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Collector's Report on the
Permanent Jama
of the First Division - 1802



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To

WILLIAM PETRIE Esq.

President and Members of the Special Committee for the
Settlement of the Permanent Land Revenue.

GENTLEMEN,

Para. 1st. The period that has elapsed since the receipt of the orders of the late Board of Revenue conveyed in their Secretary's letter of the 18th April 1801, and my reply thereto of the 12th May 1801 as well as the tenor of my subsequent promises with regard to my report upon the permanent Jummah of this Division, appears to call for some explanation of the causes that have operated to delay its transmission until this late date. I trust however that when those are stated, I shall be fully acquitted by the Committee of any unnecessary procrastination, in carrying into effect their orders upon a measure, which I have felt an anxiety to execute proportionate to the desire evinced by the Board for its accomplishment.

2nd. With a view to collect authentic materials for forming the requisite documents I proceeded into the interior of the Division in the beginning of May 1801, and immediately entered into an investigation of the Kham, and Renters accounts of each Village, a work that must necessarily prove of very slow operation, and which was rendered still more tedious, by the necessary interruptions that frequently occurred from my attention, being distracted, by the digressive explanation, that I was obliged, to make into the particulars of disputed balances, or levies complained of as undue, which although frequently of insignificant value in themselves became of importance, from the necessity of ascertaining the proper sources of the Revenue, this circumstance by rendering the process of my enquiry more tedious, than I had at first expected, was one cause that contributed to keep back my report; but another, and by far more material impediment to its progress, was the intervention of the Settlement for the present Pashy, which although concluded more expeditiously than it would otherwise have been; from the previous information I had obtained in the country which materially facilitated, its completion, retarded in a considerable degree my operations by depriving me of the labors of all the Curums, whose presence was absolutely necessary in the Villages, to assist in the business of the Cultivation.

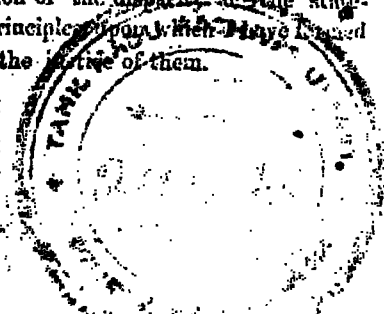
3rd. I had since that time only been enabled to make use of the Information, and documents, by the Curums at irregular, and interrupted intervals, from whence of course much delay has been occasioned, but as this has not depended on me, I trust that I shall notwithstanding have credit for that zealous attention to the commands of my Superiors, which it has ever been, and still continues my constant study to evince in the performance of every duty committed to my charge, and I have accordingly lately taken an opportunity when the advanced and favorable state of my Collections, would admit of it, to proceed into the Country and devote the whole of my attention to such enquiries as have enabled me to complete an estimate of the Permanent Revenue which I trust I may with safety recommend, exhibiting a fair, and moderate assessment, such, as to render the Estates a desirable possession, and to afford at the same time to Government a fair and adequate revenue.

4th. Having thus (I hope successfully) endeavored to remove every unfavorable impression in consequence of the delay in this address I shall proceed to offer my sentiments upon the Revenue for each Hoondah, or Estate, in this division which the most mature deliberation, and much laborious enquiry has suggested to me as proper to be fixed in perpetuity.

5th. In executing this most important, and responsible duty, I confess that I feel it almost impossible to divest myself, altogether of hesitation, and embarrassment, arising from a contemplation of the great disproportion which appears between the Jummah now proposed for your approbation, and that formerly submitted by my predecessor; feeling confident however that I have neglected no opportunity of establishing the most satisfactory data for my calculations, and having given the most unremitting attention to the present state of the country, I shall only suffer a consideration of the disparity of the statements, to make me more minute, and distinct, in my explanation of the principles upon which I have formed my opinions, which when once developed will I trust sufficiently evince the justice of them.

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6th. It appears necessary to lay the principal grounds of the difference in rent on me, in justice to Mr. Brown. His man's laborious, and minute arrangements admit in a great measure his promises which he has founded the proposed rate.

7th. In the first place Mr. J. which the produce of the Soil has been such as should be continued, for though amount of the Revenue of each House perpetual Jammah is made, the measure of the year 1197, as the Jammah, is assessment, amounts to within less than years, under which the year 1197 was but those of the renter also; my objection is different, as I do not conceive that any former rate of assessing the Soil, with any well founded hope of Security to Government, or prosperity to the Inhabitants which are indeed to be considered as inseparable.

8th. In support of this opinion I beg leave to call your attention to the following remarks on the different modes of assessment of Land that have hitherto obtained, in this Division; which may be distinguished under the three Heads of Sistoo, Bilmuktah, and Bangum.

9th. The first of these terms, signifies properly any money settlement of land, but the nature of the engagement to which it is generally applied is an indefinite, and conditional agreement, between the Farmer, & Ryot, whereby, the latter obliges himself to cultivate a certain quantity of land, for which the former grants him an Assura or protection Cowle, specifying a very inadequate Revenue for the same, but this Cowle is merely pro futuro, to afford a sanction for the cultivation; for, when the produce is in an advanced state, an advance of the Crop is taken, and a Malwatty or increase, added to the original Cowle, equivalent to the difference between the amount therein stated; and the full value of the share of the produce received from Ground of a similar description, to the spot for which the Cowle may have been granted. At first sight this mode of levy from its indefinite nature may be deemed vexatious from the abuse that it may be liable to, but if the principle upon which it is formed, be strictly attended to it will be found not more oppressive than any other form of settlement, and where it has place in high ground or such as is of precarious cultivation; it is preferable to Bilmuktah or fixed money rent, in as much, as the risk of the cultivator is less, in the event of any considerable failure from draught or other circumstances, when he becomes liable only to the payment of the amount stipulated in the Assura Cowle.—The circumstances above stated evidently prove that this mode of settlement is particularly calculated for the less fertile parts of the country the conditions being such as to prevent neglect or desertion on the part of the cultivator, and at the same to render his risk proportionate only to the prospect of ultimate advantage; in many cases however the original equitable principle of this mode of Assessment is altogether disregarded, and renters or other managers have frequently in order to make good their engagements to the Circar levied a Malwatty, or increase upon ground, not only beyond the real value of the Circar share of the produce, but actually exceeding the whole produce, when draught or other circumstances shall have greatly reduced the Crop.

10th. The Bilmuktah, is a fixed rent in money settled at the time of cultivation which admits of no subsequent variation, and as far as it affords Security both to the farmer, and ryot, by precluding the possibility of exaction on the one part or evasion on the other, it must be considered preferable to any other mode of assessment on the land, it does not however obtain very generally, being chiefly in use in high land, and in tracts long uncultivated, which are granted on low Bilmuktah rents to such as are willing to risk their property in reclaiming the soil; the great uncertainty however, and frequent fluctuations in the value of an Indian harvest particularly in a part of the country, which has derived so few agricultural advantages from the assistance of Art, must ever contribute to prevent an adequate revenue, being generally settled with the ryots at the time of cultivation, and hence arises the very general prevalence, (in preference to the two systems above mentioned), of cultivating the ground for the Bangum or share of the produce.

11th. The rate of this last mode of assessing the land, varies in three several degrees according to the nature of the ground, and the condition and Caste of the cultivating Ryot. The Sengooroo, or half share being confined either to the Rachewar, Vollarar, or high cast Telinga Inhabitants, or to such Pykerry cultivators, as may resort, to a neighbouring village, and engage in the cultivation of such parts of the land, as the indogenous, or Cadeem Ryots, may be unequal to the task of tilling; for which, (as an extraordinary duty, they are considered entitled to the more ample remuneration; the other two proportions of the Crop allowed to the Ryot are those of two fifths and one third, at which rates the pollam lands are generally allotted to the Cadeem cultivators, throughout the country.

12th. There are also other modifications of the assessment in kind, Cowles being occasionally given, for the receipts of five ninths of the Crop, sometimes for only two fifths, when ground has been long waste &c., but these exceptions occur too seldom to be admitted among the general customs of the country.

