetida	50s. —	15s. —
Barilla	£5 per ton.	5s. per ton.
Benjamin	80s. per cwt.	25s. per cwt.
Borax, unrefined, or Tincal.	45s. —	2s. —
Cardemoms	2s. 6d. per lb.	9d. per lb.
Cassia Buds	80s. per cwt.	6d. —
Lignea	80s. —	3d. —
Cloves	1s. per lb.	3d. —
Cochineal, East-India	1s. —	1d. —
Cubebs	80s. per cwt.	20s. per cwt.
Dragons' Blood	£10 —	£3 —
Gamboge	£12 —	£4 —
Ginger	20s. —	2s. 6d. —
Gum, Ammoniac	90s. —	30s. —
Animi	120s. —	6s. —
Arabic	50s. —	2s. 6d. —
Lac Dye	1s. 6d. per lb.	1d. per lb.
Shell-lac	100s. per cwt.	5s. per cwt.
Seed, Aniseed	80s. —	30s. —
Mace	3s. 6d. per lb.	1s. per lb.
Mother-o'-pearl Shells	50s. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.
Myrrh	£7 —	40s. —
Nutmegs	3s. —	6d. per lb.
Oil, Cocoa Nut	—	—
Cassia	4d. per oz.	1d. per oz.
Cloves	7d. —	3d. —
Mace	1½d. —	½d. —
Nutmegs	1s. 3d. —	5d. —
Olibanum	30s. per cwt.	10s. per cwt.
Pepper, Black	3d. per lb.	1d. per lb.
White	6d. —	2d. —
Rhubarb	2s. —	6d. —

21 April 1831.

Sir C. Forbes,
Bart.

(C.)

AMOUNT of DUTY per Annum, taking the Average of Four Years.

	Quantities.	Rate of Duty.	Total Duty.
On			£
Aniseed, Star	6 cwt.	£3 per cwt.	18
Aloes	23,500 lbs.	1s. 3d. per lb.	1,468
Assafoetida	4,700 lbs.	10d. —	198
Barilla	100 tons.	£2 per ton.	200
Borax, unrefined	120,000 lbs.	3d. per lb.	1,500
Cardemoms	3,550 lbs.	2s. —	355
Cassia Buds	4,350 lbs.	1s. —	217
Lignea	44,900 lbs.	1s. —	2,245
Cloves	500 lbs.	2s. —	5,000
Cochineal	8,700 lbs.	2d. —	70
Cubebs	16,650 lbs.	2s. —	1,665
Dragons' Blood	2,350 lbs.	1s. 8d. —	198
Gamboge	5,750 lbs.	1s. 8d. —	460
Ginger	380 cwt.	4s. 6d. per cwt.	220
Gums, Ammoniac	2,350 lbs.	1s. 3d. per lb.	146
Animi	86,550 lbs.	5d. —	1,800
Arabic	4,350 cwt.	6s. per cwt.	1,300
Lac Dye	383,000 lbs.	5s. —	1,900
Shell-lac	2,050 cwt.	20s. —	2,000
Mace	120 pkgs.	3s. 6d. per lb.	2,500
Myrrh	11,500 lbs.	1s. 8d. —	900
Nutmegs	530 casks.	2s. 6d. —	13,200
Oils, of Cassia	32,000 oz.	1s. per oz.	1,600
Cinnamon	300 oz.	1s. —	15
Cloves	—	—	nil.
Mace	500 oz.	2s. 6d. —	63
Nutmegs	1,800 oz.	2s. 6d. —	225
Olibanum	—	—	nil.
Rhubarb	28,000 lbs.	2s. 6d. per lb.	3,500
			£ 42,963
Pepper	4,500 bags.	1s. per lb.	£ 92,000

1831 April 21. JOHN STEWART, Esq., called in; and examined.

21 April 1831. 2460. HAVE you had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the state of the Island of Ceylon?—Yes, I have.

J. Stewart, Esq.

2461. Are you aware of the import and export-duties now existing on the island of Ceylon, and will you be so good as to state to the Committee the general outline of those duties, as they tend to affect the trade between the Peninsula and other parts of India, and Ceylon, and also this country?—The imports into Ceylon from the presidencies of India are confined almost entirely to grain, principally rice, upon which an import-duty of a rix-dollar a bag is charged, being from fifty to seventy-five per cent. upon the prime cost of the article at Calcutta. The produce and manufactures of this country are also subject to a heavy duty on import into that island, and the produce of Ceylon on being exported to this country, or to India, is also subject to very considerable duties; the system being altogether different from that which prevails in the Company's territories, where the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom are permitted to be imported duty free (with the exception of cotton piece-goods, which pay a duty of two and a half per cent.; and from whence the produce of British India is permitted to be exported to the mother country without the exaction of any duty whatever.

2462. Is it not your opinion, that if a more free commercial intercourse were allowed between Ceylon and the various parts of India it would tend greatly to the advantage of both countries?—Certainly.

2463. What are the chief exports from Ceylon to this country?—Cinnamon is the principle article of export. Cocoa-nut oil and arrack are also exported; and there is now a considerable export of coffee from Ceylon to this country, which I understand is increasing.

2464. Is it not usual for ships coming from India to touch at Ceylon to take on board some of those articles?—It is.

2465. Is not the trade consequently very much impeded by the high duty?—Certainly, very much.

2466. Do you know the per-centage of the duty upon any of those articles?—I cannot charge my memory to state that precisely; there is a regular tariff published, which shows the duties.

2467. Is not Ceylon a very productive island, capable of producing various articles to a great extent?—Yes, particularly so; the soil, produce, climate, harbours and locality of this colony altogether, fit it peculiarly for being a place of great importance in a commercial point of view.

2468. Would not those articles find their way to other parts of India, and also to this country, in a greater degree, if a more liberal system were pursued?—I have no doubt of it. There is nothing permitted to be exported from Ceylon, I believe, without payment of duty.

2469. Do

2469. Do you consider that it would be advantageous for the island of Ceylon to be under the same government as the territories of the East-India Company?—Yes, I conceive it would be most advantageous.

21 April 1831.

J. Stewart, Esq.

2470. On what grounds?—The government of Ceylon is essentially different from the government of the East-India Company, and most inferior to it in every respect. The government of Ceylon is a pure despotism, exercised in the very worst possible way; the government of the East-India Company, on the other hand, is a mild, beneficent, good government, well calculated to promote the general welfare and prosperity of our fellow subjects in India. On Ceylon, the system of forced labour, which prevailed there when we acquired the island from the Dutch, is still continued, and exacted from the native population with a degree of severity which would scarcely be believed by any one who had not witnessed it, as I have done.

2471. Have you been there recently?—I was there last in the year 1823.

2472. Have there been any important changes since that time?—None that I am aware of.

2473. You spoke of the exportation of grain and rice from Bengal to Ceylon, is that to any considerable extent?—It is to a very considerable extent. There is very little rice produced on Ceylon, and that of an inferior quality, and the population, to a considerable extent, are dependent upon the foreign supply, which principally comes from Bengal, and from the coast of Malabar.

2474. Is rice the food of the people?—It is chiefly the food of the people; but there are other grains raised upon Ceylon. Rice is regularly supplied to the military and other government establishments.

2475. Is there not a considerable supply obtained from the Southern Mahratta provinces, from the Tanjore country, Ramnad, and the countries along the coast?—As far as my own knowledge goes, the importations from that side of India were confined principally to the rice from Mangalore.

2476. Are you aware that there is practically a great deal of forced labour in India?—I believe there is forced labour in the Company's territories in India to a certain extent, that is, that they are forced to labour upon being paid for it; but in Ceylon the natives are forced to labour in many instances without being paid for it.

2477. Are not the producers of salt, for instance, at the mouth of the Ganges, under a system of compulsory labour?—I have understood that such is the case, and I believe it to be so, although I have not had an opportunity of personal observation upon the subject.

2478. When you state that there is forced labour in India, do you refer to times of emergency, such as military operations, and to periods when military corps must be carried from one point to another, or do you refer to ordinary times; and if to the latter, will you state whether it was an occurrence arising from the transgression of positive orders by individuals, which was punishable,

21 April 1831. *J. Stewart, Esq.* able, or whether it was a system pursued under the instructions and regulations of government?—I alluded entirely to forced labour under the instructions of government, not applicable to times of emergency, or as arising out of transgressions of the orders of government; as in the instance of the system of forced labour which prevails at the mouth of the Ganges, with regard to the manufacture of salt.

2479. Is it to be found in any other place, excepting in the instance that you mention at the mouth of the Ganges?—I am not aware at this moment of any other particular instance, and of that I do not speak from personal observation.

2480. Are you aware that that forced labour is only enforced by compelling them to execute contracts already engaged?—I am not aware of that.

2481. Do you happen to know at what rate a common day-labourer is paid in Ceylon, and in the Bengal provinces?—Wages are very low indeed in Bengal, labour there being very cheap; in Ceylon it is considerably higher.

2482. Do you not conceive that the peasantry of Ceylon are better clothed, better fed, and better paid than the peasantry in Bengal?—I believe they are generally better paid when not forced to labour by government; but the population of Ceylon is not by any means so dense as that of Bengal, and labourers are consequently more difficult to be had.

2483. Are the necessities of life dearer in Bengal than they are in Ceylon?—No; they are much dearer in Ceylon than in Bengal.

2484. Is the climate of Ceylon of a description which would admit of Europeans labouring in it?—I think it is better adapted for European labour than the climate on the continent of India as far north as the latitude of 18° or 20°.

2485. Do you know that there was a code of laws for Ceylon?—I am aware that Ceylon is governed by a particular code of colonial laws.

2486. Are you aware whether trial by jury has been introduced into the island of Ceylon?—It has.

2487. What was the result?—It was most beneficial.

2488. Do the natives sit upon the jury?—They do.

2489. Is colonization by Europeans freely permitted in that island?—It has been permitted upwards of twenty years, a government proclamation having been issued to that effect in, I think, 1810, holding out encouragement for the settlement of Europeans there; but it is only within the last few years that it has been availed of, and only in two or three instances, I believe.

2490. Are any impediments put by the government of the island?—No impediments appear by the proclamation; but there is always this impediment in the way of it, namely, that by the present constitution of the Ceylon government, it rests with the governor, individually, to promulgate and enact any

any law that he thinks proper for the government of the colony, or for the regulation of any individual interest in it, and so soon as that is proclaimed it becomes the law of the colony, and the courts of justice there are bound to recognize and obey it as such.

2491. So that he may send any man out of the colony without giving any reason for it?—Certainly; and may not only send him out of the colony, but may confiscate his property, or take back the grant of land which had been made to him, or make a new law to regulate the disposal of its produce, if he sees fit.

2492. Can you state any instance of that having been done?—There is one instance which took place in the year 1823 or 1824, not with regard to property, but with regard to the imprisonment of an individual of the name of Rosier, an Englishman, and which was brought before the House of Commons some years ago. The man was stated to have deserted from the army in Bengal, and he was on board a ship bound to this country which touched at Colombo. An intimation had been sent to the Ceylon government that he was a deserter, and he was in consequence taken out of the ship, and confined in custody of the town-major of Colombo. He applied to His Majesty's Supreme Court there, stating, in the usual form, that he was illegally imprisoned, and a writ of habeas corpus issued, as a matter of course, directing him to be brought before the court; but before that order could be complied with, General Campbell, who was then acting governor of Ceylon, enacted a regulation by which he directed, that it should then and thereafter be a sufficient return to any writ of habeas corpus, to state that the party ordered to be brought up was confined by an order under the signature of the governor, or of the secretary to the government. That return was consequently made to the writ, and the Chief Justice, Sir Hardinge Gifford, stated, after seeing the regulation, that he was bound to consider it the law of the colony, and to be guided by it accordingly. The man was consequently not brought before the court, and I believe he died in custody at Colombo.

2493. Are you aware that a similar law exists, with reference to habeas corpus, all over India, that any British subject may be, and has been taken up and confined by the governments in India without any reason being assigned, and on a habeas corpus being granted, the return to that is, that he is so imprisoned by an order of the governor in council?—I believe that that law would not be operative within the jurisdiction of any of the King's courts of judicature at the presidencies; but that it would be so in the provinces.

2494. Are you not aware that it actually did happen in Bombay?—I am aware that a case of that kind did happen a good many years ago in Bombay; that such a return was made: but it is not within my own knowledge, as I was not at Bombay at the time.

2495. Do the high duties of which you have spoken give occasion to a great deal of smuggling on the island of Ceylon?—No, I do not think that there

21 April 1831.

J. Stewart, Esq.

21 April 1831. —
J. Stewart, Esq. there is much smuggling: the articles of import and export to Ceylon are generally bulky, and it would be difficult to smuggle them.

2496. Have you any idea what is the annual value of exports and imports from Ceylon to India?—I cannot state precisely what; but there was, I think, a return made of them to the House of Commons two years ago.

2497. Have many Europeans settled in Ceylon?—No, very few indeed.

2498. Have those been men of capital?—No, I am not aware that any men of capital have settled in Ceylon.

2499. Can you state what number of Europeans there are there?—I suppose the number of Europeans resident on the island is rather under than over five hundred, exclusive of military.

2500. Have they been successful?—Generally speaking, not; the commercial interests of the island are exceedingly depressed.

2501. Have any of them succeeded as cultivators of the soil?—I am not aware that any of them have tried that, except in the few instances I have mentioned of people having settled there lately.

2502. Have you ever heard of any settlers in Ceylon, or persons engaged in commerce, going to the interior, or do they merely limit themselves to the coast?—Since we got possession of the Candian territory some of them have gone into the interior, and I believe a gentleman that has been settled at Ceylon for many years as a merchant, has now got a coffee plantation in the interior; how it is succeeding I do not know.

2503. Have many gentlemen that you have known engaged in the trade of elephants, or does that remain solely with the government?—I believe that the trade in elephants has entirely dropped, as not worth pursuing by any one: indeed, they may be shot at pleasure, and I therefore conclude they are considered of little or no value.

2504. Is not the pearl fishery a branch of commerce in which a number of persons engage?—It is; but it is a strict monopoly in the hands of the government.

2505. Is not the cinnamon also in the hands of the government?—It is entirely in the hands of the government; a very rigid monopoly.

2506. Are there any other monopolies?—I am not aware of any monopoly except the cinnamon, and the chank and pearl fishery.

2507. Are not those monopolies very prejudicial to the interests of the island?—Very prejudicial indeed.

2508. You have stated that the government of India, compared with the government of Ceylon, is mild and beneficent, and in every way preferable; would it not be much more beneficial to the population were the Company to surrender their character of merchants in India, confining themselves to that of sovereigns?—Yes, I am of opinion that it would be much more beneficial to the country generally, and to the native population in particular.

2509. Would

2509. Would not commerce be carried on with much more confidence and vigour, particularly on the part of the natives, if such were the case?—No doubt it would.

2510. Does the government of Ceylon trade on its own account?—Yes, to a very great extent.

2511. Is not that practice of government trading on its own account very injurious to the private traders?—Very injurious indeed; it almost annihilates them.

2512. How does it operate?—It is quite impossible for any private merchant to compete successfully in the market with those who exercise sovereign power in the territory where that trading goes on.

2513. Does not that arise from the superiority of their capital and credit?—It arises partly from that; and in Ceylon it is influenced by the power exercised by the government of forced labour. The natives there are obliged to gather certain articles of produce, and deliver it to government without being paid for their labour.

2514. Is not the case totally different in Bengal, and in the Company's provinces?—Not entirely different in the Company's territories. The effect of the government trading no doubt is in some respects similar, and although there is not forced delivery, yet my belief is, that the natives of India, those I mean who raise the produce, are influenced in giving the Company a preference in the purchase of it, by a fear of displeasing the ruling authorities.

2515. Can you state any instances in proof of that opinion?—I may state in reply to that question, that when I visited the provinces to the northward of Bombay, in the year 1811 or 1812, one object of my journey was the purchase of cotton, and my communication with the native merchants who had cotton to sell, as to the prices and conditions on which I could obtain it, left no doubt on my mind that their abstaining from selling, as they did, till they knew what might be the extent of the Company's demand, arose partly from a fear of offending the ruling authorities, if they parted with the article which might afterwards be required by the government.

2516. Was it not more natural that it should arise from the hope of obtaining a greater price?—It is very probable that that consideration influenced them partly; but I am equally certain that they were also influenced in a considerable degree by the motive I have mentioned.

2517. Are you aware that, at the period of which you speak, the government were in the habit of receiving the great staple of cotton in those provinces of which you have spoken, as revenue in kind?—Yes, I am aware that at the time I mentioned they received part of the revenues in cotton, and that that system has since been done away with.

2518. Are you aware that the cotton is purchased by a commercial agent, who is totally distinct in his duties and capacity, from either the person who

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under the name of collector collects the revenues, or from the judge, by whom all complaints are decided; and that the commercial agent has no duties except those of going with the means they afforded him as a competitor into the market to make purchases with money supplied to him from the government?—Yes, I believe that that has been the case of late years on the Bombay side of India, certainly; and that the commercial agent has not had any other duties to perform.

2519. Is not the commercial agent a civil servant of the Company?—He is.

2520. Do you not, however, think that the knowledge which the natives have that the commercial agent is a servant of the ruling power, would give him considerable advantages in the purchase of the article in the market?—I have not the least doubt of it.

2521. Advantages which no private trader could possibly possess?—Certainly.

2522. What are those advantages?—The natives of India who grow cotton know that the commercial agent is the servant of the East-India Company, and that in purchasing the cotton from them he is carrying into effect the orders of the government, and they consider very naturally that dealing with him is just the same as if they were dealing directly with the government.

2523. What effect can that have upon the purchase of the article?—Perhaps I had better, in answer to that question, state, that if a private merchant goes into the market early in the season to purchase cotton, the growers will not sell or make a bargain with him, till they know, in the first instance, the extent to which the Company wish to purchase; they are, no doubt, influenced in doing so, in a considerable degree, by the hope of getting a better price from the Company; but I have no doubt also, in a very great degree, by the fear of offending the Government, if they had sold their cotton before they knew whether the Company would require it or not.

2524. How could they possibly incur the displeasure of government for not selling to the agent of government that which they did not possess?—It is known that they do possess that cotton every year, and they believe that if they do not keep it on hand till they knew whether the Company required it or not, they would incur the displeasure of the ruling authorities.

2525. Is not this merely your own opinion, and your belief, and not a statement of fact?—It is my opinion and my belief, derived from personal observation, and from personal communication with many of those who are the growers of the article.

2526. At what period?—As I mentioned, in the year 1811 or 1812.

2527. Have you any information upon this subject that applies to the period of the present charter?—Yes; I have had ample experience of the present

present system during my residence at Bombay, so late as the year 1824, and I know that the same feeling continues to operate now.