13. I have not been able to ascertain the period from whence these rules of division date their origin, but from several circumstances I am induced to believe that the Ryots share of one third is in many parts of the country a very inadequate return for his labour. If it were confined to those tracts of such peculiar fertility in the pollam lands as to require little or no labour to ensure the most luxuriant crop, (and such there doubtless are in several parts of this Division,) the husbandman might doubtless be well contented with his lot provided the revenue were receivable in kind; but this is by no means the case, two thirds of the crop being generally considered as the Circar's right from all jerayetty pollam ground, cultivated by Cadeem Inhabitants, and every deviation from this demand, as a sacrifice on the part of the Circar in favor of the ryot, and it may therefore be well imagined that from the improvident rapacity so inherent in the character of the Natives that instances of the Cadeem Inhabitants enjoying even the moderate share of two fifths, are proportionally few.

14. To this circumstance, as well as to the prevailing custom of receiving the Circar's share in money wherever it is not absolutely impossible, to raise it, from the poverty of the cultivating Inhabitants; I am to attribute the restless discontent so frequently observable among that class of people occasioning them from time to time to emigrate from one Hoondah to another, from the Havelly to the Zemindary, and also from the Zemindary to Havelly; but another very convincing proof of the inadequacy of the share of the produce allowed to the Cadeem cultivator, appears in the more favorable conditions universally granted by all Maniamdars to their cultivators, none of whom throughout my division find a possibility of cultivating their Manium, even at so great an allowance as two fifths of the produce, and in consequence the surgooroo, or half share is universally allowed by them; this circumstance is taken advantage of by the renter or manager on the part of the Circar, and it is a fact that several spots of Jerayetty ground can only be brought into cultivation, by engaging as a condition with the cultivator for the annexing thereto a certain portion of the Manium ground, this custom (evidently an infringement of the original right of the Maniumdar) has obtained for such a length of time that in some places the cultivation of certain manium ground is considered an actual right annexed to the occupying of Jerayetty ground, and claims are instituted upon the strength of it, but these would I imagine be set aside by any Adawlut Court, provided the maniamdar's claims were valid, and I only bring forward the circumstances in proof of the opinion, that the land is in some measure over assessed, and that upon the change of system, the Proprietors of Estates will find themselves obliged to lower their demands on the ryots, in order to secure their good will, and co-operation in extending the cultivation and that therefore, the same produce from the same extent of cultivated ground ought not to be reckoned upon, as the immediate receipt to the proprietor. I do not however conceive that this will materially affect the revenue to be expected from the country, as I doubt not that the temporary sacrifice of the proprietor would be in a very short period amply rewarded; indeed, were the revenue receivable in kind, even the third of the crop might be deemed a sufficient return to the labouring ryot in many parts of the country, but, when a revenue must be raised, by mortgage or disposal of the crop, at the season when it is least valuable, unless that revenue, be ascertained by rating the produce at a very moderate price, it must be evident that the nominal share remaining to the ryot, must be greatly diminished, so much so that a few plentiful years, if the circumstance were not particularly attended to, might prove ruinous to the person, whose welfare would upon a first consideration of the subject appear to be proportionate to the goodness of the season.

15. I came now to another point of difference in the opinions delivered by my predecessor, and myself, on the proposed Jammah of this Division viz., the proportion of the Dowry; to be allotted to the proprietor of an Estate, which from the statement of the Revenue appearing in Mr. Brown's report must

I conceive have been calculated at the usual rate of this principle of calculation I must think to the judgement I have formed of the information forming a Permanent Settlement such a project object in view for so far from enabling the I apprehend oblige them to observe parsimony and lead to rigorous and illiberal treatment more weighty object of the Security of the district exposed, by allowing a proportion altogether disproportionate to the risk of loss has proved landed property in this country.

16th. I have been informed, and permanent settlement in many of the Bengal districts enjoying a tythe of the Government share my predecessor's estimate, but however enjoying the benefits of invariably plentiful supply of climate, I am confident that in this district fluctuation of seasons and markets, if calculated.

17th. The tenor of the Board's order, the 15th October 1793, imply (at least such is the construction that I have been induced to put upon them) an intention of dividing the Havelly Lands into Estates or Zemindaries, bearing such an assessment, as upon a deliberate investigation of the resources of the district shall appear to secure to Government, an equitable proportion of the landed revenue in perpetuity, without risk of defalcation, and to the Zemindar or proprietor the means of comfortable subsistence and independence according to his rank in life and of carrying on such gradual improvements, as the nature of his district may admit of thereby increasing the Security of Government while he adds to his own private fortune, upon this principle, I am led to conceive the Board mentioned the proportion of two-thirds of the Gross collections as stated by the Committee of Circuit for the basis of the Permanent Settlement, two thirds of the Circar's share of the produce being the general average of the Zemindar's payments.

18th. Where long possession of an extensive landed property, held upon easy terms, may have given rise to habits of expensive luxury, and entailed ideas of the necessity of pomp and pageantry, such an allowance may become a manner necessary, but where the country is leased out or sold to persons whose sole aim will be to acquire wealth by a thrifty attention to its improvement, and who have imbibed from their infancy no false notions of the charms of grandeur, a more moderate share of the produce will certainly suffice to afford them every means of rational happiness, and comfort, and to enable them at the same time to obey the dictates of speculative industry, in executing plans of agricultural improvement, or useful commerce; this however should not I conceive in any case be less than 10, and need in none exceed 20 per cent. upon what may appear to be a just estimate of the Kham Dowle of the district at this period, & upon this principle I shall propose the Jumma, varying it between the two preceeding rates of Assessment, according to the local circumstances of each Hoondah, submitted for your consideration in a subsequent part of this address.

19th. It becomes necessary to notice in the next place, the extent of the means of improvement and consequent benefit therefrom to the country, a calculation of which (appearing to me I confess altogether fallacious) seems to have been another principal cause of the very great excess in my predecessor's Statement beyond the amount that I have considered myself justified in proposing as the permanent Land Tax.

20th. I much wish that it were in my power on this occasion to lay before you a correct professional Survey of the practicable operations necessary throughout the district for extending, and facilitating the cultivation, by securing and augmenting the sources of supply of water, such a work however would have demanded more time and attention than I could possibly with an attention to my other duties have bestowed upon it; and although such a document would certainly afford a most desirable acquisition of satisfactory information, I do not conceive it by any means indispensable in forming a very fair judgement of the value that should be attached to the possible, or probable sources of improvement to any

of Share or Commission of ten per cent. though even upon proposed Jumma is over rated, but I confess that, according to the view with which Government have been desirous of the Revenue is by no means adequate to obtain the means to undertake, any plans of improvement, it would be a frugality in executing even the necessary annual repairs, the Ryots; independent however of this consideration, the views of Government, would in my opinion be very considerably ten per cent. for the profit of the renter an advantage seasons, and other calamitous incidents, to which experience is particularly obnoxious.

under a from an authority of much weight, that the perception was formed upon an assumption of the proprietor of the land, and this would appear to justify in some measure such an allowance might be found, in countries possessing of water from the Ganges, or enjoying a very regular would be found a very inadequate provision against the loss upon any moderate average of the produce.

the 15th October 1793, imply (at least such is the construction

47th. My principal aim has been in exhibiting the revenue of this, as well as of all the other Hoondahs to separate the unjust and oppressive levies in the collections of former years from such as may be deemed fair, and legal, and which will be consequently continued, and enforced, under the new system of Judicature; the task however is rendered in a great measure impracticable by the variety, and intricacy of abuses, the extent of which can hardly be ascertained at this period.

48th. The principal oppressions however consisted in a gross abuse of the system of taxing the land by the Malwatty tribute, mentioned in a former part of this address, and in obliging the Ryot to make a money settlement of the Circar's share of the produce, at a rate at which it was wholly impossible that he should find a sale for it, which was sometimes carried to the height that the whole of the produce would barely raise a sum equal to the collections on the part of the Circar; in the Cassimcootah Village indeed, the latter of these evils was less known, probably, because it was more immediately under the eye and protection of the Company's authority, but the absence of that mode of oppression, was of little avail to the Ryot, while for the greatest part of the land was assessed according to the system of Assera and Malawatty, in levying which little or no attention appears to have been paid to the actual state of the produce.

49th. To decide exactly on the extent, to which this abuse has been carried, is at this period almost impossible, but in order to destroy its effect in influencing my calculations of the resources of the country; I have after making every possible enquiry upon the subject, (both verbally, and by a minute examination of every written document relating to it,) formed my calculation upon a fair produce from the computed extent of ground at present in cultivation, and likely to be brought under the plough by any immediate exertion of the proprietor, affixing thereto, such a valuation as an examination of the settlement and selling prices of grain throughout the country for a series of years will warrant the expectation of, and allowing such share to the Circar, as the state of population might be supposed to occasion the employment of Cadeem or Pykarry cultivators.

50th. This is the principle upon which I have proceeded but I am sorry to add that in pursuing it (simple as it appears,) I have met in the Cassimcootah Hoondah with a source of considerable difficulty which calls for a particular explanation while it may affect the future revenue as it has operated to occasion a most material difference in the statements of my predecessors and myself in this Hoondah.

51st. The circumstance to which I allude, is the influence which the cultivation of the alienated lands has upon the revenue of the Foktoo, or proper Jerayetty land, the villagers in which this principally exists, (indeed, the only places where I have found it materially affect my enquiries into the value of the Circar land, although it has in a less degree influenced the revenue in other places), are Cusbah Cassimcootah, and Aravapollam.

52nd. The revenue or circars share of the crop from the former of these villages, is estimated by my predecessor at Rupees 5,891 for which a Veel Zabiteh or estimate of the produce is shewn, stating a crop which is to produce this sum; now, as far as my experience, and my enquiries on the subject, will enable me to judge I am compelled to believe it altogether impossible that such a revenue ever was or will be derived from the circars land, provided that the persons cultivating that land shall have a fair share (or even sufficient for subsistence) from the produce.

53rd. That such a revenue and even more, has been collected from the village, and if the same latitude were allowed, and the Ryots are not drained of their substance, that it might possibly be again, I am willing to allow, but, I trust that I shall be fully justified in not having entertained, or suggested expectation of it, when my enquiries on the subject have given me the fullest reason to believe that it has hitherto been swelled, by the operations of oppression, and chicanery.

54th. Cassimcootah, as will be well known to the Committee, was at the time of the session of the Circars a Havelly village formerly the seat of one of the subordinate officers of the Mahomedan Government, and of consequence a large proportion of the land both Pallam and Mettoo was gifted to persons of that religion.

55th. The change of Government, has by degrees most materially affected that property, and upon plea of invalidity of deed (probably often just), and other pretences, much has been resumed chiefly during the rent of the Havelly by Sitteram Rauze, about 20 years. Cusbah village however

about 7 cutties of Mettoo and 9 of Pollam off, and under the superintendence of Man known) but mingled with an equal portion from its being I suppose resumed land, or who on the part of the Circar cultivates a equal portion of the former, for which a to other maniams, a Cuttobady or payment Rupees per garce.

56th. The rule of division orig the ryot and maniumdar, but for a long Mallawatty being demanded of the ryot, amount of the nuzzer; which demand, the of plundering in his turn, the maniumdar zer, never in any instance obtains a prop

57th. Strange as it may apper plaint, nor should I perhaps have obtained demands of malwatty on particular parts habitants of this part of the country are their spirit is broken, and indigence has means barely to subsist,) that they have

58th. The nature of this abus with exactness the amount of it, and I he tion, of the Circars land; and the nuzzer, a resumption of the land, if it shall be fo obtained by regular process.

59th. With regard to the ten that while the nominal incumbents have sumption of them by Government might perpetual annuity payable by the propri representatives of the original grantees,

60th. The Braminical alien, the difficulties that attended the invest will no doubtless be resumed in all part part of Government, but it is to be con chased the privilege of so doing, by the in many cases if adopted fall short, in the indirect tax which has already been ma

61st. In the village of Aravay made by an undue encrease of malwatty land for which I have also ma to a due estimated revenue in both these villages making, I think the Cassimcotah Hoond than most other districts, and I should or kept under aumany purpose a slight

62nd. Considering its resour and of a mild character, I do not doub ryots, are in general much impoverished prietor, to effect any very sensible imp myself justified in estimating a higher g ited in my genera! Statement

still remain as Masced Manium land, not separately man ars; (by whom I do not believe the boundaries would erajetty land, which is called Masced Jerajetty, e. the connection it still has with Masced tenures; the of the latter ground, has a prescriptive right to cultiv or Nuzzer is paid to Government, not, (as in the e quantity of land), but on the produce, at the rate

was, that the crop and nuzzer should be equally divide past, the grossest abuse exists in this respect, an enorm an unfair valuation of the produce, in order to raise is induced to comply with, for the privilege he has assu although he is obliged to account for his share of the ate share of the produce.

a circumstance never came before me in the form accurate a knowledge of it, but for the apparent e land; but it is a melancholy fact that the Mus luced, by a long series of oppression, and calam he so habitual to them, that they forget, (if they ha rights to ask.

the degree in which it varied, prevents my stating of co therefore confined myself to state what appears a fair val ng the other manium receipts, and any thing farther, u to be improperly or informally alienated, will of course

above described, should it be deemed admissible, I co any cases not the means of cultivating the land that an ade upon very moderate terms either for a sum of money, of the Estate, which would afford a material relief, to render the value of the Estate more compact and clear.

re in general better defined, and consequently not subject n of the mussalmen grants, many however of this descripti the country, should claims be instituted for recovery on t ed that while the ryot cultivating them has frequently p ease of his tax to the circar, the resumption of such land v revenue it might be at first sight expected to produce, from t its produce.

m, a similar indirect assessment of Braminical maniums v the circar produce frequently beyond the total produce of t ance, which might account for the apparent inadequacy of t indeed from every observation I have had an opportunity throughout exhibits symptoms of being more heavily assess insequence whether the district be rented, or settled by villag action; of its Dowle.

if placed in perpetuity under a proprietor of industrious habi it possesses the means, of encrease in the revenue; but t id it will take both time and expence on the part of a p nent to the state of the district, I have therefore not thou circar land revenue according to the various valuations of la ppees 12,462 0 0 on a cultivation of 101 Cutties from whic tent, at the least that a proprietor would require to do iusti

to his Estate, this would leave a net Jerajetty land revenue of Rupees 10,966 0 0 and with the propor tion I would recommend of the receipts classed under the head of extra revenue, will make a sum of Ru ppees 14,010 15 5 which I should propose as the Permanent Settlement.

CONDAKIRLAH

63rd. The Condakirrah Hoondah, comes next under consideration, which during the five years immediately preceeding the famine, produced to the Circar an average annual revenue of Rupees 30,208 5 1; an amount which a consideration of the Khan accounts evinces to have been obtainable only by the most severe exaction as it bears no reasonable proportion to any possible produce that can be expected from the soil, and as the subsequent calamity, falling upon inhabitants drained of the little property wherein they might have found some temporary shelter, from its cruel effects, diminished the revenue in a far greater proportion, than it did that of the surrounding districts, reducing it to little more than one third of its former amount, the average receipts of the Circar during its continuance being only Rupees 11,817 2 10 annually, a circumstance the more remarkable while it enjoys the advantage, of an extensive lake, which was never wholly dry during the famine.

64th. The return of this District, to its present state of prosperity, has been very slow, the of the six years revenue subsequent to the famine having been only Rupees 17,798 7 0 and though not years settlement of Rupees 22,000 was realized I am much inclined to believe that no farther encrease can be expected with any prospect of security, or a due regard to the welfare of the inhabitants, and therefore although I have little or no doubt of the present years settlement being realized without a balance, it will I am confident be with so little advantage to the renter that I should not conceive I were doing my duty in recommending it on that account as the permanent Jumma, the season has been with little exception very favorable throughout the country, and, the renters have generally enjoyed the benefit of a favorable disposal, of the crops; but such advantages it is well known in this country are precarious, and therefore, while the price of Paddy is liable to fall as in the year 1797 to 15 Rupees the country garce much consideration would appear necessary before an estimate of the revenue should be formed, calculated upon the sale of it at 30, Rupees.