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2528. Supposing no influence to exist on the part of the Company as the governing power, and that there were no fears of the resentment of that power in any shape, is not the interference of a body with unlimited capital among private independent merchants, in the ordinary speculations of commerce, fatal to the freedom and independence of commerce, and must not such a competitor in the ordinary transactions of commerce be destructive of the individuals who are to act in competition with it?—There can be no doubt of it.

2529. Supposing that in any of the presidencies of India this government so trading is occasionally called upon to give assistance to merchants at periods of distress, have they not the power of making an abundance or a scarcity of money, according as that assistance is either granted or withheld, so as to oppress their competitors in the ordinary commerce of the country?—They no doubt have the power to do so.

2530. Have they ever exercised it, to your knowledge, at Bombay?—They certainly never have, to my knowledge.

2531. Have you ever known within the last five or six years, by any statements from the commercial men with whom you are connected, that they have ever preferred to the government any complaints of a deficiency of the supply of the article of cotton, or any difficulties that obstructed them in its purchase, without those being, in the few cases in which they have occurred, immediately remedied by the government?—I have not heard that any application has been made to the government upon that subject within the last four or five years.

2532. Have there been any obstructions to their obtaining as much of the article as they required?—No direct obstruction by the government; but I conceive the interference of government operates as a very serious obstruction to them in the market.

2533. Are you not aware that the government have adopted measures generally for the encouragement of the growth of cotton?—Yes, I have reason to know that within the last few years measures have been adopted for that purpose, or rather to improve the staple of the article.

2534. When you speak of capital possessed by the government, with which they trade, do you conceive that, strictly speaking, to be commercial capital, or only an application of territorial revenue?—I did not speak of it as capital at all; it is an unlimited command of funds, arising no doubt from the territorial revenue.

2535. Therefore, supposing losses to be sustained, in a commercial sense, by the party so carrying on trade, would not such losses have a very different effect upon them from the effect they would have upon a private trader,

21 April 1831. inasmuch as they might be attended with total ruin to him, while in the case of the Company it would only make a charge against the territorial revenue? —Exactly so. *J. Stewart, Esq.*

2536. Have you found the feeling of respect for the authority of the Company's agents, and consequent preference of them, as prevalent of late years as when you were first acquainted with India?—Quite as much so.

2537. Are you aware whether the inhabitants, particularly in the northern district of Guzerat, are in the habit of sacrificing their interests to meet the wishes of the government, or whether they are not in the habit, every year, on every point connected with the payment of their land revenue, and their commercial dealings, of filing suits against the government in its own courts of justice, both as relates to the revenue administration of justice and the civil administration of justice?—I have knowledge, certainly, of the fact of their frequently instituting proceedings against the government in the provincial courts, but with what success I cannot say. It is, however, unquestionable, that notwithstanding the establishment of those courts for the purpose of administering justice, the natives of India do not go into those courts, against the Company, with any degree of confidence of attaining justice, because they know that the judges of those courts are the servants of the Company, that they are appointed by the government, that they are removable at the pleasure of government, that they are dependent upon the local government for further advancement in the service, and that an appeal from those courts lies to the court of adawlut, the judges of which were, until very lately, the governor and the members of the council, the very men, in fact, who appointed the judges of the provincial court, from whose decision the appeal is made. My belief is, and that belief is founded upon frequent communication with the natives of India, that they have no confidence, or very little confidence in the present system of the administration of justice in the provinces of India.

2538. Is your answer grounded upon communications and intercourse which you have had with the native community of Bombay, or from a residence in those provinces; and does it refer to the period subsequent to the last charter, or to a former period, when you visited the provinces in 1812? —They refer to the period since 1811, when I first became a resident at Bombay; and during the long period I resided there as a merchant and agent, I had almost constant communication personally with the native merchants, and by correspondence, and also personally with natives in other parts of India, who occasionally visited the presidency of Bombay; and having been, during that time, an alderman of the King's Court of Bombay, the subject of the administration of justice was one of frequent discussion between myself and the different respectable merchants and natives on that side of India, and it was the general complaint of the whole, without a single exception that I am aware of, that the administration of justice in the provinces was exceedingly defective, inefficient and corrupt. When I say corrupt, I apply

apply the term as they applied it, to the system, not to the judges who administered justice in those courts, whom I believe to be a very honourable set of men, but they said that the system was one in which they could have little or no confidence. *J. Stewart, Esq.*

2539. Can you state from your own knowledge, any specific instances that have occurred, as a proof of the bad administration of justice under the system now established in the provinces of Bombay?—Yes, I have an instance in my mind at this moment, and which I am enabled to support by a very high judicial authority in this country. I do not at this moment recollect the names of the parties to the suit, but it was an action that was tried in the court of adawlut at Surat, and an appeal was made from the decision of that court to the sudder adawlut, or governor in council at Bombay, which confirmed the decision of the court at Surat, and the case came home on appeal to the King in council in this country. That appeal was heard, I think, about three years ago, and Sir John Leach, who presided at the council, reversed the decree of the Indian provincial court; and in giving judgment he observed, that he had before had occasion to deplore the constitution of those courts, and the disgraceful mode in which justice was administered in them, and that he had on that occasion represented the matter to the President of the Board of Control, with a view to the correction of the evil, and recommending that King's judges should be appointed to these courts; but the President had stated that it could not be done, as there was a great deal of jealousy between the King's and the Company's servants in India. The learned judge proceeded to state, that the case then before him, decided in a manner contrary to every principle of law and justice, afforded so strong an additional reason for the change he had recommended, that he would furnish the Board of Control with a copy of the evidence, with the view of inducing the President to reconsider his determination. I beg to add, that I perfectly concur in the whole that fell from Sir John Leach upon that occasion, with the exception of appointing King's judges to administer the law in the provincial courts, which I should not consider expedient.

2540. You are probably aware, that within the last few years, the Court of Appeal in this country have reversed several of the judgments passed by His Majesty's courts of law in India; should you conclude, from those judgments being reversed, that those courts were consequently to be condemned as being inefficient?—I am aware that several of the judgments of the King's courts in India have, upon appeal to this country, been reversed; but I am not aware of any instance in which His Majesty's Privy Council, in reversing the judgments of any of the King's courts in India, have pronounced in unqualified terms, or in any terms whatever, that the proceedings of those courts in the cases alluded to were contrary to every principle of law and justice; and Sir John Leach made use of these words expressly, in reversing the judgment of the provincial court in the case I have alluded to, and did

21 April 1831. not apply them to that case alone, but to the proceedings of those courts generally.

J. Stewart, Esq. 2541. In what year did that case occur?—Three or four years ago.

2542. Have the natives of India, as far as you know, entire confidence in the King's courts at Bombay and the other presidencies?—They have.

2543. And that, generally speaking, they would be glad to see their jurisdiction extended?—I believe they would be glad that their jurisdiction was extended.

2544. Are you not aware that the delays in the administration of justice in the provincial courts, and the corruption of the native officers of the courts, are things of general notoriety in India?—They are so.

2545. Within your knowledge, are not the natives of India at the present moment a very servile race; that is, obedient to the will of any officer acting under authority?—They are very obedient.

2546. Is that derived from your knowledge of the persons at Bombay, or is it from your personal knowledge of the provinces during the last fifteen years?—From my own knowledge, derived from residence in India generally, and travelling occasionally in the provinces.

2547. Have you ever been in the Deccan?—I have been there about five or six weeks.

2548. Have you ever had any intercourse with the natives, except upon commercial points?—Upon commercial points, and upon the state of the administration of justice, which was frequently the subject of communication between the natives and myself.

2549. Do you speak the native languages?—The current dialect used at Bombay.

2550. Are not the natives very much in the habit of opening their minds to gentlemen not in the Company's service, and much more so than to gentlemen connected with it?—I have always found them very communicative, and willing to open their minds on any subject.

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No. 1.—AN ACCOUNT of the ARREARS OF LAND REVENUE left outstanding at the close of the Official Year, at each of the Presidencies in India.

(In continuation of an Account dated 17th March 1830; Ordered, 15th February 1830.)

YEAR.	ARREARS OF LAND REVENUE LEFT OUTSTANDING.			
	BENGAL.	MADRAS.	BOMBAY.	WHOLE OF INDIA.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
30th April 1829	2,605,693	1,243,242	478,150	4,327,085

(Errors excepted.)

East-India-House,
21st February 1831. }

JAMES C. MELVILL,
Aud. India Accts.

No. 2.—AN ACCOUNT, in detail, of the REVENUES and CHARGES of the CEDED and

(In continuation of an Account dated

	REVENUES.									
	Mint.	Stamps.	Judicial Fees and Fines.	Revenue Current.	Surplus not in Jumma.	Revenue Balances.	Syer and Abkaree.	Customs and Town Duties.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL REVENUE.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
BENGAL:										
Ceded Provinces . . .	—	31,483	5,909	1,463,094	16,787	45,334	99,599	86,620	8,846	1,757,672
Conquered ditto . . .	—	20,615	3,870	1,842,068	54,721	106,357	49,597	278,461	9,834	2,365,523
Benares	3,590	26,593	1,717	520,344	6,426	38,778	48,609	75,459	14,039	735,555
Ceded Nerbuddah . .	1,342	—	Nizam. 11,645	257,414	11,019	35,256 Tributes 121,818	12,357	33,873	7,414	493,138
Ceded Burmese	—	160	—	88,526	—	Ava Treaty 173,897	17,163	—	11,637	291,383
	Current Revenues.	Arrears of Revenue.	Abkaree.	Farms and Licenses.	Land Customs.	Sea Customs.	Salt.	Tobacco Monopoly.	—	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
MADRAS:										
Carnatic	935,586	100,663	57,821	2,888	150,735	7,741	129,685	—	—	1,389,119
Ceded and Con- quered Provinces }	839,541	19,979	57,234	13,685	94,807	48,813	57,524	85,128	—	1,216,711
Tanjore	296,301	44,325	6,427	2,298	50,606	2,602	37,427	—	—	439,986
Countries ceded by the Nizam }	473,170	5,455	91,354	4,295	66,004	—	—	—	—	640,278

CONQUERED PROVINCES under the Presidencies of BENGAL, MADRAS and BOMBAY.

6th May 1830 ; Ordered, 15th February 1830.)

	CHARGES.									
	Mint.	Provincial Battalions	Judicial Salaries, &c.	Diet of Prisoners.	Police.	Revenues, Charges, Collection.	Pensions chargeable on Revenue.	Customs Charges.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL CHARGES.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
BENGAL:										
Ceded Provinces . . .	—	20,685	121,427	15,456	45,508	162,393	70,002	20,014	20,496	475,981
Conquered ditto . . .	—	98,971	63,065	12,877	52,660	203,003	385,304	27,095	29,655	872,630
Benares	6,809	13,674	67,693	8,401	18,338	41,995	36,350	12,660	—	205,920
Ceded Nerbuddah . .	3,626	—	9,108	—	3,301	43,785	21,654	2,295	795	84,564
Ceded Burmese	—	—	—	—	—	52,485	—	—	—	52,485
	Salary and Commission to Collectors and Establishment.	Repairs of Tanks and Charges Extraordinary.	Customs.	Salt.	Stipends and Allowances.	Residency Charges.	Tobacco Monopoly.	Judicial Charges.	Pensions and Charitable Allowances.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
MADRAS:										
Carnatic	123,893	52,092	3,651	25,350	203,639	—	Petty Claims. 25,638	45,609	—	479,872
Ceded and Con- quered Provinces }	96,139	24,979	13,783	19,167	105,940	15,915	30,280	35,857	—	342,060
Tanjore	28,883	12,581	1,413	4,830	100,765	2,885	—	—	16,996	168,353
Countries ceded by the Nizam . . }	50,212	31,166	1,774	—	—	—	—	38,975	—	122,127

No. 2.—An Account, in detail, of the Revenues and Charges of the Ceded and

(In continuation of an Account dated

...continued.)

	REVENUES.									
	LAND REVENUE.			Sayer.	CUSTOMS.			Judicial Fees, Fines, &c.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
	Current Year.	Arrears.	Subsidy.		Land Customs.	Sea Customs.	Subsidy.			
	£.	£.	£.		£.	£.	£.			
BOMBAY:										
Possessions ceded by the Guicowar }	—	—	330,361	—	—	—	38,572	929	—	369,862
Possessions ceded by and conquered from the Mah-rattas	925,909	230,129	—	149,455	119,819	82,752	—	5,453	—	1,513,517

East-India House, }
21st Feb. 1831. }

Conquered Provinces under the Presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay—continued.

6th May 1830; Ordered, 15th February 1830.)

	CHARGES.							
	LAND REVENUE.		CUSTOMS.		Judicial and Police Charges.	Charges of Survey, Repairs of Roads, &c.	Extraordinary Miscellaneous Charges in excess of Receipts.	TOTAL.
	Charges collecting Land Revenue and Sayer.	Stipends and Pensions chargeable on Revenue.	Charges collecting Land Customs.	Charges collecting Sea Customs.				
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
BOMBAY.								
Possessions ceded by the Guicowar }	41,872	9,621	1,397	267	30,942	6,957	31,410	122,466
Possessions ceded by and conquered from the Mah-rattas	173,766	145,138	—	10,598	149,076	6,957	117,313	602,848

(Errors excepted.)

JAMES C. MELVILL,
Aud. India Accts.

No. 3.—AN ACCOUNT of the PER-CENTAGE at which the several Heads of REVENUE were collected in India, in the Year 1828-29.

(In continuation of an Account ordered 15th February 1830.)

	Bengal, Behar and Orissa.	Benares.	Ceded Provinces.	Conquered Provinces.	—
BENGAL:					
Land Revenue (including Sayer and Abkarree	7,257	6,837	9,994	9,889	
Customs	17,335	16,777	23,105	9,730	
Salt	—	16		—	
Opium	—	5,182		—	
Stamps	—	12,132		—	
MADRAS:					
	Ancient Possessions.	Carnatic.	Tanjore.	Ceded and Conquered Provinces.	Provinces ceded by the Nizam.
Land Revenue (including Ab- karree and Moturpha	8,743	15,985	11,869	14,908	14,170
Customs	15,640	2,304	2,655	9,597	2,688
Salt	18,453	19,547	12,906	33,320	—
Stamps	—	17,404		—	
BOMBAY:					
	Ancient Possessions.	Possessions ceded by the Guicowar.	Possessions ceded by and conquered from the Mahrattas.	—	
Land Revenue and Sayer	*15,74	14	14,7	—	
Customs	13,28	4,32	5,18	—	
Stamps	—	19,5	—	—	

* This increase, as compared with several preceding years, is not occasioned by any increase of charge in the collection of the revenue, but by the falling off of the receipts in 1828-29, upon which the calculation is founded.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House,
21st February 1831.

JAMES C. MELVILL.
Aud. India Accts.

No. 4.

ESTIMATE of the TERRITORIAL REVENUES and CHARGES of India, under their respective Heads, whether payable in India or in England, for the Year 1829-30; with a Statement of the grounds upon which the Estimate under each Head is formed; and showing how the Surplus of such Revenues, if any, has been applied, or the Deficiency provided for.

No. 4.—ESTIMATE of the TERRITORIAL REVENUES and CHARGES of India, under their respective Heads, upon which the Estimate under each Head is formed, and showing how the

REVENUES.

	BENGAL.	MADRAS.	BOMBAY.	PENANG.	SINGAPORE.	MALACCA.	TOTAL.
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Mints	30,160	2,183	4,140	—	—	—	36,483
Post-Office	87,232	32,665	12,668	—	—	—	132,565
Stamps	332,223	52,869	39,600	—	—	—	424,692
Judicial	87,696	15,803	11,171	—	—	—	114,670
Land Revenue	8,320,680	3,851,402	2,098,676	24,615	12,668	6,619	14,314,660
Customs	785,320	590,726	461,081	—	—	—	1,837,127
Ceded Territory	569,676	—	—	—	—	—	569,676
Burmese Cessions	103,240	—	—	—	—	—	103,240
Salt	1,931,400	469,530	20,689	—	—	—	2,421,619
Opium	1,757,400	—	—	—	—	—	1,757,400
Marine	35,380	7,500	18,889	—	—	—	61,769
Ava Indemnification ..	92,220	—	—	—	—	—	92,220
Bhurtpore	34,800	—	—	—	—	—	34,800
Subsidies	—	392,355	—	—	—	—	392,355
Bank Profits	—	8,640	—	—	—	—	8,640
£	14,167,427	5,423,673	2,666,914	24,615	12,668	6,619	22,301,916
Deduct,							
Amount in which it is calculated the several collectors have over-estimated the total receipts, arising chiefly from their having drawn too favourable a view of the resources from land revenues, owing to the circumstances described in the governor's minute, dated 12th November 1829, and noticed by the Court in their review of the Bombay finances for the years 1827-28 and 1828-29			247,500				247,500
£			2,419,414				
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES in INDIA 1829-30	£						22,054,416

The foregoing Estimates are grounded on Estimates and Accounts received from India, so far as respects the Revenues and Charges incurred abroad; and upon actual payments, so far as respects the Home Charges.

The rate of exchange observed in this Account is that fixed by the Board of Commissioners for the affairs of India.

East-India House,
21st March 1831. }

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

whether payable in India or in England, for the Year 1829-30; with a Statement of the grounds Surplus of such Revenues (if any) has been applied, or the Deficiency provided for.

CHARGES.

	BENGAL.	MADRAS.	BOMBAY.	PENANG.	SINGAPORE.	MALACCA.	TOTAL.
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Civil Charges	857,124	289,859	506,801	77,049	28,196	22,142	1,781,171
Provincial Battalions, and in the Western Provinces	132,124	—	—	—	—	—	132,124
Mints	53,476	21,942	5,350	—	—	—	80,768
Post-Office	81,780	29,223	17,944	—	—	—	128,947
Stamps	74,240	10,802	20,632	—	—	—	105,674
Judicial	1,037,156	376,756	280,996	—	—	—	1,694,908
Land Revenue	1,512,756	1,107,864	703,305	—	—	—	3,323,925
Customs	119,131	46,476	31,309	—	—	—	196,916
Ceded Territory ..	145,696	—	—	—	—	—	145,696
Burmese Cessions ..	41,760	—	—	—	—	—	41,760
Salt	527,800	79,891	—	—	—	—	607,691
Opium	666,420	—	—	—	—	—	666,420
Marine	123,626	22,441	193,343	—	—	—	339,410
Petty Claims on Car-natic	—	24,000	—	—	—	—	24,000
Buildings and Repairs	319,928	48,825	134,134	5,220	5,742	2,352	516,201
Military	4,100,330	3,222,230	1,758,679	17,735	2,401	1,716	9,103,091
Interest on Debts ..	9,793,347	5,280,309	3,652,493	100,004	36,339	26,210	18,888,702
	1,914,000	204,696	20,317	104	—	—	2,139,117
TOTAL CHARGES, including Interest } £	11,707,347	5,485,005	3,672,810	100,108	36,339	26,210	21,027,819
Expense of St. HELENA							93,004
POLITICAL CHARGES incurred in ENGLAND, including Invoice Amount of Stores consigned to India							1,742,162
GRAND TOTAL of CHARGES							22,862,985
Deduct REVENUES							22,054,416
ESTIMATED SURPLUS CHARGE in 1829-30	£						808,569*

* The variation between this amount and that shown in the Account dated 21st February 1831, is the result of information received from Madras since the latter Account was prepared. The deficiency will be provided for either by reduction of cash balance, or by incurring fresh debt.