65th. In my estimate of the value of land throughout this district, I have generally calculated the produce of the pollum land at twenty-five Rupees, which I find to be rather above the average selling price for ten years exclusive of the period of the famine, some of the Mettoo land however from being particularly well calculated for the growth of the more valuable pulse, and other grains the produce has been estimated higher; but in this District as well as Cassimcotah, I have found it impossible to form my estimate entirely from the fixed nominal shares of the produce, a mode of statement, which, if it exhibits a revenue at all equal to what has been, and may be with justice collected from the country, must be in some degree fallacious, because, it is well known, that much of the mettoo land has been taxed, beyond one half of the produce, and much of the pollam, beyond two thirds, nor is this to be looked upon as an encroach ment on the ryot, or an exaction on the part of the renter, so long as the levy is made in an open and fair mode, for of course, an inhabitant cultivating a vissum of land producing forty candies of grain, and receiving twelve as his share, must be deemed better off, than another, who from the same portion of a worse soil shall receive ten out of thirty Candies although the proportion of the produce to the renter is greater in the first instance, and this inequality in the value of the soil, has been the reason of the introduction of money settlements, which almost always will be found to exceed in their amount, the value of the ryots nominal share of the produce.

66th. Adverting to this circumstance, and also to the advantage taken where extensive tracts of Manium lands are situated for encreasing the Dowles of the Jerajetty land, while I have thought it necessary to make every possible enquiry regarding the produce in order to give me a fair idea of the future hopes of a proprietor, I have not thought it incumbent upon me, to frame invariably an estimate of the revenue calculated upon a fixed portion of the produce, but I have after a minute investigation in order to ascertain what may have been paid by the ryot, beyond what the general produce, and price of it would warrant; affixed to every gradation of the soil in each village such a revenue as I have good reason to believe a proprietor will be enabled to obtain from the inhabitants of his country by a fair, and open en gagement, such as would have been the case, if a Court of Adawlut,

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67th. Upon these principles cannot I conceive be rated at more than improvement or encrease of their cultivation in my opinion offering for them 10 per cent. and I therefore have to propose which will leave a net revenue to the proportion of nine-tenths of the extra as the permanent settlement for the

68th. The Monagapauk from supplies of water, is perhaps preferable to less fluctuation in its revenue, which amounted on an average to Rupees 26,092 8 1 being above two thirds of when an influence too, was exerted to ascribed to the goodness of the soil and residence of many of the most opulent means of so successfully employing the prevailed in this as well as the other District revenue during the whole period of its regular exhibits an encrease of the form

69th. The Revenue, during the famine, from the exorbitant value which was a source of encrease, which other districts for the subsequent years to the end of the average of six years, only exhibit in the Rupees 26,320 11 2, while the dowle of the short of the collections, during the famine

70th. The above fact while the seasons which might have contributed to advances to improvement with those of circumstances attending its cultivation; revenue derived from it in former times would enable it to bear, one great cause, the other parts of the division, is the land which is now carried on by the labor and others to call in during the great famine never likely to be entirely laid aside, for render the returns of the cultivator and the means of reducing the expense of it is to be feared, from the great probable down the price of labor, that the improvement until an encrease of population, and could produce a general competition among them, certainly too remote to enter even in the formed of the revenue, derivable by a

71st. Under these circumstances, I might every reasonable profit to the Circar Rupees 29,192 13 9 according to the this, be added the Cattobaddy on Manam which may be reckoned upon as the

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total produce of the circars land as they afford a present revenue annual sum of Rupees 21,982 10 nor can the prospect of when the fluctuation of seasons is considered warrant a perpetuity for a less consideration than an allowance of 12 per cent. to the utmost deference that the above deduction shall, be made in perpetuity of Rupees 19,344 11 4 making with the sum of Rupees 21,037 6 10 which I should recommend

MONAGAPAUKE.

From the general goodness of its soil, and the nature of the crops in this Division, and has from the above causes been during the five years immediately preceding the famine a sum that during its continuance only fell about one third of the amount collected on an average of the most flourishing the resources of the country to the utmost; this well as to the very fortunate circumstance of its farmers in the division, who possessed in consequence of the poorer ryots that notwithstanding the mortality among that class of people, many of the villages produce a revenue little short of their former standard and one in particular, (Wadrapilly.)

During this calamitous period however appears to have been forced, and agricultural produce, bore, at the time, to have destroyed the suffered more severely at the time, appear to have retained far from shewing a general encrease of revenue, upon an average of six years, only exhibit in the Rupees 26,320 11 2, while the dowle of the short of the collections, during the famine

is no particular proof of bad management, or of unfavorable circumstances, which might have contributed to advances to improvement with those of circumstances attending its cultivation; revenue derived from it in former times would enable it to bear, one great cause, the other parts of the division, is the land which is now carried on by the labor and others to call in during the great famine never likely to be entirely laid aside, for render the returns of the cultivator and the means of reducing the expense of it is to be feared, from the great probable down the price of labor, that the improvement until an encrease of population, and could produce a general competition among them, certainly too remote to enter even in the formed of the revenue, derivable by a

I have not found it practicable (with every desire, to bring to the land,) to estimate the Jernetty produce at more than the calculations recorded in the accompanying documents; if to be added Vissobaddy for maniam cultivation &c. the total amount of the Proprietor will be Rupees 31,745 10.

72nd. Much advantage may not be expected from any extension of the cultivation in this District, but on the other hand the soil is so good and the supplies of water so various that less risk seems attached to the charge of this Hoondah, than is to be generally met with in other parts of the country, and this circumstance as well as a very considerable profit that a renter may derive from vesting his own property in the cultivation of Sugar, Tumeric, and similar productions induce me to propose, the same allowance for the Proprietor that I have in the last mentioned district, which will leave a net revenue to the Government of Rupees 27,937 6 6 a sum which though less than either the rent of the last, or current year, I cannot conceive could be exceeded, by any proposer for the country with well founded hopes of permanent advantage to himself, or of security to the Government.

ANKAPILLY.

73rd. The Ankapilly Hoondah, contains tracts both of the richest, and also of the least fertile soil that is to be found within this division; the Cusbah village and one or two more situated between the river issuing from the Waddady country and the lake exhibiting the most luxurious pollam land, and Mettoo which (yielding two or three crops and fit for garden cultivation) is of equal value, while that of most of the other villages situated on the eastern side of the lake is of so barren a nature, as to produce little or no paddy, and in many parts only such slender crops of the least valuable small grains, as to restrict their muctah or quit rent to about two rupees per vissum.

74th. The revenue, from the Circar land of this district on an average of five years immediately preceding the famine was Rupees 31,364 11 11½ an assessment which an experience of the produce of subsequent years would induce one to believe was less overstrained than that on many other parts of the country while under native management, as the receipts from the district ever since that calamity during which they fell to about 18,761 14 2 Rupees, have gradually improved, the average Kham collections of the six years from 1793 to 1798 inclusive being Rupees 26,464 13 ½ and the Kham Settlement of the last Fusely amounting to Rupees 30,628 7 10.

75th. It is to be observed however that the encrease of the Revenue above noticed is very partial being principally confined to the Cusbah village, and another called Lankalappolum, the former of which during the last year nearly equalled, and the latter exceeded in its produce the amount collected previous to the famine. In the case of the latter village however the revenue was so far overstrained on the part of the renter, although without any act of open oppression, and injustice, that I do not conceive it should be by any means assumed as a criterion to judge of its average value in future, and I have accordingly from an attentive enquiry into the resources of the village been induced to affix a reduced valuation to it.

76th. Most of the other villages, consisting almost wholly of high land have suffered so materially from the effects of the famine, that the encrease of tillage, and repair of all the little tanks necessary to restore them to their former fertility, are circumstances of such distant calculation that any person who was desirous of becoming a permanent land holder would I imagine be deterred from entering into engagements of the kind were a consideration of the practicability of such improvements, to operate to affix to the revenue a higher valuation than what I have here given. With an attention to this circumstance notwithstanding the proofs of an entire recovery from the effects of the famine observable in the Cusbah village which produces two thirds of the whole revenue, I have not conceived myself justified in estimating the permanent receipts of the Circar according to the present state of the country at more than Rupees 30,535 6 which together with the Cattobaddy on the Maniam of different descriptions will make the estimated annual receipts of a proprietor Rupees 32,831 2 2.