The proportions of the said charges paid or payable in England are as follow; viz. £. £.
Interest on debts, part of the £2,139,117 stated above under that head 962,220
Expense of St. Helena

Political charges incurred in England as above 1,742,162

2,797,386

(Errors excepted.)

JAMES C. MELVILL,
Aud. India Accts.

No. 5.—AMOUNT of the TERRITORIAL DEBT owing by the EAST-INDIA COMPANY at their several Presidencies in the EAST-INDIES, and of the INTEREST thereupon, according to the latest Advices.

	BENGAL.	MADRAS.	BOMBAY.	TOTAL.
	at 2s. the Current Rupee.	at 8s. the Pagoda.	at 2s. 3d. the Rupee.	
Quick Stocks, 30th April 1829.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Debts at 4 per cent.	252,103	36,057	115,425	403,585
Ditto at 5 ditto.	24,709,083	6,637	—	24,715,720
Ditto at 6 ditto.	10,436,217	2,632,154	228,986	13,297,357
Ditto at 8 ditto.	53,546	479,999	213,879	747,424
Ditto at 10 ditto.	2,147	—	—	2,147
Treasury Notes at 2 and 2½ pie } per cent. per diem. }	152,343	—	—	152,343
Total Debts bearing Interest ...	35,605,439	3,154,847	558,290	39,318,576
Debts not bearing Interest	6,787,532	1,056,912	537,075	8,381,519
TOTAL DEBTS in India. £	42,392,971	4,211,759	1,095,365	47,700,095

Interest computed upon the above Debts. £2,116,971

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
21st March 1831. }

JAMES C. MELVILL,
Aud. India Accts.

No. 6.—PROSPECTIVE ESTIMATE of the FINANCES of INDIA, including the HOME CHARGES, at the close of the Company's present Term, supposing the Remittances to be effected at 1s. 11d. the Sicca Rupee, instead of the Rates of Exchange fixed by the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India.

Circumstances which it is calculated will operate on the one hand to augment, and on the other to reduce, this Deficiency, by the Year 1834.		Add,		Deduct,	
ACTUAL INDIAN DEFICIENCY in 1828-29, after bringing to account the Territorial Charges defrayed in England, and reckoning the Local Surplus of India at 1s. 11d. the Sicca Rupee.	AMOUNT in which the Revenues are likely to fall short of those of 1828-29.	AMOUNT in which certain Charges are likely to exceed those of 1828-29.		AMOUNT in which the remainder of the Charges are likely to fall short of those of 1828-29.	
	By Cessation of falling off in Ordinary Revenues.	By the Sum estimated as to be annually set apart to meet the Claims upon the Tanjore Revenues.	By the addition which it is calculated will be made to the Charge for Interest of Indian Debt as it stood in 1828-29, in consequence of the creation of fresh Debt to meet the Territorial Deficiency, and to discharge the Debt due from Territory to Commerce.	By Reduction of Civil and Marine Establishments, including those of P. W. Island, Singapore, and Malacca.	By Diminution of the Expenses of St. Helena, and of the Territorial Charges defrayed in England.
	See Appx. (A.)	See Appx. (B.)	See Appx. (D.)	See Appx. (G.)	See Appx. (I.)
	£. 756,637	£. 107,708	£. 57,500	£. 934,772	£. 310,777
	924,345	57,500	425,508	246,849	270,000
	1,093,236	1,496,462	1,093,236	1,181,621	1,762,398
		2,589,698			
		1,762,398			
		827,300			
					827,300*

* This is exclusive of the Interest of the Company's Bond Debt in England, the amount of which is £113,414 per annum.
East-India House, }
18th March 1831. }
JAMES C. MELVILL,
Aud. India Accts.

APPENDIX (A.)

Cessation of Extraordinary Receipts (£756,637.)

BENGAL:

	Sicca Rupees.
Balance received from Scindia's government in 1828-29, on account of the auxiliary horse	13,89,827
Received from the Bhurtpore state in 1828-29, on account of war charges ..	7,74,291
Received from the Ava government in 1828-29, being part of the tribute of one crore imposed upon that state (under treaty) at the close of the war	14,99,111
Sum introduced as a receipt into the accounts of 1828-29, in order to adjust the statement made of the Malwa opium transactions in the year 1823-24	14,87,878
Diminution which is likely to take place in the amount of re-funds and re-credits deducted from the military charges of 1828-29	22,00,000

MADRAS:

Balance of the late native pension fund, credited as an extraordinary receipt in 1828-29; Madras Rupees 5,80,261, or	5,44,233
	Sicca Rupees
	78,95,340
Equal to	£ 756,637

APPENDIX (B.)

Falling-off in Ordinary Revenues (£167,708.)

	Sicca Rupees.
Probable falling-off in the Bengal revenues, chiefly in the receipts from opium, which it is supposed will be affected by the abolition of the monopoly of the article in Malwa	20,00,000
Ditto in the Madras revenues, which in 1828-29 were above their average amount; Madras Rupees 3,19,860, or	3,00,000
	23,00,000
Deduct, Probable amount of improvement in the Bombay revenue; Bombay Rupees 5,86,410, or	5,50,000
	Sicca Rupees
	17,50,000
Equal to	£ 167,708

APPENDIX (C.)

Sum which it is estimated will be annually set apart to meet the claims of the creditors of the late rajah of Tanjore	Sicca Rupees. 6,00,000
Equal to	£ 57,500

APPENDIX (D.)

Addition to the Charge for Interest of Indian Debt (£425,508.)

Probable insufficiency of the local surplus of India to meet the demands of Commerce, for re-payment of sums issued in England to the Territorial department:

In 1829-30	£619,527	
1830-31	317,494	
1831-32	453,735	
1832-33	319,286	
1833-34	199,286	
	£1,909,328	Sicca Rupees.
at 1/11 per Sicca Rupee		1,99,23,423
Claims on account of Deccan and Bhurtpore prize property		50,00,000
		2,49,23,423
Deduct, Amount in which it is estimated the Indian cash balances may be reduced below the amount at which they stood on 30th April 1829		1,00,00,000
		1,49,23,423
Difference to be provided for by incurring fresh debt		Sicca Rupees.
Annual interest on this amount, at 5 per cent.		7,46,171
Probable addition to the charge for interest on the balance of the Carnatic fund; Madras Rupees 2,26,563, or		2,12,495
Interest on the further amount of Indian debt which it is estimated will be incurred in order to pay off the debt due from Territory to Commerce in 1834:		
Estimated debt to Commerce on 1st May 1834, valuing the Sicca Rupee at 1/11	£6,672,715	
or, Sicca Rupees 6,96,28,330, at 5 per cent. interest		34,81,416
		Sicca Rupees
		44,40,082
Equal to	£	425,508

APPENDIX (E.)

Difference between 1/11 the Sicca Rupee, and the Rates at which the Territorial Advances are made in England (£89,109.)

	Nature and Amount of the Advances.	Rates at which they are made.
Advances to Civil and Military Funds	£ 125,000	(a) at 2/3 p. S. Rupee, on an average.
Interest on Carnatic Stock	95,000	at 2/5. 24 p. S. Rupee.
Bills drawn on the Court for interest of Indian Debt ..	780,000	at 2/0. 6 ditto, on an average.
	£ 1,000,000	at 2/11

Difference between 1/11 and 2/11 per Sicca Rupee on £1,000,000, is, Sicca Rupees 9,29,832, equal to £89,109.

(a) After deducting from the actual rates the interest on the advances.

APPENDIX (F.)

Reduction of Military Establishments, &c. (£934,772.)

	Sicca Rupees.	£.
Various reductions comprised in the Estimates laid before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in June last	82,93,335 .. or	794,778
Net amount of further* reductions, of which information has been received since those Estimates were framed, after deducting the cost of certain additions which have been made to establishments within the same period	14,60,867 .. or	139,994
		£ 934,772

* In the following page will be found the chief items of these further Reductions.

Appendix (F.)—continued.

BENGAL.

	Sicca Rupees.
The two corps of European infantry, incorporated into one regiment	1,09,403
Calcutta native militia reduced	67,451
Second Nusseree battalion, disbanded	81,334
First and second battalions of native invalids, broken up	1,33,963
Moorshedabad provincial battalion, disbanded	95,688
Seharunpore provincial battalion, disbanded	76,550
Ramgurh local battalion, reduced	31,577
Establishment of Dowlah bearers, reduced	32,534
Further reductions in the ordnance department	30,099
Appointment of regulating officer of invalid thannahs to be abolished	30,176

MADRAS.

Light field force at Kulladgee, broken up	2,12,906
The two European regiments formed into one	98,480
Seringapatam local battalion, reduced	65,654
Formation of the rifle corps into one of the regiments of the line	1,31,307
Saving in the field equipments of the Hyderabad and Nagpore subsidiary forces	93,791

BOMBAY.

Reductions in the horse artillery	75,033
Reductions consequent upon the stationing both battalions of European artillery at Ahmednuggur	37,516
The two extra battalions, disbanded	1,87,582
Tent allowances reduced	65,654
The two European regiments formed into one	1,05,046
The grain ration for horses reduced	42,206
Batta struck off at the frontier stations of Deesa and Bhooj (European officers excepted)	1,68,824
Battalion of native invalids, broken up	65,654
Immediate reduction of 15 per cent. and a further prospective reduction of 5 per cent. directed to be made in the amount of all office establishments	56,274
Re-organization of the ordnance department	50,647

APPENDIX (G.)

Cessation of Extraordinary Military Charges (£246,849.)

	Sicca Rupees.	£.
Arrears brought to account at Madras in 1828-29, connected in a great measure with the late war, Madras Rupees 20,00,000, or	18,75,820 .. or	179,766
Sum brought to account in Bengal, under the head of charges of the late war	7,00,000 .. or	67,083
	£	246,849

APPENDIX (H.)

Reduction of Civil and Marine Establishments (£310,777.)

	Sicca Rupees.	£.
Various reductions detailed in the Estimates laid before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the 7th June last	16,28,334 .. or	156,049
Further reductions, of which information has been received since those Estimates were framed	16,14,551 .. or	154,728
	£	310,777

* In the following page will be found the chief items which contribute to this further Amount.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 273

Chief Items of the further reductions of which information has been received since the estimates referred to in Appendix (H.) were framed :

BENGAL.	Sicca Rupees.
Various reductions in the General Department, chiefly in the Subordinate Establishments	75,000
Expenses of the Telegraphic Establishments, the Mineralogical Survey and the Shakespearian Bridges	32,400
Reductions in the Political Department	1,10,000
'Ditto in the Establishments of the Judicial Department	60,000
'Ditto in the Establishments of the Revenue Department	1,20,000
Further reductions in the Marine Department	1,00,000
Reductions in the Secretariat, the College, and the Botanical Garden; and the Office of Superintendent of Hindoo Researches abolished	1,40,000
Further reductions proposed in the Political Department	50,000
MADRAS.	
A fixed sum allowed to the Resident in Mysore, in lieu of his former Salary and Table Allowances, and the situation of Assistant to the Resident abolished	50,117
Situation of Junior Accountant-general abolished, and Establishment of the Accountant-general reduced	23,166
Additional Government Commissionership for Carnatic Claims abolished, and Establishment of the Commissioners reduced	44,305
Intended reduction in the Secretariat, and consolidation of certain of the principal Offices at the Presidency, &c.	24,000
Intended reduction of one Judge from the Sudder Adawlut; abolition of the Zillah Court of Guntoor; substitution of Seven separate Provincial Judges for the present Provincial Courts; and employment of Sudder Aumeen in lieu of Zillah Registers	1,00,000
Fourth Member of the Board of Revenue, and the Establishments of the additional Sub-Collectors intended to be discontinued	16,000
BOMBAY.	
General reduction of the Allowances of Native Servants in the various Civil Departments	2,15,000
General revision of the Allowances of Covenanted Civil Servants	1,87,000
Household Establishment of the Governor to be reduced, and Allowance to the Secretary of the Committee for examining Junior Civil Servants discontinued	28,700
Various reductions proposed in the General Department, chiefly in the Political Branch	1,13,000

APPENDIX (I.)

Diminution of the Expenses of St. Helena, and of the Territorial Charges defrayed in England ... (£270,000.)

	£.
Various Reductions in the Establishments of St. Helena, as detailed in the Estimates laid before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on 7th June last	23,000
Diminution of the Territorial Charges in England	*247,000
	270,000
Particulars of the Territorial Charges in 1828-29.	Particulars of the Probable Charges in 1834-35.
£.	£.
*Political Stores	449,603
Passages of Military outward	72,730
Pay to Officers on Furlough and Retirement, and off-reckonings.	388,072
Political Freight and Demorage	106,663
Pay-office Demands on Account of King's Troops	354,800
Retiring Pay, &c. to King's Troops	60,000
Political Charges general	366,532
Absentee Allowances, and Passage Money to Civil Servants	36,369
Expenses on Account of the Subordinate Settlements and Tanjore Commission	8,192
Paid to the Government of Persia	124,444
	1,967,405
	1,720,405
	247,000

No. 7.—STATEMENT of the Particulars of an Item in the Account of the Commercial Branch of THE COMPANY'S Affairs, for the Year 1829-30, entitled, Charges General, amounting to £418,508. 7s. 7d.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 2d June 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 970.)

	£.	s.	d.
Directors' Gratuities (one-half)	3,636	17	0
Proportion of Salaries and Allowances to Officers of the House and Warehouses, chargeable to the Commercial Branch, according to the principle established for each Office in the Plan of Accounts approved by the Board of Commissioners	74,856	0	0
Allowances to Extra Clerks (one-third)	8,577	13	4
East-India College, chargeable to the Commercial Branch in the proportion that the Number of Servants Abroad employed in that Department bears to the Total Number of Servants on the India and China Establishments	1,083	19	8
Supracargoes' Commission	71,616	3	10
Annuitants and Pensioners of the Commercial Department	35,551	7	6
Tradesmen's Bills for Expenses of the East-India House, Repairs, Taxes, Coals, Candles, &c. (one-half)	29,179	0	8½
Law Charges incurred in respect of Commercial matters	1,500	0	0
The two Widows' Funds, established for the benefit of the Home Service; one-half of the Grants from the Company's Cash, including an adjustment in respect of former Years	1,902	14	10
Care of Insane Persons who have belonged to the Commercial Branch of the Service	528	18	2½
Subscriptions to Charities and on public occasions (one-half)	508	18	0½
Books, Maps, Charts, &c. purchased or subscribed for (one-half)	1,667	13	10½
Stationery for Home use (one-half)	3,078	16	0
Buildings	10,838	9	0
Regiment of Royal East-India Volunteers	3,359	15	7
Disbursements of Agents at Out-Ports	795	16	10½
Inspectors and Surveyors of Shipping	244	4	1½
Hoys, Pilot Vessels and Cutters	4,703	10	11
Hoyage and Lighterage	909	12	18
Charges of the Naval Store Warehouse	619	8	2½
Labourers' Wages	147,769	1	10½
Pensions to Labourers	7,807	9	0
Medical Attendance to Labourers and Deficiencies in Sick Fund	4,500	13	1½
Tradesmen's Bills for Expenses of the Warehouses	31,887	2	6
Taxes, Rates, Tithes, &c. for the Warehouses	12,590	6	0½
Carried forward	£	459,713	12 8

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	459,713	12	- 8
East-India Dock Company, for Dock Rates, Wharfage and Rents	28,004	19	9
West-India ditto ditto ditto	2,050	18	5
St. Katherine ditto ditto ditto	312	11	6
London ditto ditto ditto	135	8	7
Cartage and Expense of Caravans	6,675	7	2
Sundry Charges on account of the preparation of Goods for Sale	2,735	11	8
Fees to King's Officers, and Expense of Entries at the Custom-House	477	3	5½
Sundry Miscellaneous Items of a Commercial nature	1,122	9	1
Balances in hands of Officers of the House, &c. more on 1st May 1830 than on 1st May 1829, operating as a Payment	5,763	11	0½
	£ 506,991	13	3½
RECEIPTS:			
Received for Expense of Transfers, Powers of Attorney, &c.	536	11	0
Fines and Penalties for Breaches of Contracts for the provision of Commercial Exports	611	18	1
Commercial Charges, debited Owners of Ships in Freight Accounts	958	12	7
Old Goods sold (Packages, &c.)	146	18	4½
Warehouse Rent, and Rent of other Property, received and charged in Account	85,003	1	2½
Wharfage, Landing and Shipping Goods, more received than paid in the present year	360	9	6
Charges on Baggage of Passengers from India	805	15	0
Loans to sundry Persons, more received than advanced in the present year	60	0	0
	£ 88,483	5	8½
	£ 418,508	7	7

Memorandum:

The Sums received by the Company in respect of the Charges of Management of Private Goods will operate in Reduction of the Amount herein stated. £56,712 was received on this Account in 1829-30, being part of a separate Item of Receipt in the Account of the Commercial Branch of the Company's Affairs for the same Year.

East-India House, }
14th March 1831. }

(Errors excepted.)

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 8.—STATEMENT of the Actual Expenditure of THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY in their Trade, from WASTAGE and ALLOWANCE, during the present Charter (upon TEA).

(In continuation of an Account, dated 19th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 938.)

Cr.

Cr.	
TEA in Warehouse unsold on 1st May 1814; Invoice Quantity	lbs. 20,351,969
Invoice Quantity of Tea imported from 1814-15 to 1828-29, inclusive (from former Account)	lbs. 429,440,502
Imported in 1829-30 (1st May to 1st May)	lbs. 15,420,219
	444,860,721
	lbs. 465,212,690
From 1814-15 to 1828-29 (brought from former Account)	
— 1829-30,	lbs. 444,860,721
Recovered from the Hong Merchants in China, for Country Damage and Plunder.	lbs. 908,315
Ship Damage, also Short Delivery, adjusted with the Owners.	lbs. 954,517
TEA sold at the Company's Sales.	lbs. 908,315
Sale Weight.	lbs. 27,457,268
TOTAL CREDIT.	lbs. 399,398,105
Stock unsold 1st May 1830; Invoice Quantity	lbs. 36,741,349
EXPENDITURE FROM WASTAGE AND ALLOWANCE ...	lbs. 456,660,641
(Errors excepted.)	lbs. 8,552,049
East-India House, } 14th March 1831.	lbs. 465,212,690
	THOS. G. LLOYD, Accountant-General.