77th. From this revenue while no doubt an improvement may be effected in several of the Mettoo villages by a temporary sacrifice of the revenues to the repairs, and formation of tanks, and for the encouragement of the cultivation, by advantageous settlements for the ryots a deduction of fifteen per cent. may be deemed sufficient for the proprietor, but certainly less could not be allowed as no encrease can be expected on the proposed Dowle of the principal village, (which produces above two thirds of the whole revenue) and I should accordingly venture to recommend, that allowance which will leave the permanent receipts of the Circar with the extra revenue Rupees 28,016 2 11 a sum less than the rent for the two last years, but to which a consideration of its resources does not warrant an encrease.

14
10
MELLOPAUK.

78th. The Mellopauk district, consisting chiefly of the richest pollam land in this division, generally well supplied with water from the numerous water-courses branching from the river, which takes its rise in the Waddady Purgunnah of the Vizianagram Zemindary, from the facility of cultivation exhibits a less proportion of barren tracts the consequence of the famine than many of the other Hoondahs, though its effects are still sufficiently apparent in several parts of it, and must operate among other causes for sometime to keep the revenue below what the country will be when in a state of ample population capable of producing.

79th. Its Dowle upon an average of five years preceeding the famine was Rupees 37,166 7 7½ a revenue which when the land was fully and carefully tilled, and specie in considerable abundance, I can conceive to have been realized, (though not without having recourse occasionally to means which under an English administration of the revenues, will be found inadmissible,) but which in the present situation of affairs no proprietor can be expected to realize.

80th. I have in forming the estimate of the revenue, included in the general Schedule, paid every attention to the prospect of improvement to the cultivation, which in this District is less striking than in many others, indeed so contracted, that I have been able to lay no stress upon it, in considering a revenue to be fixed at present. The produce since the famine has fluctuated considerably in different years but the average of six years, to the end of 1208, was only Rupees 16,278 4 0 the effects of that calamity might however even to that period be considered as operating with considerable force, and I should therefore suppose a reference to the subsequent Jummah a preferable criterion for appreciating its value.

81st. The Kham Dowle for 1800 was Rupees 22,300 13 11 and I have reason to believe (though I have not to this time got in the Kham Statements complete) that the revenue of this year will be higher, but though I am not unwilling to believe it possible that an augmentation may still continue for sometime, a consideration of the state of the country and the possibility of the operation of causes of a contrary tendency, by the reduction of a price of grain, a competition of different proprietors to obtain labouring hand which may rather enhance the cost of agriculture, and other circumstances, induces me to limit my expectations of a permanent land revenue to the sum of Rupees 23,875 4 0.

82nd. From this gross Circar Dowle, when the vicissitude of seasons is considered by which, the districts containing much pollam land are particularly affected; both from, a deficiency or superabundance of rain, I am of opinion that a less deduction cannot be allowed to a proprietor than 20 per cent. particularly as a constant expence must be incurred for repairs. I have accordingly calculated that allowance which will leave the net Government land tax Rupees 19,100 3 2 and together with the usual proportion of extra Revenue make the sum proposed for the permanent settlement of the Revenue, Rupees 20,700 12 2 which I beg leave to recommend.

83rd. It becomes here proper to notice a circumstance, touched upon by my predecessor but which appears to me to require explicit orders, upon granting the country in perpetuity. A Dam, of considerable extent, runs through a great part of the Mellopauk Hoondah confining, and guiding the waters of the river before noticed by which a great part of the richest crops of the Pansadarlah, Servasiddy, and some of the demily Hoondah, are protected from inundation which they would be continually liable to, but for the existence and preservation in repair of this Dam, which was consequently under the former Government kept in order by the joint contributions of several villages belonged to all these estates; since the renting of the country, however in its present divisions, I have already found some difficulty, in procuring the usual assistance for an occasional repair which I found necessary to make to it owing to the disputes between the different renters, and as these will be still more likely to exist when the exclusive right in the soil shall be permanently vested in them, I would recommend either that a clause be particularly inserted in the conditions of sale or transfer of the Mellopauk Hoondah providing for the strong and efficient preservation of such part of this dam on Mound as is included within the boundary of the estate, or if it is the intention of Government to preserve any such works at the public expence that a fixed rule be made noticing the villages and proportions of Assessment which shall be henceforth observed, in making any repair that may be necessary.

15
6
DEMILY.

84th. The Demily Hoondah like the foregoing district consists chiefly of pollam land and that the most productive considerable tracts of it producing more than a garce on the vissum, and the facility with which it is watered by the numerous channels that intersect it issuing from the Waddady river, rendering the cultivation of it an operation of little labor, little or no arable land remains uncultivated in the low country.

85th. In some parts however the very circumstance which occasions its fertility becomes a source of danger to the property of the individual, a too heavy fall of rain in the greater monsoon subjecting part of the crops to be swept away by the violence of the current, and in others, to be destroyed, by the water lodging in the field and thereby destroying the powers of vegetation.

86th. This circumstance must of course be taken into consideration as a risk attending the possession of the district by any proprietor, and one that will of course exercise both his ingenuity and pecuniary resources in the operation of draining and embanking.

87th. The Estate is however not altogether dependent on the pollam produce for its revenue a considerable tract of mettoo land some very good, and mostly capable of considerable improvement, running the whole length of the Western boundary of the district from North to South, composing a great part of the villages of Poddapilly, Agraharam, Cokerapilly, Yellamunchelly, and Vellamapollam, from whence a considerable revenue is derived at present and, which displays a fair prospect of future improvement, but not such, as I conceive can operate to augment the revenue settled at the present juncture.

88th. The revenue of this district appears before the famine to have been on an average of five years immediately preceding that of Rupees 34,607 8 4½ exclusive of maniums, much of this dowle however must have been the result of exaggerated anchanahs fictitious prices and other oppressive means of augmenting the Circar's revenue, at least such would appear to have been the case from a consideration of its present produce.

89th. In the year 1206 the Ryanny settlement was above 21,000 Rupees but though it appears at present to have been realized, the produce of the subsequent years would lead one to suppose that, it must have been under circumstance peculiarly favorable, as until the last Fussy, it has never produced so much since. For these two years however the settlement has been nearly the same and admitted of a regular realization without much difficulty on the part of the renter and I trust without much hardship to the ryot, but then it must be observed that the crops have been tolerably good the seasons with few exceptions regular, and the demand for grain such as to occasion a price for the produce far more advantageous, than can be calculated upon for a constancy, and therefore while I have in some instances estimated an encrease of revenue by an extent of agriculture I have been obliged to make on the other hand an allowance for a decrease in the value of the produce. Upon a consideration of these circumstances, as well as of the great diminution of Cadeem Ryots labor, I have only been able to estimate the proprietors interest in the soil according to the present state of the country at Rupees 24,252 8 0 if to this be added the maniums and extra revenue valued at Rupees 3,482 7 8 the whole will amount to Rupees 27,734 15 8.

90th. From the first and principal branch of revenue when I consider the circumstances of this estate, and the risk attending the extensive pollam cultivation, I feel myself obliged to recommend the same deduction as in the case of the Mellopauk estate viz. 20 per cent. which leaves the net Government land revenue 19,402 Rupees this with the usual proportion of nine-tenths of the extra receipts, will exhibit a total revenue of Rupees 22,536 3 8 which I have to propose as a permanent settlement affording a fair receipt to Government, and the means of subsistence and the possibility of accumulation to the proprietor, without oppression to the ryot.

SERVASIDDY.

91st. The Servasiddy Hoondah, comprising a large extent of the best pollam land in the District, and having besides the advantage of its vicinity to the Sea-coast by which the disposal of the produce is greatly facilitated is nevertheless subject to inconveniences which from the fluctuation occasioned by them in the produce of the land demand a considerable attention in prescribing a permanent Jummah for it.