No. 9.—A RETURN of the several kinds of Goods, as Assets in hand, unsold on 1st May 1830; stating the Quantity and Value of TEA.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 4th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, page 932.)

	On 1st May 1830.	Value.
TEAS	36,006,522 lbs.	3,755,955 £
China Raw Silk		
Nankeens		
Piece Goods (India)		270,175
Bengal Raw Silk		464,970
Indigo		
Cinnamon		
Pepper		25,946
Saltpetre		80,718
Cotton Wool		4,884
Sugar		45,205
Coffee		5,187
Sundries		

£4,653,040

East-India House,
14th March 1831.

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 10.—A RETURN of the COMPANY'S ESTABLISHMENT at the Cape of Good Hope, with the Salaries of the different Officers thereof; the Expense incurred for maintaining Warehouses; the Rate of Agency charged on Purchases and Sales, with the Gross Amount of the same; for the Year 1829-30.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 4th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 966.)

ESTABLISHMENT, with the Salaries of the different officers thereof, and the Expense incurred for maintaining Warehouses.

	£.	s.	d.
William Hawkins, Esq., agent, salary	1,600	0	0
Ditto commission, at 5 per cent. on net profit of sales	None drawn in the present year.		
Mr. S. Oliver, confidential clerk and storekeeper	300	0	0
Mr. A. Nitch, 1st assistant	67	0	0
Mr. H. R. Van Lier, 2d ditto	45	0	0
Watchmen	45	0	0
Labourers' Wages (occasional)	19	0	0
Office Rent	45	0	0
Rent of Warehouses (hired of individuals)	261	0	0
Expense of landing Stores	No stores received in the present year.		
Sundry Charges in conducting the Agency	22	0	0
	£	2,404	0 0

GROSS AMOUNT of PURCHASES and SALES.

	£.
Purchases on account of St. Helena	7,296
Ditto goods consigned to England (Wines)	
Sales, Gross Amount	20,365
	£ 27,661

Memorandum:—The Company's agent at the Cape is remunerated for all the services performed by him by a fixed salary, which, with the commission paid on the net profit of the sales, as above shewn, constitute the whole of his allowances.

His duties, in addition to those of the custody and sale of the goods consigned by the Company to the Cape, the purchase of stores for the supply of St. Helena, and of merchandise for consignment to England, supplying the Company's shipping, whether engaged in their trade, or conveying troops to or from India, transmitting intelligence to the authorities both in England and India, have reference to every part of the Company's concerns in respect to which his services may at any time be needed.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House,
14th March, 1831.

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 11.—AN ACCOUNT, showing all other CHARGES, as well in *China* as in *England*, incurred by the East-India Company in their Trade with *China*, including Freight, and stating the actual Amount, in the Year 1829-30.
(In continuation of an Account, dated 17th March 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 962.)

IN CHINA:		£.
Rent, Repairs, and Furniture, including a charge of 6 per cent. per annum on Buildings and other Dead Stock, the property of the Company in China	.. .. .	9,905
Canton Port Charges	.. .. .	30,989
Unloading Charges	.. .. .	3,853
Expense of the Removal of the Factory Establishment to and from Macao, Charge of the Company's Cutter, Boat-hire, &c.	.. .. .	3,562
Do. on account of their reception on board the Company's Ships during the discussions with the Chinese Authorities	.. .. .	240
Linguist's Fees, Chinese Masters, &c.	.. .. .	1,274
Stationery and Articles for use	.. .. .	492
Wages of Coolies and Watchmen, Packing Charges, &c.	.. .. .	5,191
Petty Expenses	.. .. .	232
Printing Establishment	.. .. .	342
		£ 56,080
ON THE TRADE FROM CHINA:		
Proportion, attaching to the China Trade, of Establishment for the joint management of the Trade to India and China	.. .. .	81,015
Paper, Printing and Stationery for the Tea Department	.. .. .	2,184
Rent and Repairs of Warehouses, calculated at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the Capital invested therein	.. .. .	28,627
Taxes and Parochial Rates thereon, Coals, Candles, &c.	.. .. .	5,978
Wages of Labourers employed at the Tea Warehouses	.. .. .	68,172
Charges landing Tea, &c. from the Ships (including proportion of Establishment employed upon this duty)	.. .. .	3,333
Amount of Coopersage on Tea-Chests incurred at the period of landing them	.. .. .	2,071
Cartage of Tea from the Docks to the Warehouses, including wear and tear of Caravans	.. .. .	3,425

IN ENGLAND:

Proportion, attaching to the China Trade, of Establishment for the joint management of the Trade to India and China
Paper, Printing and Stationery for the Tea Department
Rent and Repairs of Warehouses, calculated at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the Capital invested therein
Taxes and Parochial Rates thereon, Coals, Candles, &c.
Wages of Labourers employed at the Tea Warehouses
Charges landing Tea, &c. from the Ships (including proportion of Establishment employed upon this duty)
Amount of Coopersage on Tea-Chests incurred at the period of landing them
Cartage of Tea from the Docks to the Warehouses, including wear and tear of Caravans

Articles supplied for the repair of Packages, and other purposes, after the receipt of the Tea in the Warehouses	9,799
Dock Rates and Wharfage payable to the East-India Dock Company on Tea imported	6,790
Annual allowance granted to Commanders of Company's Ships acting as Commodores of the Fleet at Canton; also a Pension to a retired Inspector of Tea, paid in England	1,000
Proportion of Commercial Charges of a general description, not attaching to any particular Department, and sundry miscellaneous expenses	7,142
Deduct: For such part of the sums received by the Company, under the engagements entered into with the Commanders and Officers of their China Ships, as are considered to be in reimbursement of Charges actually incurred on Tea imported by them	219,536
	12,324
	207,212
Proportion of the Charges, Establishment and Shipping Charges, attaching upon the Company's Exports to China..	15,463
Total of the Charges in England attaching to the China Trade, exclusive of Freight and of the Commission and Allowances to the Establishment at Canton	222,675
Freight, from England and India to China	£ 87,843
Do. China to England	528,674
Do. do. the British Colonial Possessions at the Cape of Good Hope and North America	15,406
	631,923
	854,598
	259,261
	55,443

The above account does not comprise the Charge for Interest, nor that for Premium of Insurance, which the Company are permitted by the Act 24 Geo. 3, c. 38, to calculate as part of the prices at which to put up their Teas to Sale; and which amounted, in the Year comprised in the preceding Statement, to the following sums; viz. INTEREST INSURANCE

East-India House, } THOS. G. LLOYD, }
14th March 1831. } Accountant-General.

No. 12.—AN ACCOUNT of the Expense of the East-India Company's Establishment at Canton; the Names of the Servants, and the amount of Salaries and Emoluments of each, and of the whole Cost for the Maintenance of the same in the Year 1829-30.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 17th March 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 956.)

SALARIES and EMOLUMENTS.		On consignments from England and India to China, and from China to England.	On Consignments from China to the British North American Colonies.	TOTAL.
Being the proportion of Commission assigned to Servants of the rank of Supracargoes, of Salaries to Writers not in the Commission, and of Salaries to Persons filling Professional and other distinct Offices at the Factory.		Partly Estimated.		
Season of Appointment.	SUPRACARGOES and WRITERS.	£.	£.	£.
1804-5	William Henry Chicheley Plowden, Esq.	7,988	169	8,157
1806-7	William Baynes, Esq.	6,657	141	6,798
1807-8	Charles Millett, Esq.	6,657	141	6,798
1812-13	James Bannerman, Esq.	6,657	141	6,798
—	Charles Marjoribanks, Esq.	5,547	118	5,665
—	John Francis Davis, Esq.	4,992	106	5,098
1814-15	James Frederick Nugent Daniell, Esq.	4,327	92	4,419
	Ditto .. Allowance as Student of the Chinese Language.	—	—	100
1815-16	Thomas Charles Smith, Esq.	3,773	80	3,853
	Ditto .. Allowance as Student of the Chinese Language	—	—	100
—	John Jackson, Esq.	1,998	42	2,040
	Ditto .. Allowance as Student of the Chinese Language.	—	—	100
	Ditto .. for attending the examinations of Tea, for the purpose of learning the qualities	—	—	200
1818-19	George Best Robinson, Esq.	1,775	38	1,813
—	Robert Burland Hudleston, Esq.	1,443	31	1,474
1820-21	Hugh Hamilton Lindsay, Esq.	1,443	31	1,474
	Ditto .. Allowance as Student of the Chinese Language	—	—	100

1824-25 .. John Harvey Astell, Esq.	500	—	500
— Henry Matthew Clark, Esq.	500	—	500
— Ditto .. Allowance as Student of the Chinese Language	—	—	100
— John Bensley Thornhill, Esq.	500	—	500
— Henry Thomas Ravenshaw, Esq.	500	—	500
1826-27 .. Frederick John Morris, Esq.	200	—	200
— Ditto .. Allowance as Student of the Chinese Language	—	—	100
1828-29 .. John William Hendry Campbell, Esq.	58	—	58
— Henry Robert Alexander, Esq.	70	—	70
Parsons filling Professional and other distinct offices at the Factory:			
Rev. George Harvey Vachell, Chaplain	—	—	800
Mr. Alexander Pearson, Surgeon (including Table Allowance on account of his residence at Macao, during the stay of the Factory at Canton)	—	—	1,540
— Thomas College, Surgeon ditto	—	—	1,240
— John Livingston, Surgeon	—	—	360
— John Reeves Inspector of Teas	—	—	2,000
— John Russell Reeves ditto	—	—	500
Rev Dr. Morrison Interpreter and Translator	—	—	1,000
Copying Writers, occasionally employed in the Offices	—	—	828
Steward, Butler, domestic Servants, &c.	—	—	890
Cost of Maintenance; comprising Rent and Repairs of Private Apartments, as well as Furniture supplied thereto, and the Expense of the Public Table kept at the Factory			£ 66,973
			20,885
			£ 87,558

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

East-India House, }
14th March 1831. (Errors excepted.)

No. 13.—RETURN of the Number of LICENSES which have been granted by the Court of Directors, and by the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, to Individuals to reside in India; and also, of the Number refused, in each Year since 1814.

YEARS.	Number of Persons licensed by the Court of Directors to reside in India.	Number of Persons to whom the Court of Directors have refused Licenses.	Number of Persons permitted to proceed to India by the Board of Commissioners.
1814	11	2	1
1815	41	6	—
1816	41	17	1
1817	71	17	16
1818	89	37	4
1819	75	28	6
1820	73	16	4
1821	78	20	2
1822	101	23	4
1823	117	11	6
1824	95	14	3
1825	103	11	5
1826	99	17	4
1827	106	7	5
1828	99	14	4
1829	137	18	6
1830	111	9	1
TOTAL	1,447	267	72

Of the 1,447 persons whose applications were complied with by the Court of Directors, 59 do not appear to have proceeded.

Of the 267 refused by the Court, and forwarded to the Board of Commissioners (under the provisions of the Act of the 53 Geo. 3, c. 155, s. 33), 72 were permitted to proceed by the Board; 58 of these availed themselves of such permission.

East-India House,
22d February 1831.

P. AUBER,
Secretary.

Nos. 14-19.—STATEMENTS of the COMMERCE of British India with Great Britain, North America, South America, and Foreign Europe, for 1827-28 and 1828-29; distinguishing the Trade of the East-India Company from that of Individuals, and Merchandize from Treasure.

(Being a continuation of the Statement presented during the last Session of Parliament.)

(No. 14.)—IMPORTS INTO BENGAL.

	1827-28:			1828-29:		
	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.
From Great Britain on account of the India Company	3,48,312	—	3,48,312	1,51,916	2,46,414	3,98,330
Ditto ... on account of Private Individuals	1,86,43,444	73,620	1,87,17,064	2,20,29,791	1,687	2,20,31,478
From North America	4,54,612	17,21,217	21,75,829	4,53,107	15,67,989	20,21,096
— South America	1,62,328	20,250	1,82,578	2,88,125	2,10,645	4,98,770
— Brazils	80,576	10,75,000	11,55,576	—	—	—
— Lisbon	87,118	1,10,925	1,98,043	—	—	—
— Copenhagen	—	—	—	—	—	—
— France	13,83,920	9,28,546	23,12,466	17,10,434	4,93,816	22,04,250
— Holland	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Cadiz	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Sweden	79,492	—	79,492	82,761	—	82,761
— Russia	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Hamburgh	73,912	—	73,912	3,73,232	—	3,73,232
TOTAL ... Sicca Rupees	2,13,13,714	39,29,558	2,52,43,272	2,50,89,366	25,20,551	2,76,09,917

(continued..)

Nos. 14-19.—Statements of the Commerce of British India with Great Britain, North America, South America, and Foreign Europe, for 1827-28 and 1828-29; distinguishing the Trade of the East-India Company from that of Individuals, and Merchandize from Treasure—*continued*.

(No. 15.)—EXPORTS FROM BENGAL.

	1827-28:			1828-29:		
	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.
To Great Britain on account of the East-India Company	1,75,37,150	34,58,720	2,09,95,870	1,41,26,165	—	1,41,26,165
Ditto ... on account of Private Individuals	1,22,76,636	7,06,979	1,29,83,615	1,16,40,299	12,41,443	1,28,81,742
To North America	16,87,548	—	16,87,548	16,01,632	—	16,01,632
— South America	—	—	—	99,605	—	99,605
— Brazils	4,37,668	—	4,37,668	5,68,621	—	5,68,621
— Lisbon	1,93,866	—	1,93,866	1,12,433	—	1,12,433
— Copenhagen	—	—	—	—	—	—
— France	26,86,304	13,500	26,99,804	23,87,107	—	23,87,107
— Holland	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Sweden	91,477	—	91,477	1,74,322	—	1,74,322
TOTAL ... Sicca Rupees	3,49,10,649	41,79,199	3,90,89,848	3,07,10,184	12,41,443	3,19,51,627

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
22d February 1831. }

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

Nos. 14-19.—Statements of the Commerce of British India with Great Britain, North America, South America, and Foreign Europe, for 1827-28 and 1828-29; distinguishing the Trade of the East-India Company from that of Individuals, and Merchandize from Treasure—*continued*.

(No. 16.)—IMPORTS INTO FORT ST. GEORGE AND SUBORDINATES.

	1827-28:			1828-29:		
	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.
From Great Britain on account of the East-India Company	* 25,87,402	—	25,87,402	33,54,825	25,156	33,79,981
Ditto ... on account of Private Individuals						
From America	46,238	60,156	1,06,394	3,819	7,055	10,874
— Brazil	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Lisbon	—	—	—	—	—	—
— France	3,40,928	16,533	3,57,461	3,86,493	1,000	3,89,493
— Copenhagen	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... Madras Rupees	29,74,568	76,689	30,51,257	37,47,137	33,211	37,80,348

(continued.)

* The Returns of 1827-28 and 1828-29 do not distinguish the Amount of Company's Trade from that of Individuals.

Nos. 14-19.—Statements of the Commerce of British India with Great Britain, North America, South America, and Foreign Europe, for 1827-28 and 1828-29; distinguishing the Trade of the East-India Company from that of Individuals; and Merchandize from Treasure—*continued.*

(No. 17.)—EXPORTS FROM FORT ST. GEORGE AND SUBORDINATES.

	1827-28:			1828-29:		
	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.
To Great Britain on account of the East-India Company	*34,56,906	37,01,830	71,58,736	35,07,741	7,32,663	42,40,404
Ditto ... on account of Private Individuals						
To North America	1,36,424	—	1,36,424	20,953	—	20,953
— South America	1,16,821	—	1,16,821	62,906	—	62,906
— Brazil	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Lisbon	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Cadiz	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Gibraltar	—	—	—	—	—	—
— France	1,59,660	34,750	1,94,410	1,28,006	—	1,28,006
TOTAL ... Madras Rupees	75,71,641	34,750	76,06,391	37,19,606	7,32,663	44,52,269

* The Returns of 1827-28 and 1828-29 do not distinguish the Amount of Company's Trade from that of Individuals.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
22d February 1831. }

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

Nos. 14-19.—Statements of the Commerce of British India with Great Britain, North America, South America, and Foreign Europe, for 1827-28 and 1828-29; distinguishing the Trade of the East-India Company from that of Individuals, and Merchandize from Treasure—*continued.*

(No. 18.)—IMPORTS INTO BOMBAY AND SURAT.

	1827-28.			1828-29.		
	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.
From Great Britain, on account of the East-India Company	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ditto ... on account of Private Individuals	81,88,899	8,040	81,96,939	78,12,484	—	78,12,484
From America	15,471	1,142	16,613	14,617	—	14,617
— Brazils	1,14,076	—	1,14,076	—	—	—
— Lisbon	—	—	—	—	—	—
— France	3,72,258	—	3,72,258	6,32,917	—	6,32,917
— Hamburgh	1,01,021	—	1,01,021	73,926	—	73,926
TOTAL ... Bombay Rs.	87,91,725	9,182	88,00,907	85,33,944	—	85,33,944

* The Returns do not furnish the amount of the Company's Trade for these years.

Nos. 14-19. — Statements of the Commerce of British India with Great Britain, North America, South America, and Foreign Europe, for 1827-28 and 1828-29; distinguishing the Trade of the East-India Company from that of Individuals, and Merchandize from Treasure —continued.

(No. 19.)—EXPORTS FROM BOMBAY AND SURAT.

	1827-28.			1828-29.		
	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Bullion.	TOTAL.
To Great Britain, on account of the East-India Company	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto ... on account of Private Individuals....	51,46,682	5,39,241	56,85,923	69,46,540	13,91,132	83,37,672
To America	6,813	—	6,813	—	—	—
— Brazils	78,568	—	78,568	—	—	—
— Lisbon	—	—	—	—	—	—
— France	1,65,356	12,960	1,78,316	59,957	—	59,957
— Hamburgh	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... Rupees	53,97,419	5,52,201	59,49,620	70,06,497	13,91,132	83,97,629

* The Returns do not furnish the amount of the Company's Trade.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
22d February 1831. }

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

No. 20.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of the Value of Imports into Bengal, Madras and Bombay, from Great Britain, Foreign Europe, and North and South America, and of Exports from Bengal, Madras and Bombay, to Great Britain, Foreign Europe, and North and South America, in 1827-28, and 1828-29, distinguishing the Imports and Exports by the East-India Company, from those by Individuals, and Merchandize from Treasure.

No. 20.—ABSTRACT STATEMENT of the Value of IMPORTS into Bengal, Madras and Bombay, from Great Bombay, to Great Britain, Foreign Europe, and North and South America, in 1827-28, and 1828-29; Merchandize from Treasure.

(Being a continuation of the Statement presented

IMPORTS.

FROM GREAT BRITAIN:							
BY THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY.			BY INDIVIDUALS.			TOTAL Merchandize and Treasure from Great Britain.	
Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.		
1827-28..	3,48,312	—	3,48,312	2,94,19,745	81,660	2,95,01,405	2,98,49,717
1828-29..	1,51,916	2,46,414	3,98,330	3,31,97,100	26,843	3,32,23,943	3,36,22,273
	5,00,228	2,46,414	7,46,642	6,26,16,845	1,08,503	6,27,25,348	6,34,71,990

EXPORTS.