92nd. In the first place it is very scantily provided with Mettoo land, a circumstance always unfavorable to an estate, while in case of unpropitious seasons when draught is the occasion of failure, the productions of the Mettoo land, arriving at perfection (if there be but moisture sufficient for tillage) nourished only by the humidity of the nightly dews, afford a very considerable counterbalance against the loss which may arise from the failure of the paddy crop.

93rd. Another evil is the low and open situation of part of its land, which in very wet seasons renders part of the crop liable to damage by putridity, and also in sudden and heavy rains subjects others to injury by the influence of the river which sweeps away the crop and covers other parts with sand.

94th. Such evils are however partial, and may probably when the undivided attention of a proprietor shall be given to them (which must of course be supposed more earnest than that of the persons hitherto employed on the part of Government,) be in a great measure provided against, and counteracted, and I have no doubt from the very luxuriant fertility which abounds in many parts of the estate it will become the object of several competitors when disposed of.

95th. Its Dowe upon an average of five years preceding the famine is by the accounts taken by Mr. Brown rated as high as Rupees 44,553 8 6 a sum which I cannot certainly conceive to have been fairly realized from the avowed Circars share of the crop in any one year, much less as the average of a series of years, let them have been never so favorable, the ground it is true, under the plough at that time, appears to have been nearly one fourth more than I find a possibility, of estimating a produce from at present, part having been destroyed by sand, and other lying fallow for want of labor which under the existing state of population I see no immediate prospect of obtaining, but still with the knowledge that exists of the price of grain at that period and of the capability of the soil it is but too probable that much of the revenue must have been the effect of oppression.

96th. During the famine it fell to little more than 9,000 Rupees a decrease greater than that in many surrounding districts and probably ascribable to former extortion, the effects however of that calamity, inflicted by the hand of Providence, baffle any attempt at reducing them to any fixed standard; from the conclusion of the famine to the year 1800 the averaged revenue is only 15,761 7 2½ Rupees, although Mr. Brown's settlement in 1796 was above 25,000 Rupees, but the subsequent decrease is to be ascribed to a reduction in the price of grain for two years almost unprecedented, and such as is not likely to again occur in the same degree.

97th. My settlements for both years since my arrival have been uncommonly fortunate; but then, a consideration of the circumstances, of tolerably good crops, indeed rather abundant, and a market far above mediocrity, which cannot be expected to operate invariably, make me cautious in extending my expectations of an increase of revenue, even where the country admits of improvement, and wholly prevent me from doing so in instances like the present, where much increase cannot be made to the cultivation. I have accordingly estimated the gross Circars produce from the Jerayetty land at Rupees 28,555 8 0 which may possibly by very favorable Circumstances be occasionally increased, but which must be considered too precarious to admit of a smaller allowance to the renter than 20 per cent. which will leave a net Jumrah to the Circar of Rupees 22,844 6 5 to which if the amount of Manium Cuttobaddy and extra revenue be added the permanent Jumrah of the estate will be Rupees 25,239 2 11 at which I recommend its being fixed.

RYAVERAM

98th. The Ryaveram Hoondah, exhibits very tolerably equal proportions of Mettoo, and pollam land, the former not in general of a very generous nature, but the latter in many parts of very striking fertility and enjoying an advantage which is wanting to most of the pollam lands above described, from the river, which supplies it water-courses, running on a more gently inclined slope, by which means although its supplies are always sufficiently plentiful when the rains are moderately heavy it never endangers the crops or arable land by the violence of its torrents.

99th. The revenue of this estates on an average of five years before the famine appears to have been above 37,000 Rupees, a sum which I conceive to have been strained by undue means, but still bearing a fairer proportion to the actual value of the land, than that stated from Serrasiddy, as many large villages were then in a state of opulence and possessing a crowded population, which have since been altogether reduced, and the proportion of arable land untilled is considerably greater, since the famine, during which the dowe was reduced to less than one-third of its former produce, it has produced on an average of six years nearly Rups. 14,000, during which Mr. Brown's settlement of 1206, being Rups. 20,181 is included,—but the very uncommon reduction in the price of grain for two successive years, and the short period that has elapsed since the famine, renders that period rather an unfair one, for establishing any judgement of the

Revenue of the country, which appears now to be only recovering from the effects of past calamity; to improve it however I cannot doubt of the efficacy of limiting the demand of Government, and from the judgment I have been enabled to form on an investigation of the resources of the Ryaveram Hoondah, I conceive it should be formed upon the assumption of an average gross Circar Dowe from the country of Rupees 21,616, exclusive of Maniums. From this I conceive when the quantity of good land lying waste is considered, and the facility of improving the cultivation of what is under tillage, by the construction of watercourses and tanks which will be supplied from the river, in short the capability of general improvement, which this district evinces, a deduction of 12 per cent. will be ample, and induce many to become competitors for the possession of this estate, according to this calculation, the net landed revenue to Government will be Rs. 18,373 9 7 which, with the amount of maniums &c. after the proposed deductions, will leave the proposed Jumrah of the estate Rupees 21,029 4 5 which I conceive fair both for Government and the proprietor.

NACKAPILLY.

100th. The Nackapilly Hoondah consists chiefly of Mettoo or high land, and is of course comparatively unproductive in proportion to the extent of land tilled; much however of the Mettoo land will doubtless improve in its fertility as population shall increase, and as the pollam land which is in this Hoondah is at present very productive, and may be rendered considerably more so, both by meliorating the land at present sown, and extending the cultivation by no very expensive process, I conceive that it is one of the best possessions considering its extent that any land-holder can obtain.

101st. Its average produce for five years before the famine was 29,277 6 3¼ from a computed cultivation of 263 Cutties and 4¼ vissums of land, and for six years for the termination of that scarcity it fell to 11,441 5 7 circumstances however occurred to keep it at that time below what probably ought to be considered as its proper value.

102nd. I do not however conceive that adverting to the favorable circumstances under which the collections have been made for the two last years that any great increase should be calculated upon beyond their produce for that period, although other circumstances, may occur to improve the resources which may not now exist.

103rd. I have accordingly in forming my estimate of the revenue of the villages from the information I have acquired, and ocular examination I made of their means limited my expectation of the landed revenue to be derived by any proprietor who is now put in possession, to Rupees 19,985; from which I conceive a less deduction ought not to be made as the renters advantage then 12 per cent. which will leave a net landed revenue to government from the Jerayetty land of Rupees 17,586 12 10 to this when the Cattobaddy from manium tenures, and extra revenue after the usual deductions, be added, the whole will be Rupees 18,515 15 9 which I recommend as the permanent revenue of Government.

STREERUMPORAM.

104th. The Streerumporan Hoondah as well as the one just described forms part of the old Sattiaiveram Purgunnah, formerly part of the territory under the Watsaway family, and ceded to the Pocrapaty family during the administration of Sitteram Rauze, in liquidation of a balance due to that family, upon which occasion, most of the Inhabitants of consequence, of all casts, attached to their former governors, and perhaps alarmed at the known rigor of Sitteram Rauze's character, retired to within the limits of the Peddapore Zemindary the emigration taking place more particularly from the old Cusbah Sattiaiveram, a village included by Mr. Brown in the Godicherlah Hoondah where there was formerly an extensive mud fort, which together with the greatest part of the village was utterly destroyed by Sitteram Rauze and the foundations ploughed up.