TO GREAT BRITAIN.							
BY THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY.			BY INDIVIDUALS.			TOTAL Merchandize and Treasure to Great Britain.	
Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.		
1827-28..	1,75,37,150	34,58,720	2,09,95,870	2,08,80,224	49,48,050	2,58,28,274	4,68,24,144
1828-29..	1,41,26,165	—	1,41,26,165	2,20,94,580	33,65,238	2,54,59,818	3,95,85,983
	3,16,63,315	34,58,720	3,51,22,035	4,29,74,804	83,13,288	5,12,88,092	8,64,10,127

East-India House,
22d Feb. 1831.

Britain, Foreign Europe, and North and South America, and of EXPORTS from Bengal, Madras and distinguishing the Imports and Exports by the East-India Company, from those by Individuals, and

during the last Session of Parliament.)

IMPORTS.

FROM FOREIGN EUROPE:			FROM NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA:			TOTAL IMPORTS.		
BY INDIVIDUALS.			BY INDIVIDUALS.					
Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.
24,38,649	10,56,044	34,94,653	8,73,301	28,77,765	37,51,066	3,30,80,007	40,15,429	3,70,95,436
32,61,763	4,94,816	37,56,579	7,59,668	17,85,689	25,45,357	3,73,70,447	25,53,762	3,99,24,209
57,00,412	15,50,820	72,51,232	16,32,969	46,63,454	62,96,423	7,04,50,454	65,69,191	7,70,19,645

EXPORTS.

TO FOREIGN EUROPE:			TO NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA:			TOTAL EXPORTS.		
BY INDIVIDUALS.			BY INDIVIDUALS.					
Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	TOTAL.
32,96,663	61,210	33,57,873	24,63,842	—	24,63,842	4,41,77,879	84,67,980	5,26,45,859
28,61,825	—	28,61,825	23,53,717	—	23,53,717	4,14,36,287	33,65,238	4,48,01,525
61,58,488	61,210	62,19,698	48,17,559	—	48,17,559	8,56,14,166	1,18,33,218	9,74,47,384

(Errors Excepted.)

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

No. 21-22.—AN ACCOUNT of the QUANTITY and VALUE of CARGOES exported by American Ships from the different Ports of British India, for the Years 1827-28 and 1828-29.

(Being a continuation of the Account presented during the last Session of Parliament.)

No. 21.—BENGAL.

		1827-28.		1828-29.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			S.Rs.		S.Rs.
Piece Goods	bales	—	4,36,694	—	6,53,314
Shawls	parcels	—	240	—	—
Indigo	chests	3,048	8,48,779	1,483	4,75,899
Sugar	bags	207	4,234	4,575	97,214
Silk	bales	—	—	—	—
Saltpetre	bags	14,795	1,21,626	20,148	1,72,449
Grain	—	500	2,500	—	—
Gums	packages	271	8,956	—	6,133
Cotton	bales	—	—	—	—
Gunnies and Gunney Bags	—	293	2,325	1,386	4,516
Shell-lac, Lac-lake, Lac-dye, and Stick-lac	maunds	—	52,940	—	49,228
Turmeric	packages	1,194	5,220	—	3,220
Ginger	—	2,295	8,264	—	21,107
Castor Oil	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa Nut Oil	—	—	—	—	—
Safflower	—	—	—	—	—
Skins and Hides	—	—	41,541	—	45,893
Tallow Candles	—	—	—	—	—
Wax ditto	boxes	15	1,065	—	—
Sugar Candy	—	—	—	—	—
Seeds of Sorts	bags	—	—	—	—
Wearing Apparel	—	—	1,649	—	—
Sal Ammoniac	maunds	—	—	—	5,051
Elephants' Teeth	—	—	—	—	—
Borax and Tincal	packages	—	—	—	5,719
Salt Provisions	—	—	2,037	—	867
Canvas and Vitry	bales	—	—	—	—
Hemp, Flax, and Twine	bundles	2,559	28,047	—	24,044
Carpets and Blankets	—	—	197	—	—
Tobacco	—	—	—	—	585
Munjeet	—	—	—	—	—
Carriages	—	—	—	—	—
Cutch	—	—	—	—	—
Cordage	—	—	119	—	—
Sundries	—	—	—	—	—
Spices	—	—	—	—	—
Madeira Wine	pipes	—	—	—	—
Liquors	—	—	2,590	—	195

(continued..)

No. 21-22.—An Account of the Quantity and Value of Cargoes exported by American Ships from the different Ports of British India, for the Years 1827-28 and 1828-29—
continued.

		1827-28.		1828-29.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			S.Rs.		S.Rs.
Pepper	bags	—	429	—	—
Cassia	—	—	201	—	—
Coffee	—	—	205	—	—
Galls	—	—	—	—	—
Camphire	—	—	—	—	—
Coir	—	—	—	—	4,697
Redwood	—	—	—	—	—
Rattans	—	—	1,931	—	4,022
Mother-o'-pearl	—	—	112	—	—
Benjamin	—	—	—	—	—
Senna Leaves	maunds	—	—	—	1,241
Sago	—	—	2,005	—	629
Tin	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Piece Goods	—	—	57,435	—	2,148
Alum	—	—	—	—	—
Kahurbah	—	—	—	—	—
Assafetida	—	—	—	—	—
Iron Kentledge	—	—	—	—	—
Europe, Sundries	—	—	6,731	—	10,276
Books	—	—	—	—	—
Cardemoms	—	—	—	—	—
Cubebs	—	—	—	—	—
Nankeens	—	—	—	—	—
Tea	chests	54	1,629	—	—
Cabinet Ware	—	—	1,142	—	—
Pictures and Prints	—	—	—	—	—
Clocks and Watches	—	—	458	—	—
Ghee	—	—	—	—	—
Beads	—	—	—	—	—
Pearls	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Ware	—	—	1,474	—	—
Diamonds and Emeralds	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Skins	—	—	21,549	—	6,319
Foreign Sugar	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Gums	maunds	555	14,491	—	2,101
Verdigris	—	—	—	—	—
Tortoiseshell	maunds	—	588	—	3,758
Quicksilver	—	—	—	—	—
Manilla Hemp	—	—	5,967	—	—
Foreign Sundries	—	—	2,183	—	1,007
TOTAL	Rupees	—	16,87,548	—	16,01,632

(continued..)

No. 21-22.—An Account of the Quantity and Value of Cargoes exported by American Ships from the different Ports of British India, for the Years 1827-28 and 1828-29—
continued.

No. 22.—FORT ST. GEORGE.

	1827-28.		1828-29.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Piece Goods pieces	—	S.Rs. 1,06,998	—	S.Rs. 19,973
Coffee	—	—	—	—
Goat Skins bales	—	5,439	—	980
Skins, Tanned	—	—	—	—
Soap	—	—	—	—
Tin	—	—	—	—
Ale and Beer	—	192	—	—
Brandy	—	20	—	—
Turmeric	—	—	—	—
Ginger	—	—	—	—
Cochineal	—	23,732	—	—
Indigo	—	—	—	—
Saltpetre	—	—	—	—
Pepper	—	—	—	—
Oilmans' Stores	—	18	—	—
Provisions	—	—	—	—
Sundries	—	25	—	—
TOTAL	—	1,36,424	—	20,953

No. 23.—BOMBAY.

	1827-28.		1828-29.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Alum	—	S.Rs. —	—	S.Rs. —
Aloes	—	—	—	—
Benjamin	—	—	—	—
Coir and Coir Ropes	—	—	—	—
Camphire	—	1,304	—	—
Canes and Rattans	—	—	—	—
Cardamoms	—	—	—	—
Cocoa, white (Arrowroot)	—	—	—	—
Cassia and Hogkessen (Cassia Buds)	—	—	—	—
Chundroose (Capul)	—	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	—	—

(continued..)

No. 21-22.—An Account of the Quantity and Value of Cargoes exported by American Ships from the different Ports of British India, for the Years 1827-28 and 1828-29—
continued.

No. 23.—BOMBAY—continued.	1827-28.		1828-29.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Brought forward	—	S.Rs. 1,304	—	S.Rs. —
Cornelians	—	—	—	—
Cotton	—	—	—	—
Dates	—	—	—	—
Elephants' Teeth	—	—	—	—
Galls, Persia	—	450	—	—
Ginger	—	—	—	—
Grain	—	—	—	—
Gum Ammoniac	—	—	—	—
Capul, Chundroose	—	2,516	—	—
Arabic	—	1,493	—	—
Myrrh	—	450	—	—
Columbo Root	—	—	—	—
Hides and Skins of sorts	—	—	—	—
Hingra (Assafoetida)	—	—	—	—
Indigo	—	—	—	—
Ivory Work and Ware	—	—	—	—
Latch of different sorts	—	—	—	—
Mace	—	—	—	—
Nankeens	—	—	—	—
Oil of different sorts	—	—	—	—
Olibanum	—	—	—	—
Pepper	—	—	—	—
Munjest (Madda)	—	—	—	—
Nutmegs	—	—	—	—
Piece Goods	—	—	—	—
Revancherry Seerah (Gumboge)	—	—	—	—
Saltpetre	—	—	—	—
Sappan, Brazil Wood	—	—	—	—
Seeds of various sorts	—	—	—	—
Shawls	—	—	—	—
Sugar	—	—	—	—
Tea	—	—	—	—
Myrrh	—	—	—	—
Tin	—	—	—	—
Tortoiseshell	—	550	—	—
Tutenague	—	—	—	—
Turmeric	—	—	—	—
Wax	—	—	—	—
Vermilion	—	—	—	—
Cubebs	—	—	—	—
Cudiakhur (Borax)	—	—	—	—
Sundries	—	50	—	—
TOTAL	—	6,813	—	—

East-India House, }
22d February 1831.

(Errors excepted.)

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

No. 24.—AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity of AMERICAN TONNAGE which has cleared out from different Ports of British India, in 1827-28 and 1828-29.

(Being a continuation of the Account presented during the last Session of Parliament.)

	1827-28.		1828-29.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
From Calcutta for America	11	3,254	11	3,570
— Calcutta for the Coromandel Coast	—	—	—	—
— Madras for America	1	331	—	—
— Madras for Calcutta	1	331	1	280
— Madras for Ceylon	—	—	—	—
— Ingeram for Tranquebar	—	—	—	—
— Bombay for America	—	—	—	—
— Bombay for Calcutta	—	—	—	—
— Bombay for Penang and Eastward Islands	—	—	1	229
Total for America	12	3,585	11	3,570
Total from Port to Port in India ..	1	331	2	509
	13	3,916	13	4,079

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
22d February 1831. }

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

No. 25.—AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity of TONNAGE employed annually in the Country Trade between the different Ports of British India and Canton, for the Years 1827-28 and 1828-29.

(Being a continuation of the Account presented during the last Session of Parliament.)

In the YEAR	Exported from the Ports of British India for Canton.							
	CALCUTTA.		FORT ST. GEORGE and Ports subordinate.		BOMBAY.		TOTAL.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
	27	17,079	5	5,122	37	27,690	69	49,891
1827-28.....	16	11,544	4	4,376	36	25,731	56	41,651
1828-29.....	43	28,623	9	9,498	73	53,421	125	91,542

In the YEAR	Imported from Canton to the Ports of British India:							
	CALCUTTA.		FORT ST. GEORGE and Ports subordinate.		BOMBAY.		TOTAL.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
	18	6,159	10	5,342	30	16,748	58	28,249
1827-28.....	14	5,928	7	4,810	30	17,544	51	28,282
1828-29.....	32	12,087	17	10,152	60	34,292	109	56,531

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
22d February 1831. }

J. MILL,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

No. 26.—AN ACCOUNT of the PROFIT and Loss upon the Trade of the EAST-INDIA and the North American Colonies; stating each separately.

(In continuation of an Account dated 17th March 1830, printed in

PROFIT or Loss upon the TRADE of the East:

UPON IMPORTS					
	Prime Cost, calculated at the Rates fixed by the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India for the Repayment of Territorial Advances;—viz. 2/ the Curr ^t Rupee, 2/3 the M ^r Rupee, and 2/3 the B ^r Rupee.	FREIGHT and DEMORAGE.	Charges of Merchandize calculated at 5 per cent. on the Sale Amount of the Goods.	TOTAL COST and CHARGES.	SALE AMOUNT.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1829-30....	1,512,506	103,050	57,592	1,673,148	1,151,856

UPON EXPORTS TO INDIA.					
	Prime Cost, Freight and Charges in England.	Charges in India, calculated at the Rates before stated.	TOTAL COST and CHARGES.	Sale Amount, calculated at the Rates before stated.	PROFIT. LOSS.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1828-29.....	135,530	5,419	140,949	74,550	— 66,399

* The Words in *Italic*, and the large Figures in

COMPANY between Europe and India, Europe and China, India and China, and China to the latest Period to which the same can be made up.

Appendix to Second Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 1128.)

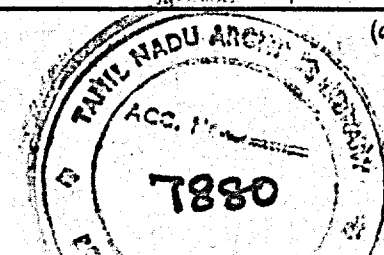
India Company between Europe and India.

FROM INDIA.					
PROFIT.	LOSS.	Charges in India not added to the Invoices; also, Profit or Loss from Interest and Exchange, and Loss by Bad Debts, &c. in each previous Year, calculated at the same Rate.	NET PROFIT.	NET LOSS.	
£.	£.		£.	£.	
—	521,292	* <i>Net Profit.</i> 1,751	—	519,541	 1829-30

TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN EUROPE AND INDIA.					
PROFIT.	LOSS.	Losses at Sea, on Consignments between Europe and India, including Jettisons, Salvages, &c.	NET PROFIT.	NET LOSS.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
—	585,940	—	—	585,940	 1828-29

this Column were written in *Red Ink*, in the MS.

(continued..)



No. 26—continued.—PROFIT or LOSS upon the TRADE of

UPON IMPORTS

	Prime Cost, calculated at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	Freight and Demorage.	Charges of Merchandize calculated at 5 per cent. on the Sale Amount of the Goods.	Supracargoes' Commission.	TOTAL COST and CHARGES.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1829-30	1,711,892	477,142	151,874	44,766	2,385,674

UPON EXPORTS

	Prime Cost and Charges in England.	Freight paid in England.	Charges in China and Expense of Unloading, at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	Supracargoes' Commission paid in England.	TOTAL COST and CHARGES.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1828-29	657,351	15,032	1,165	14,350	687,898

No Losses at Sea occurred on Consignments between Europe and China in this Year.	
Profit upon Imports from China brought down	£650,377
Ditto upon Teas sent to Canada	14,270
Ditto ditto Halifax	5,785
Total Profit on the China Trade	£670,432

Had the Company's Profit and Loss Accounts been made up at the Mercantile Rate of Exchange, as ascertained from the rates at which Bills have been drawn from London on Calcutta in each Year, instead of the Rates fixed by the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, as regards the re-payment of Territorial Advances, the above Account of their Trade between

the East-India Company between EUROPE and CHINA.

FROM CHINA.

Sale Amount.	Profit.	Charges in China of the previous Year, not added to the Invoices, &c. at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	NET PROFIT.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	
3,037,483	651,809	1,432	650,377	 1829-30.

TO CHINA.

Sale Amount, calculated at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	Profit.	Loss.		Consignments of merchandize made to China, being remittances for the purpose of supplying the Canton Treasury with funds for the purchase of the Homeward Investments, enter, both as respects their costs and their proceeds, into the calculation for the charge of providing those funds, or the rate per tale in sterling used in this Account. The view already given of the Homeward Trade consequently combines, in its general results, the issue as to profits or loss of all such consignments. The statements therefore now given of the proceeds of the consignments from England and India, contrasted with their cost, are not to be regarded as exhibiting any additional profit or loss beyond that already stated.
£.	£.	£.		
722,542	34,644	—	1828-29.	

between Europe and India would have exhibited a Loss of £234,164, instead of a Loss of £585,940, making a difference of	£351,776
The profit upon their China Trade would also have been increased in the above period by the sum of	254,085
Making a Total Difference of	£605,861

The above Account of Profit or Loss from Imports from India is subject to adjustment, with reference to the Amount with which the Territorial Branch is chargeable in respect of the Loss upon consignments of Merchandize, made with a view to meet the demands upon the Home Treasury, for Bills of Exchange drawn for Interest of India Debt, in conformity with the Plan of 1814, for the arrangement of the Home Accounts.

(continued.)

No 26—continued.—PROFIT or Loss upon the TRADE

	Prime Cost and Charges in India, calculated at the Rates fixed by the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, for the Repayment of Territorial Advances: viz. 2s. the Current Rupee, 2s. 3½d. the Ms. Rupee, and 2s. 3d. the By. Rupee.	Freight paid in England, &c.	Charges in China, at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	Supracargoes' Commission paid in England.	TOTAL COST and CHARGES.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1828-29....	482,503	96,758	4,114	10,421	593,796

PROFIT or Loss upon the TRADE of the East-India

ON TEAS SENT TO CANADA.

	Quantity Sold.	Prime Cost and Charges in China, including Supracargoes' Commission at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	Freight and Demorage paid in England.	Duties and Charges of Merchandize paid in Canada.	Total Cost and Charges.	Sale Amount.	Profit.	Losses at Sea on Consignments between China and Canada.
	lbs.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1829-30..	616,404	44,407	8,340	11,873	64,620	78,890	14,270	—

* The Freight of the above Consignments, which were for the greater part conveyed from stated in the Return made to the Honourable Committee, under date of 10th March 1830. The for the performance of the circuitous voyage, together with payments to Ships taken up in India from this charge for Freight, instead of the charge above inserted, the Loss thereon would be the same proportion.

East-India House, }
14th March 1831. }

the East-India Company between INDIA and CHINA.

Sale Amount, calculated at 6s. 8d. the Tale.	Profit.	Loss.	Losses at Sea on Consignments between India and China, Jettisons, Salvages, &c.	Net Profit.	Net Loss.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
525,191		68,605	—	—	68,605	 1828-29.

Company between CHINA and the NORTH AMERICAN Colonies.

ON TEAS SENT TO HALIFAX.

Quantity Sold.	Prime Cost of the Sales, as above.	Freight and Demorage.	Duties and Charges of Merchandize incurred at Halifax.	Total Cost and Charges.	Sale Amount.	Profit.	Losses at Sea on Consignments between China and Halifax.	
lbs.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
442,885	24,757	4,849	2,809	32,415	38,688	6,273	488	... 1829-30.
						Net Profit £5,785		

India to China by Ships proceeding circuitously from England, has been apportioned in the mode extra charge, however, paid to the Owners in the instances comprised in the above Statement, for this service, amounted to only £68,039; if the Profit or Loss on this Trade were deducted reduced to the sum of £39,886; and the Profit on the Homeward Trade would be reduced in (Errors excepted.)