105th. Notwithstanding this circumstances, although the loss of such a number of wealthy Inhabitants must have very sensibly affected the wealth of the district, the great fertility of its soil plentifully watered by numerous watercourses branching from the river, (which issuing from the Gologondah Zemindary after passing through part of the Woorutlah purgunnah which it parts from the Cotapah District in Peddapore disembogues itself at Pentacotah) prevented it from remaining long unoccupied, at least by husbandmen who must find their labors better rewarded in this, than most districts of the division, and it accordingly appears, that the land revenue on an average of five years previous to the famine, was Rupees 31,986 13 3 a sum which with every allowance for the then existing oppression proves that the

cultivation must have been, very considerable, as above 180 cutties of land were brought under the plough. The famine committed its accustomed ravages in this as in every spot, and in consequence, the produce upon an average of six years subsequent to the years of immediate and absolute drought, was only Rupees 14,824 11 0 but this is in part ascribable to the total stagnation of the sale of grain for two years succeeding his settlement of Fusly 1206, when the settlement was 18,910 Rupees; that unfavorable circumstance has ceased to exist during my management, and I have accordingly been fortunate enough to conclude, and realize with tolerable ease two successive settlements, surpassing that sum; the very high price however that grain has borne during the two last years, has upon reflection made me cautious in admitting expectations of future increase founded upon the favorable change which has taken place in the last two years, particularly, as nearly the whole quantity of land stated as arable, has been brought into cultivation, the crop however was in the present year rather scanty in this district a circumstance that was more than counterbalanced by the increase of price. I have upon a consideration of these circumstances, and an investigation into the general amount of the crops, and present means of carrying on the cultivation, assumed as a principal datum of calculation of the permanent settlement, a gross circular land revenue of Rupees 21,899 formed at various valuations of the land as detailed in my general estimate, from the cultivation of 175 cutties and 13 vissum of land; from this, a more attentive, and constant repair than has hitherto taken place to the water channels, the digging of some few new ones, and construction and repair of tanks, will doubtless improve the produce, which is more valuable than that of most estates in the district from the general vend, either by Sea, or to the Peddapore and Pittapore Zemindaries; I am of opinion that a reduction of 15 per cent will in the first instance be sufficient to induce competitors to propose eagerly for the estate and with every prospect of deriving advantage from it; this will leave a net Jerayetty land revenue to Government of 18,614 2 5 Rupees, which with the addition of the maniam, Cattobaddy and extra revenue, will exhibit my proposed permanent Jummah from a proprietor of Rupees 19,551 6 6.

GODICHERIAH.

106th. The Godicheriah Hoondah, the next in succession, forms also a part of the former Sattiveram Purgunnah, and contains the ancient Cusbah village; it is more extensive in arable land than the Streeramporam Hoondah, but being nearly equally divided between Mettoo and pollam, the former of which is comparatively of little value, and the latter not being in general quite so fertile as that in the former district, the average value of land is much lower.

107th. The revenue antecedent to the famine from an average of five years, appears to have been Rupees 34,456 7 9 for which two hundred and seventy Cutties of land were under cultivation; on an average of six years, subsequent to the scarcity, the produce of about half that cultivation, was Rupees 12,285 7 2½, reduction in the value, which I can conceive not more, than would be found necessary to make, on the discontinuance of various acts of oppression, which marked the operations of the former management, the favorable sale of grain, and return of ryotts combining with other circumstances, have for these two last years considerably augmented the revenue, and brought it nearly to what upon a thorough consideration of the subject, should I conceive be demanded as a permanent Jummah, upon a settlement made at this period, which I should propose making upon a supposition of a gross land revenue to the proprietor, of Rupees 21,563.

108th. The district exhibits such means of improvement, from extensive tracts of fine pollam land unoccupied from the want of hands, & also from the decay of reservoirs which (if there were but hands to employ the water they would secure), might without great difficulty or expence be renewed; that I should think the lowest allowance to a proprietor might here be made, if it were not for the very reduced state of the population, but adverting to that circumstance I should fear, in security, if less than 12 per cent. were allowed, this deduction reduces the land revenue of Government to Rupees 18,975 7 1 and with the usual proportion of Cattobaddy and extra revenue, will leave the future permanent Jummah Rupees 19,515 4 11 at which I should propose to fix it.

109th. The Hoondahs already noticed in this report, are all situated on the S. E. side of the principal range of Hills which traverse this district in an oblique direction, from N. E. to S. W. lying between it and the Sea, but the country which I shall now proceed to notice lying within that range occupying a fertile, and extensive tract situated between them, and the rocky frontiers of the Golgondah

and Madigole Zemindaries, requires some particular notice having suffered a greater decrease of revenue, than any other in the division, and offering the most ample field for the exertions of speculative industry, and agricultural experiment, the whole country comprises the three Hoondahs of Woorutlah, Vemalapoody and Cotacotah, which are formed from the two former Purgunnahs of Woorutlah and Cotacotah.

WOORUTLAH.

110th. Woorutlah, lying S. E. of the other two districts occupies the country immediately behind the first range of hills, and is first entered on through the pass at Yettocopauk, a mocassah village in the Ryaveram Hoondah,—its soil, is in general very good, and the singular advantage it possesses in numerous water channels proceeding from the Hills in different directions, and affording the means of supplying reservoirs, constructed at no great expence of money, or ingenuity, which would in almost every season ensure, a produce which many more open countries might not be able to command, renders it a possession as far as I am able to judge, peculiarly desirable, and promising to be a source of considerable, and gradually increasing wealth, to any person becoming at present proprietor of it. To restore it to its former productive state, when it is reported to have yielded an annual dowle of Rupees 38,802 10 8½ on an average of five years, is certainly not to be expected, indeed while I am convinced it can only have been done at the sacrifice of justice, I am glad to think it impossible; but still, without accomplishing so much; a great deal will be in the power of a proprietor, as the country although bearing strong traces of past calamity, has within itself the means of considerable improvement; not by any great extension of cultivation (which as I have frequently before stated, the present population will not admit of), but by converting several tracts of mettoo, into pollam, by the renewal, and improvement of obsolete channels and reservoirs, and the construction in some places of new.

111th. From the very great loss of inhabitants during the famine, the tanks, and watercourses, have gone into such a state of decay, that many large tracts of land in this and the neighbouring Hoondahs from want of water have either been occupied by the cultivation of dry grains, or suffered to remain entirely untilled; having had an opportunity from my personal attendance lately in this part of the country, to superintend the operations and stimulate the exertions, of the inhabitants, in the employment of the sums allotted to the annual repairs; I trust, that the ensuing crop if the season prove favorable will be a good deal improved, but it will require the persevering exertions of a proprietor for some years, to draw from it, the produce which it is capable of yielding.

112th. Considering this circumstance, I could not help being struck both on my visiting the country last year, and in my late tour through it, from which I am just returned, with the evident expediency, (if such a measure were admissible under the present principle of disposing of the Company's territories), of leasing this country either on a progressively increasing dowle, or giving only a temporary lease of it, for the present, at a fixed rent and reserving the disposal of it in perpetuity at the expiration of the lease with Government, who would of course give a preference to the lessee, provided, he should during his term, have paid attention to the improvement of the land, and conducted himself with justice and moderation towards the inhabitants.

113th. It will however remain for the better judgment of the Committee, to decide, whether such a measure can be with propriety adopted, and whether if it could, the difference of revenue, would be an object of sufficient importance to authorise it, which I conceive in the course of about six years would be about five thousand Rupees annually; according to the estimate which I shall proceed to state.

114th. The average dowle as above noticed of five years before the famine was Rupees 38,802 10 8½ when a cultivation to the extent of 228 cutties and 3½ vissums computed cutties of land was carried on, such a revenue must have been I am well convinced much overstrained even for that tillage, but at present judging from the crops for a series of years, and the population of the country, I have only found myself enabled to calculate on the cultivation of 189 cutties, which owing to a more moderate valuation of the produce, the prevalence of pykarry, instead of eadeem ryots labor, (which of itself in general causes a difference of 25 per cent. in the Circars receipts from pollam land,) I have reckoned to produce Rupees 21,556, from whence, as the reduced state of the revenue is evident & the means of improving it even under the present circumstances, is apparent, a deduction of only 10 per cent. is I think sufficient for the proprietor this will leave a net payment to Government from the Jerayetty land of Rupees 19,400 6 5, to which when the Cattobaddy &c. extra receipts be added upon the usual terms there will appear a revenue to Government from the estate of Rupees 20,639 10 8, at this sum I should recommend as the dowle to be fixed in

COTACOTAH.

perpetuity, if it were obligatory to do so, but I have no doubt that persons would be found willing, to increase this revenue gradually for five or six years to come; but I must observe at the same time if such a measure were adopted, I should think it would be right and politic to confirm conditionally from the commencement the proprietor in his estate, so it might otherwise only have the effect of stimulating the rapacity, so frequently observable in the old system of short leases; I also think, that in the commencement of a progressively increasing dowle, the first years revenue should be fixed somewhat lower—Should the Committee think it expedient to fix any one rent for a certain number of years with a view to form a permanent settlement upon the experience of it, I do not conceive that any alteration need take place, in what I have proposed as the permanent revenue, though I do not doubt the value of the estate would be materially enhanced at the expiration of the lease.