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 27.—A RETURN of all SHIPS belonging to or chartered by the EAST-INDIA COMPANY, Lost or Captured; stating their Tonnage, Cargoes, and the Voyage they were prosecuting when Lost or Captured.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 5th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 976.)

No further Losses.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House, }
14th March 1831. }

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 28.—A RETURN of the Average Time the whole quantity of TEA sold at each Quarterly Sale had been in the Company's Warehouse prior to such Tea being put up to Sale.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 4th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 857).

1st March Sale	..	..	1830	..	..	..	..	19 months.
2d ditto	..	..	ditto	..	..	..	..	21 ditto.
1st September Sale	..	..	1830	..	..	..	..	20 ditto.
2d ditto	..	..	ditto	..	..	..	..	20 ditto.

The above Account has been confined to the quantity of Company's Tea sold at each sale; but, in addition to each of the periods above stated, must be added a further period of three months, to ascertain the time which elapses from the arrival of the Tea in this country, until the sale proceeds of the same are received by the Company; viz.

From the time of the ship's arrival till the receipt of the cargo in the warehouse	1 month.
From the time the Tea is put up to sale, until the same is paid for by the buyers. The time allowed by the Company for the payment of the Tea is three months; but, in consideration of the deposit, and that a portion of the Teas are paid for before the expiration of the time allowed, the period is taken at	2 ditto.
	3 months.

East-India Company's Tea Warehouses, }
2d March 1831. }

HEN. H. GOODHALL.

No. 29.—AN ACCOUNT of PROFIT and LOSS of the EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S TEA Freight and Demorage, the Charges incurred in Landing, &c. &c.; the Interest as Price; the Supracargoes' Commission; and all other Charges incurred, either in

(In continuation of an Account, dated 19th May 1830, .

Dr.

Prime Costs of Tea sold in 1829-30, imported in the undermentioned years:	£.	
Teas imported in 1827 ..	Lbs. 9,091,068 ..	Tales 1,578,862
Ditto .. 1828 ..	16,011,594 ..	3,082,391
Ditto .. 1829 ..	2,354,606 ..	474,423
Lbs. 27,457,268 Tales 5,135,676 calculated at 6s. 8d. the Tale		
That being the actual rate which it has cost the Company to place funds in } China during the present Charter (exclusive of interest and insurance) .. }	1,711,892	
Proportion of interest attaching to the consignments of merchandize outward, } and other funds furnished for the provision of the Teas, constituting the } Importations of the years above specified .. }	32,857	
Proportion of insurance attaching to the consignments of merchandize out- } ward, ditto ditto .. }	25,911	
Insurance, 3 per cent. on cost of homeward investment, premium covered ..	52,945	
Interest from the provision of the funds in China to the arrival of the invest- } ment in England, 6 months, at 5 per cent. per annum on cost, as calcu- } lated to make the upset price .. }	44,121	
Freight and demorage ..	477,142	
Expenses of landing, housing, warehouse-room, carting, preparing } for sale, and all charges, merchandize in England:	£.	
Proportion, attaching to the China Trade, of establishment for } the joint management of the trade to India and China .. }	81,015	
Paper, printing and stationery for the Tea department ..	2,184	
Rent and repairs of warehouses, calculated at the rate of 6 per } cent. per annum on the capital invested therein (of which the } amount of interest of rent, at 5 per cent. per annum, is £23,856)	28,627	
Taxes and parochial rates thereon, coals, candles, &c. ..	5,978	
Wages of labourers employed at the Tea warehouses ..	68,172	
Charges of landing Tea, &c. from the ships, (including pro- } portion of establishment employed upon this duty) .. }	3,333	
Amount of cooorage upon tea-chests, incurred at the period of } landing them .. }	2,071	
Cartage of Tea from the docks to the warehouses (including } wear and tear of caravans) .. }	3,425	
Carried forward ..	£ 194,805	2,344,868

TRADE with China, for the Year 1829-30; stating, the Prime Cost, how calculated; the calculated to make up the upset Price; the Insurance as calculated to make up the upset England or China, to the Debit of Account, and the Sale Amount to the Credit.

printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 860.)

Cr.

SALE AMOUNT OF TEAS ..	£.	
	3,037,483	
Carried forward ..	£	3,037,483

No. 29.—An Account of Profit and Loss of the East-India Company's Tea Trade and Demorage, the Charges incurred in Landing, &c. &c.; the Interest as calculated the Supracargoes' Commission; and all other Charges incurred, either in England or

Dr.

Brought forward	£ 194,805	2,344,868
Articles supplied for the repair of packages and other purposes, after the receipt of the Tea in the warehouses }	9,799	
Dock-rates and wharfage payable to the East-India Dock Company on Tea imported }	6,790	
Annual allowance granted to Commanders of Company's ships acting as Commodores of the Fleet at Canton; also, a pension to a retired inspector of Tea, paid in England }	1,000	
Proportion of Commercial charges of a general description, not attaching to any particular department, and sundry miscellaneous expenses }	7,142	
	£ 219,536	
Deduct, For such part of the sums received by the Company under the engagements entered into with the Commanders and Officers of their China ships as are considered to be in re-imbursement of charges actually incurred on Tea imported by them }	12,324	
Or equal to 1d. 804 per lb. on the quantity of Tea sold		207,212
Interest from the arrival of the Teas in England to the estimated realization of the sale amount, 18 months on cost, 12 months on freight and charges, at 5 per cent. per annum, as calculated to make the upset price }		166,581
Supracargoes' commission: 2 per cent. on net sale amount, deducting charges		44,766
Additional interest, incurred in China and in England, beyond the charge for interest included in the calculation for the upset price, as stated in Evidence before the Honourable Committee of the House of Commons:	£.	
From the provision of funds in China to the arrival of the Teas in England, 2½ months, at 5 per cent. on cost }	17,831	
From the arrival of the Teas in England to the realization of the same, as stated in Accounts presented to the Honourable Committee of the House of Commons, 22½ months:		
Interest assumed in the calculation for the upset price 18 months: 4½ months, at 5 per cent. per annum on cost }	32,096	
On freight and demorage 7½ months (the whole of the freight being payable 3 months from the arrival of the Teas in England) at 5 per cent. per annum }	14,910	
		64,837
		2,828,264
PROFIT		209,319
	£	3,037,483

with China, for the year 1829-30; stating, the Prime Cost, how calculated; the Freight to make up the upset Price; the Insurance as calculated to make up the upset Price; China, to the Debit of Account, and the Sale Amount to the Credit—*continued*.

Cr.

Brought forward	£. 3,037,483
SALE AMOUNT OF TEAS	£ 3,037,483

(continued..

No. 29.—An Account of Profit and Loss of the East-India Company's Tea Trade and Demorage, the Charges incurred in Landing, &c. &c. ; the Interest as calculated the Supracargoes' Commission ; and all other Charges incurred, either in England or ..continued.)

Brought down, amount of Net Profit which results after calculating as part of the cost of the Tea, interest, insurance, &c. as above mentioned	£. 209,219
In framing the price of Tea from which the cost in the above Account is calculated, the funds drawn from India in repayment of Territorial charges for the supply of the China Treasury, are valued at rates which exceed the current market rates of exchange, and give a value thereto exceeding that which, upon mercantile principles, would be assigned to them ; the difference operating in favour of the Territory in the adjustment of the account between the two branches, and amounting upon this part of the Trade to	214,029
The amount of the Profit, charging the account with interest of capital and insurance, but adjusting it with reference to the mercantile rate of exchange, would be	423,248

East-India House, }
14th March 1831. }

with China, for the Year 1829-30 ; stating, the Prime Cost, how calculated ; the Freight to make up the upset Price ; the Insurance as calculated to make up the upset Price ; China, to the Debit of Account, and the Sale Amount to the Credit—continued.

Amount of Net Profit which results after calculating as part of the cost of the Tea, interest, insurance, &c. as before stated	£. 209,219
Add : The amount of such interest, which is replaced to this Company out of the Sale proceeds, the capital employed in the Trade being their own, and not subjecting their funds to any actual payment on this account, as well as the amount included in the cost on account of insurance, deducting the actual losses at sea in 1829-30. Interest £ 332,252 Insurance, (actual losses at sea, £.) 78,856	411,108
TOTAL return of Profit from this Trade, applicable to the appropriations of the Act of the 53 Geo. 3. c. 155.	620,327
Add : Difference arising from the rate of exchange of funds derived from India, as above stated, operating in favour of the Territory in the adjustment of the account between the two branches, and amounting upon this part of the Trade to	214,029
TOTAL return which would be derived from this Trade were the exchanges in the account between Territory and Commerce adjusted at the current rates	834,356

The amounts of interest and insurance stated in the Return made to the Honourable Committee under this date, in continuation of an Account, dated 17th March 1830, have reference only to the charges made under those denominations not included in the computation of the value of the Tale, for framing the upset prices of Tea.

(Errors excepted.)

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 30.—AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity of TEA Exported by the EAST-INDIA COMPANY from Canton; specifying the several kinds of Tea, and the Average Prime Cost per Pound, in the Year 1829-30.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 17th March 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 852.)

TEAS EXPORTED TO ENGLAND.	Quantity.	Average PRIME COST per Pound.	
	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bohea	4,288,896	0	9 636
Congou	19,003,302	1	2 099
Campoi	556,885	1	7 382
Souchong	67,632	2	584
Pekoe	—	—	—
Twankay	4,733,704	1	3 703
Hyson Skin	101,829	1	4 411
Young Hyson	582,800	2	3 469
Hyson	—	—	—
	29,335,048		
TEAS EXPORTED TO THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.	Quantity.	Average PRIME COST per Pound.	
	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bohea	329,759	0	8 857
Congou	828,944	0	10 679
Souchong	—	—	—
Pekoe	—	—	—
Twankay	15,901	1	4 200
Hyson Skin	13,415	1	3 203
Young Hyson	—	—	—
Hyson	26,217	2	4 146
Gunpowder	18,828	2	6 914
	1,233,064		
TOTAL	30,568,112		

East-India House, }
14th March 1831. }

(Errors excepted.)

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 31.—AN ACCOUNT of the several SALES of the EAST-INDIA COMPANY, in the Year 1830; specifying the Quantity of each kind of Tea sold, the Average Price at which each kind was put up, and at which each kind was sold at each Sale.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 17th March 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 852.)

TEAS EXPORTED TO ENGLAND.	Quantity.	Average PRIME COST per Pound.	
	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
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Hyson	—	—	—
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	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
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Souchong	—	—	—
Pekoe	—	—	—
Twankay	15,901	1	4 200
Hyson Skin	13,415	1	3 203
Young Hyson	—	—	—
Hyson	26,217	2	4 146
Gunpowder	18,828	2	6 914
	1,233,064		
TOTAL	30,568,112		

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

(Errors excepted.)

2 S 2

No. 31.—AN ACCOUNT of the several SALES of the EAST-INDIA COMPANY, in the Year 1830; specifying the Quantity of each kind of Tea sold, the Average Price at which each kind was put up, and at which each kind was sold at each Sale.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 17th March 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 836.)

	MARCH SALE, 1830.			JUNE SALE, 1830.		
	Quantity of each kind of Tea sold.	Average Price at which each kind was put up.	Average Price at which each kind was sold.	Quantity of each kind of Tea sold.	Average Price at which each kind was put up.	Average Price at which each kind was sold.
	Lbs.	s. d.	s. d.	Lbs.	s. d.	s. d.
INDIA COMPANY'S:						
Böhen	23,171	no price	1 5 ¹ / ₂	1,857	no price	1 5 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	1,170,249	1 5	1 6 ¹ / ₂	1,401,553	1 5	1 7 ¹ / ₂
Congou	—	—	—	236	no price	2 0 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	1,536,754	1 8	2 2 ¹ / ₂	1,657,206	1 8	2 2 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	330,555	no price	2 1 ¹ / ₂	331	no price	2 1 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	2,948,536	2 1	2 4 ¹ / ₂	3,191,220	2 1	2 4 ¹ / ₂
Campoi	176,642	no price	2 1 ¹ / ₂	121,979	no price	2 2 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	35,370	2 4	2 4 ¹ / ₂	26,805	2 4	2 5 ¹ / ₂
Souchong	359,203	2 9	3 9 ¹ / ₂	—	—	—
Twankay	53,416	no price	2 2 ¹ / ₂	121,573	no price	2 2 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	858,207	2 2	2 4 ¹ / ₂	991,566	2 2	2 4 ¹ / ₂
Hyson Skin	23,450	no price	2 2 ¹ / ₂	15,389	no price	2 3 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	42,727	2 3	2 8 ¹ / ₂	28,769	2 3	2 10 ¹ / ₂

Hyson	3,403	no price	3 8 ¹ / ₂	21,119	no price	4 2 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	60,133	3 0	3 9 ¹ / ₂	60,355	3 0	4 0 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	217,518	3 9	4 1 ¹ / ₂	171,194	3 9	4 5 ¹ / ₂
Sweepings	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Sold	7,548,334	—	—	7,805,152	—	—
Refused	277,000	—	—	113,959	—	—
PRIVATE TRADE:						
Congou	—	—	—	—	—	—
Souchong	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pekoe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Twankay	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyson Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyson	—	—	—	—	—	—
Presents	183	—	—	—	—	—
Ships' Stores	481	—	—	323	—	—
Sold	664	—	—	323	—	—
Refused	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL SOLD	7,548,998	—	—	7,805,475	—	—
TOTAL REFUSED	277,000	—	—	113,959	—	—

(continued.)

No. 31.—An Account of the several Sales of the East-India Company, in the Year 1830; specifying the Quantity of each kind of Tea sold, the Average Price at which each kind was put up, and at which each kind was sold at each Sale—
continued.

	SEPTEMBER SALE, 1830.			DECEMBER SALE, 1830.		
	Quantity of each kind of Tea sold.	Average Price at which each kind was put up.	Average Price at which each kind was sold.	Quantity of each kind of Tea sold.	Average Price at which each kind was put up.	Average Price at which each kind was sold.
COMPANYS:						
Bohen	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto	1,401,338	1 5	1 10 ¹ / ₂	1,600,810	1 5	1 11 ¹ / ₂
Congou	1,311,159	no price	2 0 ¹ / ₂	1,600,741	no price	2 1 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	1,494,030	1 8	2 2 ¹ / ₂	17,444	no price	2 0 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	50,425	no price	2 1	2,335,236	no price	2 3 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	3,024,196	2 0 ¹ / ₂	2 3 ¹ / ₂	—	—	—
Campoi	1,07,933	no price	2 1 ¹ / ₂	—	—	—
Ditto	31,389	2 4	2 5 ¹ / ₂	—	—	—
Souchong	—	—	—	29,443	2 9	4 4 ¹ / ₂
Twankay	—	—	—	519	no price	2 2 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	1,083,541	2 2	2 4 ¹ / ₂	1,065,236	2 2	2 3 ¹ / ₂
Hyson Skin	7,082	no price	2 3 ¹ / ₂	88	no price	2 2 ¹ / ₂
Ditto	36,916	2 3	2 6 ¹ / ₂	16,460	2 3 ¹ / ₂	2 10 ¹ / ₂
Hyson	130	no price	4 3 ¹ / ₂	10,824	no price	4 1

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.						
Hyson	36,338	3 0	3 9 ¹ / ₂	—	—	—
Ditto	133,619	3 9	4 1 ¹ / ₂	18,373	3 9	4 10 ¹ / ₂
Sweepings	—	—	—	4,153	—	—
Sold	7,356,721	—	—	6,699,328	—	—
Refused	94,079	—	—	368,634	—	—
PRIVATE TRADE.						
Congou	145,513	1 18 ¹ / ₂	2 2 ¹ / ₂	351,360	1 8	2 3 ¹ / ₂
Souchong	110,693	2 9 ¹ / ₂	3 8 ¹ / ₂	34,208	2 9 ¹ / ₂	3 5 ¹ / ₂
Pekoe	89,452	2 11 ¹ / ₂	4 2 ¹ / ₂	82,101	2 11 ¹ / ₂	4 0 ¹ / ₂
Twankay	49,461	2 2	2 4 ¹ / ₂	23,670	2 2	2 2 ¹ / ₂
Hyson Skin	36,384	2 3	2 3 ¹ / ₂	5,651	2 3	2 3 ¹ / ₂
Hyson	121,108	3 0 ¹ / ₂	4 1 ¹ / ₂	219,401	3 0	4 1 ¹ / ₂
Presents	11,311	—	—	21,338	—	—
Ships Stores	—	—	—	365	—	—
Sold	463,862	—	—	738,100	—	—
Refused	861	—	—	109,870	—	—
Total Sold	7,820,583	—	—	7,437,428	—	—
Total Refused	94,940	—	—	478,504	—	—

East-India House, 14th March 1831. } THOS G. LLOYD, Accountant-General.

(Errors excepted.)

No. 32.—A RETURN of the RATES of EXCHANGE and SIGHTS at which the Select Committee at Canton have drawn Bills on the several Presidencies in India, and the Amount, in the Year 1829-30.

(In continuation of an Account, dated 4th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 948.)

CHINA SEASON.	RATE OF EXCHANGE.	SIGHT.	BENGAL.	
			AMOUNT received at CANTON.	AMOUNT Payable at Bengal, reduced into Sterling at the Rates fixed by the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, for the re-payment of Territorial Charges, viz. 2s. the current rupee.
1829-30...	a' 202 S.Rs. p' 100 dollars.	30 days.	S. Drs. 821,520	£. 192,499

There have not been any Bills drawn from Canton on the other Presidencies of India in the above year.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House,
4th March 1831. }

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant-General.

No. 33.—A RETURN of the RATES of EXCHANGE and SIGHTS at which the Select Committee at Canton have drawn Bills on the Court of Directors in England; distinguishing the Rate at which the Canton Treasury was opened generally, from the Rates at which the Commanders and Officers of the Company's Ships were supplied with Bills agreeable to the Charterparty Agreements.

(In continuation of an Account, dated the 4th May 1830, printed in Appendix to First Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 946.)

CHINA SEASON.	BILLS.			CERTIFICATES.			TOTAL Bills and Certificates.	
	Rate of Exchange.	Sight.	Amount Received at Canton.	Amount payable in England.	Rate at which the Commanders and Officers were supplied.		Dollars.	Sterling.
					Rate of Exchange per Dollar.	Sight.		
1829-30...	4/1½	6 months.	111,740	23,046	4/1½	90 days.	445,282	£. 115,349
						—		
					4/2	365	222,641	557,022
							92,303	

East-India House,
14th March 1831. }

(Errors excepted.)

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant General.

No. 34.

PAPERS

RESPECTING

THE CHARACTER AND QUALITIES OF COTTON-WOOL.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 11th March 1831.

Sir:

In compliance with an Order from the Select Committee on East-India Affairs, dated 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of all Letters and Papers respecting the Characters and Qualities of Cotton-Wool, which are to be found in the records of this office, together with specimens of several sorts of cotton.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Sir Henry Parnell, Bart.

Your most obedient humble servant,

&c. &c. &c.

THOMAS LACK.

EAST-INDIA COTTON-WOOL.

March 1823.

THESE memoranda on the subject of East-India cotton-wool, it is humbly considered, may not unappropriately be brought under the review of the Government of the country at this moment, when the important question regarding the East-India and West-India sugar is under discussion.

The view which has been taken of this subject, after much investigation, amounts to this, that the superiority of Indian fabrics over those of this country, chiefly, if not altogether, arises from the *material*, and not from the *skill* of the natives, in either *spinning* or *weaving*. It seems to have *escaped notice*, that the cotton-wool of *America* and *India* are not grown upon the same *species of plant*. This circumstance, without further evidence, may be considered conclusive that the nature of their fruits must essentially differ, as well as the fabrics made from them.

It is beyond all doubt, that the whole of the cotton-wool of both Americas, the West-Indies and Bourbon, is cultivated upon a *biennial* plant, of which botanists make several species; but they are considered by the most scientific person in this country, if not in Europe, to be only varieties of one plant.

The

The cotton-wool of British India is chiefly cultivated on the *annual* plant *Herbaceum*, which is the same that is cultivated in all other parts of the world, except the countries before mentioned; but the soil and climate of most parts of British India appear to give a superiority to its quality which no cotton-wool of other countries can equal.

The objections to the East-India cotton-wool by the British manufacturers are, its dirty state when imported, the fast seeds adhering to the wool (the nature of the plant), which in the operation of removing in this country greatly destroys its quality; and the shortness of the staple, which last is an important objection, as it requires a heavy expense in the alteration of the machinery for its use; but some eminent manufacturers have declared, that if the cotton-wool of India was sent home in a clean state any objections to its use would vanish.

The great error, and that of a most lamentable nature, as regards India, was the not watching the revolution in the growth and manufacture of cotton-wool, which commenced with Arkwright's invention, between forty and fifty years ago. Previous to that period, British India, had from time immemorial, supplied all the highly-civilized parts of the known world, with her delicate cotton fabrics, which no other country on earth can imitate.

Arkwright constructed his spinning-mills, for the use of the only cotton-wool then known in this country, that from the western world. As his ingenious invention extended, an increased demand arose for the same kind of cotton-wool. Shortly after, the southern provinces of the United States drew their attention to the cultivation of the same species of plant, and for that object, largely imported slaves from Africa; and although it is believed forty years ago not a bag of cotton-wool was grown in the United States, they now supply more than half the wants of the British manufacturers, and send it to this country in their own ships, upon the same duty as from the British colonies.

It is by the means which have now been attempted to be described that the poor people of British India have lost their legitimate manufacture for foreign use, and by the opening of the trade to India, are likely, if some judicious and energetic measures are not speedily adopted, to be soon altogether deprived of the growth of cotton-wool, and the manufacture thereof for their own use.

It is not the wish of the person who furnishes these observations to contend with confidence in support of his opinion on this occasion; but he submits it for the consideration of others, who are far more competent to judge of matters of this kind than he can be, whether, under the supposition that what has been stated regarding the cotton-wool of India should prove to be correct, it would not be incumbent upon the government of the country to bring forward some legislative measure for the encouragement of the growth of fine cotton-wool in India; for in the present order of things the United States of America appear to be considered as a favoured colony of Great Britain, without having apparently any political claim to such a privilege.

There is sent herewith a small quantity of beautiful East-India cotton-yarn, which was brought to England nearly forty years ago; its softness and strength greatly illustrate the nature and quality of East-India cotton-wool, which the writer cannot help again stating as, in his opinion, deserving of immediate attention. It is hoped that the very important communication which has now been made will not be either considered intrusive or unimportant.

2 T 2

Sir:

SIR: Sise-lane, August 6th, 1823.

In consequence of Mr. Lack having intimated to me, by your desire, that my paper on East-India cotton-wool was not forthcoming at the office for trade, I use the freedom to send a copy thereof, but as I have distributed all my little stock of fine East-India yarn, I cannot supply a sample of what was enclosed in the original paper; yet if it should be wanted it may be got perhaps hereafter.

Since I last had the honour to address you, I learn that a friend at Calcutta, at my desire, has procured a few maunds of Indian cotton-wool, of good quality, which he is to get cleaned in two or three modes, and which he is to send home for the inspection of the manufacturers of this country.

From this friend I also learn that the fine cotton-wool of Bengal has, for a year or two back, been bought up, and passed into the interior, but whether it is held upon speculation, or goes out of the East-India Company's territory towards China, is not known; this point, and every other fact connected with this, in my humble opinion, important subject, should be minutely investigated, as alike interesting to the East-India Company, and the nation at large.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Right Honourable (Signed) JAMES DUNSMURE.

William Huskisson,
Board of Trade, Whitehall.

MEMORANDA on the Cotton-Wool used in the Fabrics made in Great Britain.

ACCORDING to the opinion of the best modern botanists there are only three species of the true *Gossypium* or cotton-plant; one, the *Arboreum*, or tree, the produce whereof is used for beds, couches, &c. but not in fabrics. The remaining two, the *Herbaceum* and *Biennial* plant or plants (for it is disputed whether there are several species, or only one of this last), are the plants which yield the cotton-wool used in fabrics. The former is an annual herbaceous plant, which is cultivated all over the East, and has extended from thence down both shores of the Mediterranean, and is also grown in the interior of Africa. The latter is a shrub which lasts several years, and is cultivated in the Archipelago of India, the Island of Bourbon, in both Americas, and the West-Indies. The former is not so productive as the *Biennial* plant; is short stapled; very difficult to clean from the seeds adhering closely to the cotton, and to spin, from the shortness of the staple; yet it is from this species of cotton-wool that the natives of India have supplied the world with the most beautiful fabrics from time immemorial, and which the manufacturers of this country consider not good. The other it is well known furnishes the chief supply for the use of the manufacturers of this country, and is very largely cultivated in the United States, where it has not been grown much above forty years, and is not indigenous to the soil; in fact it is cultivated as an annual, from its perishing in the winter months from their severity; so that what the continental manufacturers of India (from whence all the fine fabrics of the East have come), reject when cultivated in the finest soil and climate in the world, is considered by our manufacturers as much superior when produced in a humid atmosphere and unnatural climate to that which the native manufacturers of India use; and what renders the present state of this most important and extensive manufacture peculiarly odd, is, that we have been for the last twenty years using both descriptions, without having found out that they differed essentially in their nature from each other.

There

There can be no doubt of the produce of the *Herbaceum* from the Levant having been used in this country in the infancy of our cotton manufacture, but of an inferior quality to that of India; and it must be apparent to any reflecting person, that the preservation of this beautiful manufacture to the interesting population of British India for so great a length of time,* could not have arisen from any other cause than that the material used was superior to all others, and (as was before observed) that the finest tropical soil and climate in the world gave it that advantage. * 3,000 years by record.

It is alleged, and believed to be true, that nearly double the quantity of India cotton-wool is exported annually from Great Britain to the Continent of Europe than what is consumed by the British manufacturers; and of the cotton thus exported, about one-half is shipped to the Netherlands, and a great portion thereof reaches Schaafhausen, and is manufactured in that neighbourhood; and it is confidently contended by various parties, both in this country and on the Continent, that the fabrics of the Swiss are of better quality, and approach nearer to those of Bengal, than any which are made in Europe.

It admits of no doubt that large supplies of cotton-yarn, made of American cotton-wool, have been for some time sent to India; and that the shipments are rapidly augmenting. This is a great evil, as the fabrics of India must in a very short period of time, if measures are not taken to counteract it, become as inferior as British, and the consequences to this empire and to India, must prove extremely ruinous and disastrous.

The sample of beautiful India cotton-yarn herewith sent, spun upon the distaff and a crooked wire, with a lump of clay attached to it as a spindle, has been upwards of forty years in this country, and fully possesses all its original good qualities.

N. B.—The coarse yarns in India are spun upon a small wheel in the same mode as the worsted-yarns are made in the North of England and Scotland, upon a larger wheel, and which process has great analogy to the manner the frames move in the spinning-mills of this country.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
SIR: Whitehall, 18th August 1823.

The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade having had under their consideration some observations relative to the imperfect manner in which East-India cotton-wool is prepared for the British market, which have been communicated to them by Mr. James Dunsmure, of Sise-lane, merchant, I am directed to transmit to you a copy thereof, and to request that you will lay the same before the President and Members of the Board of Control, in order that they may, if they shall see fit, bring this matter under the consideration of the Directors of the East-India Company.

I am, &c.

T. P. Courtenay, Esq.

(Signed) THOMAS LACK.

&c. &c. &c.

SIR:

Sise-lane, 31st January 1825.

Since I last addressed a letter to you regarding the cotton-wool of India, an occurrence has taken place which I consider proper to notice for their Lordships' consideration; and would also beg leave to make some further observations on the same subject, which must be my apology for again troubling you.

Last

Last spring a director of the East-India Company, who was long resident in India, and was at one time interested in the manufacture of piece-goods there, requested of me that I would address a letter to the Board, giving an outline of my views on the nature and qualities of East-India wool. My former communications (four years ago) were made to a friend when chairman and deputy, but were considered in some degree official.

To this request I consented, but rather reluctantly, for reasons which it is not necessary to mention. The result was, that my letter was read at the Board, and referred to a Committee; but what passed there was not made known to me. The director I have alluded to assured me he supported my views; but from a remark made, it might be inferred there was an unwillingness in the Committee to attempt any change in the present state of matters, from an impression that the material used at present in our cotton fabrics answered the purpose. I hope there may have been some mistake on my part in rightly comprehending what was meant to be conveyed by the last observations; for I cannot for a moment suppose that such an opinion could well exist in that quarter after any deliberation or reflection.

My first impression on this interesting subject remains unaltered; to me it appears impossible that I can be wrong. It is established beyond all doubt, that the plants essentially differ on which the cotton-wools of India and of America grow. The rich alluvial soil with which the greater portion of British-India is periodically refreshed from the Hymmelah and other mountainous districts, as well as the dryness of its atmosphere, render it the finest country in the world for the cultivation of all descriptions of tropical products. Both South and North America, on the other hand, have very humid atmospheres, arising naturally from their shores on either side being washed by immense oceans. The cotton-plant which is cultivated in these Continents grows also in India, but its produce is held by the natives to be inferior in quality to theirs,* and the antiquity of their cotton manufacture can leave no doubt of their judgment being right on this point. But what most surprizes me is, that this country, and particularly the spinners and manufacturers, should not have discovered that the cotton-wool which grows in the United States, and from which our chief supply is derived, cannot be of equal quality with that which is grown in countries where the plant is indigenous; and it seems still more extraordinary, that considering the manufacturers have now, for a good many years, been using in part India cotton-wool, should not have discovered that its quality was both distinct and superior to that which they had previously been confined to the sole use of.

At times various measures have been afloat in my mind for correcting what appears to me a hideous calamity to the country; but none, I consider, could be made effectual without a legislative enactment. The manufacturers have no views beyond immediate gain. They in general want no change in the material, because it would occasion a heavy outlay in new machinery; and they find the material at present in use, as was observed before, answer their purpose.

Without perhaps, having sufficiently looked at consequences, and reflected on difficulties which may occur, but after having given the subject all the consideration which I am capable of doing, and keeping in view the safety of the state, and its general interests, and also the well-being of that immense and interesting population, the natives of India, I hesitate not to state, that to permit the cotton manufactures of India to come to this country nearly on the same terms as those on which British fabrics go to that country, would be a judicious measure. It would draw forth the best exertion of the manufacturers of this country to imitate the fine muslins of India, which they could not do without using their fine cotton-wool. There would be a competition also in the coarsest descriptions of calicoes, for those of India have more substance; and to equal them the British manufacturers would require to use India wool.

No doubt there would be a great clamour amongst the manufacturers, but with what justice? India has the greatest cause to complain. This country has established an extensive

extensive manufactory within the last fifty years, with bad materials, to the destruction of India, and with doubtful advantage to itself, but evidently greatly to the benefit of other states, who have no great claim thereto. If the manufacturers were to take an enlarged view of the subject I am satisfied they would see it greatly to their advantage that such a measure as I have alluded to should take place; for India would take off an immense value in cotton fabrics, which we could supply on cheaper terms than they could make them, but only on the supposition that we used their cotton-wool, as thereby they would be enabled to pay for them. Such descriptions of fine muslins as they make in India, and which we cannot equal, they have a just right to furnish to us; and it would be lamentable if they were to be deprived thereof, or that the skill of those ancient manufacturers should be lost to the world; nay, the honour of the country appears to me to be in a certain degree pledged for its preservation. Already it is ascertained they have lost the art of making certain delicate fabrics, and all their fine descriptions must soon follow, unless some relief is granted.

With reference to sugar, I believe that I am correct in stating, that looking back within my recollection, British India did not cultivate more than enough to supply its own wants, if so much; and its extension of the growth thereof can easily be traced to its being deprived of advantages which it enjoyed in former times from other products. I cannot conclude this ill-digested letter without expressing a hope that their Lordships will give the subject an early consideration, as being one of important interest to the welfare of the country.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

Thomas Lack, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

JAS. DUNSMURE.

Board of Trade.

SIR:

Sise Lane, 15th December 1825.

It was not my intention to have again intruded with any further observations of mine regarding the cotton-wool of India for the information of my Lords of the Committee of Trade, as I had stated pretty fully what my notions were in various communications to you formerly, although in a very defective way; but a circumstance came accidentally to my knowledge last week, which I think points out forcibly the growing evil arising out of the present state of the cotton manufactures of this country, and which altogether, in my humble opinion, originated the error regarding the material used.

In accidentally passing the warehouse of a friend who acts as agent for the Lancashire manufacturers, I noticed, independent of a great number of packages of piece-goods, which might in value be about £10,000, a good many heavy bales, which in number were about 50; and on inquiry of my friend, he told me they contained fine cotton-yarn, which would accompany the other packages to India, and were made from Sea Island (Georgia) cotton-wool. He (knowing my opinion regarding India cotton-wool) lamented, he said, the circumstances, but he was only an agent or middle-man. I had not gone from his warehouse 100 yards when I met another friend, who I knew was a shipper to India of British cotton piece-goods, and mentioning the circumstance which I have just alluded to, he told me that the yarn was for him, and also that there were considerable supplies of cotton-yarn sent in the same direction by others, and which were chiefly disposed of in the Eastern Archipelago, and to a greater extent than that of Bengal, or from the Coast. He further mentioned, that considerable supplies of British yarn were sent to Bombay; but where it was manufactured into cloth he could not inform me.

I confess

* The Herbaceum.

I confess when one reflects upon the present singular and unnatural state of the cotton-wool supplies for the use of our manufacturers, and the extraordinary revolution which has taken place in the growth and manufacture in my time, this does not surprize me; nay, it has only been my astonishment that it did not take place at a much earlier date.

It must be apparent to persons of the most ordinary understanding, that ere long those beautiful fabrics made hitherto in India, which have been the admiration of all nations from the remotest period of time, must be lost to the world for ever; and that the cotton cloth and muslins made in India must become as inferior as British, unless some measures are resorted to which are commensurate to the evil.

To me it appears the simple points to be considered, are, whether there is not an essential difference in the nature and qualities of India and American cotton-wool, and if there is, which is the best; and if the Indian is better than that of America, what measures can be taken to induce the manufacturers of this country to use it in preference.

It is certain that India fabrics are made from cotton wool, the growth of that country, and taken chiefly, if not altogether, from the produce of the herbaceum. That the biennial plant of America is indigenous to India, but that the ancient manufacturers of that country do not consider its produce good, otherwise from its being more productive, longer stapled, and easier cleaned, would have been generally used by them. That the cotton-wool of America is altogether the produce of the biennial plant, and as respects the chief supply for our manufacturers, cultivated in a humid atmosphere, and in a climate where nature never intended it should grow.

Taking the preceding facts as true, there cannot exist a doubt of the cause of India fabrics surpassing all others in the material, for it is ascertained neither the spinning or weaving could occasion it.

To the close resemblance which the two descriptions of cotton-wool bear to each other (perhaps nearer than almost the fruit of any other two species of plant), may be imputed the error of the manufacturers of this country not having discovered the distinction in their qualities, and why a consequent attempt has not been made to bring it into general use in British fabrics.

If the cotton wool of the herbaceous plant is better than all others, and British India furnishes it of a finer description and on easier terms than any other country, positions for which I contend, then the present state of matters is fraught with the greatest possible calamity to this country and to its Indian possessions; but on the other hand, could my views be realized, then we must have the entire manufacture of the cotton goods of a fine quality for the whole world so long as India is attached to this country, and our present maritime superiority is maintained.

I am respectfully, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Size Lane

15th December 1825. }

Thomas Lack, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

Board of Trade.

JAMES DUNSMURE.

Sir:

Size Lane, 30th January 1826.

Agreeably to the promise I made when you lately favoured me with an interview, I now send you samples of a few bales of East-India cotton-wool, just landed from Bengal.

By directions which I sent to India, this cotton-wool has been cleaned by the natives in different ways; and it is my intention to submit the wool in the different states to the trial

trial and inspection of the manufacturers, in order to obtain the best and surest information to direct as to the state in which it is most suitable to the spinners in Europe.

I did expect to have been able to have ascertained the first cost, and all expenses and charges, until landed in London, upon this experimental importation; but on investigating the matter, I notice the waste of cotton in cleaning, in the different modes, is not stated, which prevents me from giving more for the present than the cost of cleaning in each mode, and the broker's opinion of the value; but which last I do not consider its intrinsic worth, or what it would fetch, had the manufacturers a correct knowledge of its value.

There is, perhaps, a nearer approach in appearance of the cotton-wool of India and America than is to be found in any other distinct species of plant; and to this, in my opinion, is to be imputed the almost total ignorance which prevails with respect to the nature and quality of this most important article of commerce. Not three years ago Mr. Francis Philips, of Manchester, who, with two or three other manufacturers, consume more India cotton-wool than all the spinners in Great Britain, assured me he knew no more distinction between the cotton-wool of India and America than what is noticed in one apple differing from another. Now as this respectable character is not only well acquainted with his business, but has excellent general information, it may be fairly inferred that the manufacturers throughout Lancashire, as well as in Scotland, are at this moment, with a few exceptions, ignorant of the important circumstance which has now been alluded to, and are consequently unable to make any judicious attempts to bring the cotton-wool of India into general use.

That a new country like the United States should be able to secure to itself, in a period little better than thirty years, so valuable a source of wealth, by the growth of a plant which is not only not indigenous to the soil and climate, but which also cannot be preserved without being annually renewed, and cultivated too by unnatural labour, to the exclusion of a country where a finer plant and produce is cultivated, and which it is on record had for thirty centuries supplied the whole world with the finest fabrics, appears hardly credible; but I lament to state, the fact can admit of no doubt or uncertainty.

If an humble individual might be permitted to offer an opinion upon the present position of the commercial relations between this country and the American federal government, I would state that, placing into one scale of the balance of the empire the profit which it derives from the furnishing a considerable value in manufactures to America, it is much more than counterpoised by the advantage which must be put into the other scale, from the cultivation and carriage of such a large portion of the raw material consumed in our manufactures; and that it tends importantly to weaken the right arm of this country, and strengthen that of the other.

There will be annexed some slight observations made by me on the nature of India cotton wool, and may not be important; but it appears to me if science was to be applied to the inquiry, the relative nature and quality of Indian and American cotton-wool could be very quickly and minutely ascertained by a chemical analysis, and which I with great deference submit should be resorted to.

I am, with respect, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Thomas Lack, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Board of Trade, Great George Street.

JAMES DUNSMURE.

SAMPLES of Eight Bales of Fine EAST-INDIA COTTON-WOOL imported in the Marquis of Hastings from Bengal.

Samples.		Cost of Cleaning.	Brokers' Value.
		d.	d.
1.	{ Bale, No. 1 } 2} cleaned by bowing, &c.	1½ per lb.	7
2.	{ — 3 } 4} cleaned by beating with sticks, &c.	¾	6½
3.	{ — 5 } 6} cleaned by hand-beating, &c.	¾	
4.	{ — 7 } 8} cleaned in the ordinary way	¾	

N.B.—The quality of the whole of the bales is the same, having been purchased at Mirzapore at one price; but from the weight not being given which the bales now contain, so as to ascertain the waste in cleaning, and the freight home, and other charges not being adjusted, makes it difficult to come at, with accuracy, the cost in London for the present.

REMARKS on the Cotton-Wool of India, the produce of the Herbaceous Plant.

A respectable calico-printer in Scotland states that in former times when he stamped a great quantity of East-India calicoes for the Continent he noticed his colours were brighter than when he used British fabrics.

The writer of this, about eighteen months ago, caused a piece of calico to be made with great care, composed from yarn made from American and Indian cotton-wool, by which one quarter was all American, another all Indian, a third Indian warp and American waft, and the fourth the reverse of the last. This piece of cloth after having been sent up to London for inspection was returned to Lancashire to be bleached, and printed by the first printer there; it was sent up admirably executed, but not the slightest shade could be discovered in the colour of the different compartments; but it arose, it is believed, from acid being now universally used in the bleaching of both cotton and linen cloths. This piece of cloth is now in London, and, if their Lordships desire, it will be sent to the Board of Trade for their inspection. The Lancashire manufacturers considered that the piece being of one appearance was favourable for India wool, but the writer expected the part of the cloth made from the India wool would have been superior, and would have made a second attempt by getting the cloth grass-bleached; but as no encouragement was given to the inquiry, he declined being subjected to further expense.

There

There can be no doubt the East-India cotton-wool possesses an essential oil, which the American has not. There is at the East-India House two samples of cotton-yarn, the one from India, and the other American cotton; they were attached together and dipped in an indigo-blue vat. The result was, that the yarn from the Indian cotton was a much brighter colour than the other.

The small sample of dyed cotton yarn, (No. 5), was sent in the present month, (January 1824), from Gibraltar, requesting that a few tons might be shipped if the price did not exceed the limits. The dealers in yarn in London considered it foreign, and to imitate it, the dyeing would be 3s. per lb. and the cost 1s. 6d. per lb., but it was sent to a manufacturer in Lancashire for execution, who stated it was his own yarn, and dyeing; that it was made from Surat cotton, and that it could be supplied at a price not much above half what the London dealers reckoned.

The cotton-wool from the herbaceous plant is the only description which can be used for making candle-wicks. The Turkey cotton is what is chiefly applied to this purpose, but if any other is resorted to, it is that of India. The cotton-wool of the biennial plant will not suit. There appears to be an elasticity in the herbaceous cotton-wool which occasions a cavity in the wick, and thereby the air passes freely through it, and makes it burn bright, which is the reverse in the cotton-wool from the biennial plant of America, as the thread is dense, and the air passes through with difficulty.

No. 6, is some seed of the Brazil cotton; it is more of a distinct character than any of the other variety of biennial cotton-plants. The seeds adhere to each other, and which state it preserves when cultivated in the West-Indies or elsewhere. This, it is believed, is what the botanists call latifolium, and is commonly called chain or kidney-seeded cotton; it is this description which it is believed is not cultivated with so much success in Egypt.

There was received along with the cotton-wool from India a small model of the machine used by the natives in India for freeing the cotton-wool from the seed. It is now with Dr. Wilkins, at the India-House, who states it to be a perfect model, and who has promised to make some observations upon it at the request of the writer. If their Lordships should wish a sight of it, it can be sent up to the Board of Trade.

No. 7, a sample of beautiful East-India cotton-yarn, brought to England forty years ago, by Admiral Sir E. Hughes.

No. 8, seeds of the herbaceum.

Sise Lane, 3d February 1827.

Sir:

I am fearful I shall appear intrusive to my Lords of the Committee of Trade in again addressing you for their Lordships' information regarding cotton-wool; but as the subject has much occupied my attention for a good many years back, and is in my estimation of great importance to the state, I hope that the freedom I take will be excused.

In my last letter, dated in December 1825, I took notice of considerable shipments of cotton-yarn for India, made from American cotton-wool, then going forward, which shipments continue to be made on a more enlarged scale. Up to the 5th October last the quantity shipped exceeded 500,000 pounds. The statement to the 5th January is not yet made up, but I am greatly misinformed if it shall not be found to exceed much the proportion for the last three months that of the previous nine.

It appears, at first view, to be more beneficial to India, that yarn should be sent out to them from this country than manufactured cloths; and if there existed no distinction in the

the nature and quality of Indian and American cotton wool, and India and British fabrics, it would certainly be the better mode, as thereby they would have the advantage of wearing their own fabrics; and so long as the India fabrics are distinguishable from all others, however much the manufacture is contracted, there is a ray of hope existing, that the British manufacturers will find out their superior quality, and the cause thereof, and attempt to imitate them. But by the system of trade which has now been alluded to, there is a progressive advance towards the total extinction of the exquisitely beautiful cotton manufactures of India; an event fraught with, in my opinion, most calamitous consequences to that fine country and interesting people, and in other respects not beneficial to this empire, as I formerly have taken the liberty to notice.

When in Lancashire a few weeks back, on business, a retired manufacturer was introduced to me, who wished for some information regarding India cotton-wool. He admitted, that until I mentioned it to him he was in total ignorance of there being any distinction in the species of plants which yielded Indian and American cotton-wool; and he was confident that the manufacturers throughout Lancashire were generally in the same uninformed condition. This state of ignorance ought not in my opinion to be allowed to exist longer.

It has been represented to me in various quarters that the Swiss make cotton cloths that approach nearer to those of Bengal than any other manufacturing country in Europe; and that the manufacturers of both Lancashire and Glasgow have declared they cannot furnish them of equal quality. I have of late noticed the export of India cotton-wool to the continent. The official report of last year is not yet made up, but from a printed statement which I have seen, and which I believe may be relied upon, made up to the 30th November, say for eleven months, the quantity of Indian cotton-wool exported is stated to have been 40,690 bales; and that used in the same period for home consumption 25,941 bales; so that the manufacturers on the continent use nearly twice the quantity of Indian cotton-wool that is consumed in Great Britain.

I have no statement of the countries to which the cotton-wool now alluded to was sent for last year, but on referring to the Inspector-General's Report for the four preceding years on this head, I noticed the Netherlands take off about a half or the whole in each year, and I am assured a great portion of it reaches Schaffhausen, and is manufactured in that neighbourhood. This I consider a matter of the last importance to have accurately ascertained; as if the superior quality of the Swiss fabrics arises from their using India cotton-wool, the whole difficulty is solved, and I beg with great deference to represent that this point seems of such vital importance to have well established, that, it appears to me, a skilful person who can be relied upon should be employed to visit Switzerland for that object.

The first impression on my mind regarding the superiority of India fabrics, (and which has been my chief reliance when assailed by very considerable opposition to my views on this subject), was, that *nature* not *art* occasioned their chief superiority over all others. Had it arisen from the latter, it is not possible that the natives of India could have kept the exclusive possession of that manufacture for a period exceeding the earliest profane history to this time. In fact, in fewer centuries than it has been thousands of years in their possession, it must have passed from them to other countries, and it would be painful in the extreme, as I have on a former occasion used the freedom to mention, if that immense and interesting people were to be deprived of their legitimate manufacture by the introduction of one of a spurious description, and fraught with much calamity to British India and this country.

I am respectfully, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Thomas Lack, Esq.

JAMES DUNSMURE.

Office

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 26th July, 1828.

SIR:

The attention of this Committee has lately been called to the possibility of improving the culture, in the East Indies, of some articles which are now chiefly supplied by the United States of America particularly of cotton and tobacco.

It has been represented to their Lordships that the cotton of India is inferior to that of Carolina, not through any inferiority of the soil in which it is grown, but through a defective mode of cultivation, and it is thought that this deficiency might be supplied by a judicious application of skill and capital.

The same representation is made as to tobacco.

A slight encouragement is about to be extended to the cotton of India by the reduction of the import-duty upon cotton-wool from six per cent. on the value to 4d. per cwt.; but if the Lords of this Committee are rightly informed, this encouragement will not be sufficient to occasion the necessary improvement of the cotton, unless measures be taken in India for applying skill and capital to the cultivation.

The peculiar system of administration which the Legislature has sanctioned for British India, forbidding Europeans to settle in the country, prevents the operation of the encouragement; ordinarily afforded by an extensive market and a favourable tariff. But my Lords conceive that it may be quite consistent with the maintenance of that system to extend facilities, liberal in their character, but limited in their extent, to British subjects who may be disposed to settle in the cotton districts, and whose character, property and knowledge qualify them for the object required.

Their Lordships apprehend that the important article of indigo has flourished under encouragement of this nature.

Under these impressions the Lords of this Committee direct me to request that you will move the Commissioners for the affairs of India to take these suggestions, as they regard both cotton and tobacco, into their consideration, and to communicate thereupon with the East-India Company.

The Court of Directors cannot fail to admit the importance of the object; and it is hoped, that if they should not consider the suggestions of this Committee as pointing out the most advisable method, they will suggest some other mode of obtaining it.

I am to add, that their Lordships are desirous of receiving the fullest information which the Commissioners may be able to afford them, of the present state of the culture and trade of cotton and tobacco in the East-Indies.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

George Banks, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS LACK.

SIR:

No. 4, Pancras-lane, 6th September, 1828.

In consequence of the privilege you gave me to address you in the event of my having any thing further to offer for the consideration of their Lordships, relative to India cotton-wool, I am induced to trouble you with a few observations on this important subject, which I shall endeavour to make as concise as possible.

I do not know whether it is conceded that India cotton-wool is not only good, but is the best description which is produced from the Herbaceous plant, and that the produce of this

this species is superior, and essentially differs in quality from that of the Shrub plant, which is alone cultivated in the Western world; but however this may be, I must take leave to state that this is my conviction, and has formed the chief feature in all my communications on this subject.

Under the impression that what I have now stated is admitted and assented to, it appears to me, to bring into general use by the manufacturers of this country the cotton-wool of India, in place of the present unhappy supply, is that which should occupy the consideration of my Lords of the Committee of Trade; and although the measure may be attended with considerable difficulty, I have no hesitation in stating, that with judicious arrangements, and a cordial co-operation by those whose immediate duty it is to give their aid therein, it may be brought about in a progressive manner.

As the manufacturers of cotton-wool in this country, however high their reputation may be for knowledge, have given very unequivocal proof that they are not well acquainted with the nature and qualities of the materials they use, I would recommend that an able and respectable botanist be employed to write a short and plain essay on the nature and qualities of the different species of cotton-plants which yield cotton-wools used in making fabrics, are cultivated; and that it should be issued amongst the manufacturing districts at a moderate price.

It appears to me also, that it would be highly expedient that the duty charged in the interior of India on cotton-wool by the East-India Company, which I am told is seven and a half per cent. *ad valorem*, should be wholly drawn back on exportation to Great Britain. At present I believe only 5 per cent. is allowed; and whatever drawback is allowed by the East-India Company should be levied on exportation from Great Britain, that the full advantage thereof may be secured to the country.

I would presume also to recommend again that India cotton fabrics be admitted into Great Britain upon the same duty (two and a half per cent.) that British are subject to when imported into India, as was stated in one of my former communications, when I urged a remission of the duty on the raw material.

But I would with great deference represent, that to procure as quickly as possible relief from this, as it appears to me, a great national calamity, the united exertions of the East-India Company and the private traders connected with India, with the Government of the country, is imperatively called for; and I have not a doubt, were such a desirable communication instituted, a plan would be speedily devised for a prompt check being given to the present lamented state of matters, which, if not soon counteracted, will lead to the most disastrous results.

Thomas Lack, Esq.
Board of Trade.

I have the honour, &c. &c.
(Signed) JAS. DUNSMURE.

SIR:

India Board, 16th October 1828.

In reference to your letter of the 26th of July last, I have received the directions of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords of the Committee for Trade, the enclosed copy of a letter, which has been addressed by the President of this Board to the chairman and deputy chairman of the East-India Company, on the subject of the culture of cotton and tobacco in the East-Indies.

Thomas Lack, Esq.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. BANKES.

GENTLEMEN:

India Board, 7th October, 1828.

I have considered with much attention the letter of Mr. Dart to Mr. Barke, dated the 5th ultimo, respecting the culture of cotton and tobacco in the East-Indies.

I know you must be strongly impressed with a sense of the great importance of improving the cotton grown in the East-Indies, of extending thereby the export trade of the territories of the East-India Company, and of rendering this country independent of foreign nations for the raw material of one most considerable manufacture; and I am therefore satisfied that you will give your favourable consideration to the suggestions I am about to offer to you on this subject.

It appears, undoubtedly, that measures have been taken at different times by the East-India Company, for introducing into India the culture of various sorts of foreign cotton; and it seems that on one occasion a gentleman conversant with the cleaning of cotton in Georgia, was engaged by the East-India Company for the purpose of giving instructions in the use of the American machines for separating the wool of the cotton from its seeds, but that the attempts hitherto made for the improvement of the culture and management of cotton have not been successful.

It does not appear, however, that experiments have been made in many different parts of India, for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in some districts of that vast country, in which the cotton-plant is indigenous, it may not be possible to raise some of the superior sorts of foreign cotton. Experiments made in the botanical garden of Calcutta, where cotton-plants from different soils and climates are cultivated in the same soil, and in the same climate, must necessarily be productive of no satisfactory result.

I must therefore suggest to you the expediency of attempting, on a small scale, the cultivation of all the finer sorts of foreign cotton in different and distant parts of India, under every different circumstance of soil and climate, and of transmitting to England, cleaned in the American manner, and with every precaution to protect them from the weather, samples of the cotton so raised, for the purpose of comparison with the cottons of other countries.

As it is understood that the value of cotton depends very much upon the care with which it is cleaned, and on its being protected from the weather, it is deserving of your consideration whether it may not be advisable for the East-India Company to receive a portion of the land-tax in cotton, at a fair valuation, and to manage, on its own account, the cleaning of the cotton so raised, and its transport to the place of shipment.

Should it be found practicable to raise in India any of the superior sorts of cotton, it would be for the interest of the East-India Company to encourage the culture of such cotton, by taking it at a higher valuation in the payment of the land-tax.

I cannot entertain a doubt of the disposition of the East-India Company to permit the residence in the interior of India of British merchants, who may be willing to employ their knowledge and their capital in the culture of an article, of which the production, in any quantity, of a superior quality, would conduce in so great a degree to the interests not only of the East-India Company, but of this country.

I trust that you will persevere in your endeavours to produce a species of tobacco suitable to the British market.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman
of the East-India Company.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) ELLENBOROUGH.

No. 35.—AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity and Value of MILITARY STORES exported to India in the Year 1829-30; specifying the Average Rate of Freight per Ton at which they have been sent out, (from May to May.)

(In continuation of an Account, dated 9th June 1830, printed in Appendix to 2d Report on East-India Company's Affairs, p. 1202)

		QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Accoutrements, viz.			£.
Bayonet Belts	Number	7,136	4,094
Pouch ditto	ditto	8,671	
Waist ditto	ditto	—	
Sword ditto	ditto	2,194	
Various other ditto	ditto	632	
Sword Knots	ditto	765	
Lock Cases	ditto	—	
Sabre-taches	ditto	10	
Musket and Fusil Slings	ditto	5,630	
Drum and Fife Case ditto	ditto	1,291	
Canteen and Knapsack, &c. ditto	ditto	—	
Pouches	ditto	44	
Powder Horns and Flasks	ditto	—	
Carbine Buckets	ditto	—	
Pistol Frogs	ditto	—	
Cavalry Saddles and Bridles	ditto	—	3,116
Artillery Harness	Case	1	
Forge Bellows	Pair	13	
Books, Parchment, &c.	Cases	171	
Canvas	Bolts	230	
Vitry	ditto	—	1,722
Buntin	Pieces	67	
Rope	Tons	2	
Coals	Chaldrons	396	926
Fire-Bricks, Cement, &c.	Num. & Tons	18,281	
Lead, Sheet-Lead, &c.	Tons	31	536
Mathematical and Musical Instruments, &c. &c.	Cases, &c.	1,825	20,639
Manufactured Copper and Brass Articles	Packages	—	1,617
Copper Gunpowder Barrels	Number	—	
Copper Sheets, Hoops, &c.	Tons	13	974
Oilmen's Stores, Painters' Colours, Sulphur, &c.	Packages	674	
Muskets, Fusils, Carbines, Rifles, Pistols, &c.	Number	1,440	8,544
Swords and Pikes	ditto	2,834	
Small-Arm Materials, Musket Furniture, &c.	Cases, &c.	1,203	36,264
Shot and Shells, Carcasses, &c.	Tons	40	
Iron and Brass Guns, Carronades, Iron Mortars, and Beds	Number	107	113,978
Gun Carriage Iron-work, Ironmongery, Braziers, Tinware, &c.	Packages	1,811	
Iron	Tons	146	—
Glass	Cases, &c.	—	
Woollens, Stuffs, &c.	Pieces	20,181	192,410
Soldiers' Clothing	Cases, &c.	165	
		£.	192,410
Average Rate of Freight per Ton		£.	3 1 1

Mem—This Account does not include the Exports to St. Helena.

(Errors excepted.)

East-India House,
14th March 1831.

THOS. G. LLOYD,
Accountant General.