VEMALAPOODY.

115th. Having said so much on the subject of the Woorutlah Hoondah it will be superfluous to expatiate much on the circumstances of the Vemalapooddy District; which however I am sorry to add, displays a scene of greater dilapidation, than the foregoing one, and in some parts without so fair a prospect of recovery. It depends more than the Woorutlah Hoondah upon the effects of artificial means, for its supplies of water, the former estate enjoying the advantage of the Cotacotah River, which when it arrives in the Woorutlah Hoondah, is on a plain sufficiently level, to allow of a number of water-courses being cut from it which running with an easy decline traverse and fertilize its soil in various directions, this advantage is denied to the Vemalapooddy district, the general level of which is too high, to admit of its deriving any extensive advantage from the rivers which pass through it, it has been therefore found necessary to arrest, and divert the course of many rapid nullahs and torrents, into a variety of tanks, and reservoirs, communicating with each other in many places.

116th. These when constantly attended to, and kept in good repair afford the best means of supply that any district can enjoy, and the extensive and fertile tracts of pillum land which they irrigate evidently prove their advantage; but, when from a loss of inhabitants they are suffered as in the present case to go to decay, the business of restoring them, to their original efficacy, must of course prove tedious and expensive; and it has in consequence happened that vast tracts of land formerly producing rich paddy crops have of late years lost every vestige of pollam cultivation. I have been very anxious this year by my personal exertions, and directions of the labor of the inhabitants, to render the advances which the Board of Revenue have authorised me to make, of as much efficiency as possible, and I trust that by that means some pillum land particularly an extensive tract in the village of Dermasagrum will be restored, but still much remains to be done which must be the effect of patient, and persevering industry, and also expence of a proprietor, nor can I in my estimate of the revenue at all calculate on the cultivation of large tracts of arable land, in the Pamolawakah Mootah, and other villages, which though formerly productive, are now not to be traced as arable from the Jungle that has overrun them.

117th. The Revenue, of this Hoondah appears, on an average of five years preceding the famine, to have been Rupees 36,675 5 1½ from 239 cutties and 5½ vissums, cutties of land from which it was so reduced, that upon an average of six years subsequent to it, it yielded only Rupees 13,570 5 1½; it has since however gradually recovered, and its present produce, when I advert to the population and operations necessary to restore and keep in repair its reservoirs and channels of supply, is very nearly what I should feel inclined to recommend as its permanent dowle, if fixed at present; or the fixed revenue for any lease now made for any number of years; but (as in the case of the Woorutlah Hoondah) I have not a doubt, that persons would be found willing to take the district in perpetuity at a gradually augmenting revenue, for a term of five or six years. Its gross Circar revenue at the different valuations of land which an investigation of circumstances has induced me to consider just, is Rupees 18,840, from which as in the Woorutlah Hoondah I should recommend only an allowance of 10 per cent. to the proprietor leaving a net Jerayetty land revenue to Government of Rupees 16,956, which with the usual proportion of extra revenue, will make the permanent Jummah of the estate to Government Rupees 17,463 8 7 upon which I imagine after the first two years an annual increase of 1000 Rupees may take place for three or four years, I think more cannot be demanded.

118th. The Cotacotah Hoondah lying North of those of Vemalapooddy & Woorutlah, and bounded by the Madigole Zemindary and Hills of the Waddah, Purgunnah, and possessing, (besides the advantages in common with those two districts,) the peculiar benefit of an extensive lake which materially assists the cultivation of two or three villages, has nevertheless fallen off by far more than either of them in the amount of its revenue. Its land, from the greater proportion which the pollam bears to the metta; is on an average considerably more valuable, though the value of either kind in no place varies very materially. It is chiefly watered by a very rapid river issuing from the Madigole hills, from whence water courses are cut, which are employed for the immediate purposes of cultivation and also to convey water to tanks, and part of the water from which is received into the lake I have mentioned. In other places lying beyond the influence of the river, tanks are constructed which from their vicinity to the Hills are in general very amply supplied, they have however from the great want of Inhabitants been allowed to go into much decay, I trust however that the repairs this year made to them although by no means in every respect complete will materially assist the cultivation.

119th. The causes that have operated to occasion the very great reduction in the revenue of this district I have not been able satisfactorily to trace, as, if no other existed, than the general evils of famine, or any defect in the subsequent management, there would appear to be no reason for the apparent very partial effect of their influence; so much greater in this than any other district; perhaps however the reputed unhealthiness of the climate, may have prevented the recoupling of this district so rapidly as others; whatever may be the cause, the effect will be but too apparent in the consideration of the revenue.

120th. On an average of five years prior to the famine, the collections on the part of the Circa from a cultivation of 163 cutties and 13½ vissums Cutties, were Rupees 34,732 0 5. It must however be observed, that at that period, the same person who managed this country, had also charge of the Waddah purgunnah and Zemindary of Madigole, the present possessor of which was then prisoner at Vizianagrum this gave him a most considerable advantage, by preventing the desertion of ryots, and also by affording the means of cultivation of the land, by the Zemindary Inhabitants on low terms, who would more willingly comply with such demands, when under the native Government entirely, or be at any rate more easily obliged to do so, and the want of this authority, has I do not doubt contributed to reduce the revenue, which after the famine fell on an average of six years to Rupees 13,359 15 2, and I am sorry to add, that contrary to the general example, of other districts, it has produced even less than that sum, under my management, I am happy however to add, that the revenue of the present year, was more than the last, and that I shall be able if I rent the country for the ensuing Fusly, to obtain a further increase fully equal to if not exceeding the six years average. Making my calculations, from an examination of the accounts for some years back, the late anchannahs of the produce, and my observations and inquiries concerning the population, I am compelled to confine my present expectations to a land revenue (from 103 cutties and 13 vissums Cutties), of Rupees 16,618, from which as no Manium Cattobaddy exists in this district, if the same deduction as I have observed in the other hill districts be made, the net permanent land revenue to Government will be only Rupees 14,956 3 2, and with the extra revenue Rupees 14,955 10 9, I am however well convinced that a progressive increase may be obtained, but I confess I must despair of seeing the district ever produce the revenue to Government estimated by my predecessor. To grant in perpetuity an estate so far gone to decay may perhaps as well if possible be avoided; if however it should be resolved on, I do not think that more than what I have estimated will be given; should it be allowed, to augment progressively, I do not think that above 18,000 Rupees could be obtained, or should be demanded, if the Dowle be fixed in any period with the ensuing five years.

PANSADARLAH.

121st. The Pansadarlah Hoondah, in Mr. Brown's arrangement of the estates, occupies the next place, although situated to the North East of the Division, a circumstance owing to that Gentleman's reference for including in it, the Pooddy Mootah an insulated farm of the Vizianagrum Zemindary situated in its centre, and containing the port of Poodymerkah, which it was not deemed proper to sanction.

122nd. It is by far the largest in the division, stretching (if the Poody Mootah be included) about 16 miles along the Sea Coast, which it separates from the Hoondahs of Condakirlah, Monagapauk, Mellapauk, and Dimly, all contiguous to it, an estate of such extent of course exhibits a variety of soil, in which some of the best pollum and a large tract of good and improvable Mettoo land is included, nor do I know any estate which is more likely than this to engage competitors for its possession, I am sorry however to add, that with all these advantages I have not found it possible adverting to its produce of late years and the state of its present resources and population to estimate the gross Circar dowle upon which a permanent settlement is to be formed, at a sum at all proportionate to the expectations on the subject held out by my predecessor.

123rd. Its average gross Kham dowle, on an average of the five years preceding the famine, is stated to have been no less than Rupees 62,880 3 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, from a cultivation of 418 cutties and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ vissums of land, but it is to be observed, in this, as well as all other Hoondahs, that the documents from which that statement was made, were extremely questionable, the lapse of time that had taken place from that era to the period when the accounts were called for, the dispersion of whole villages the consequence of that calamitous visitation of Providence, and the change of Curnams from death and other circumstances, rendering it almost impossible to find a regular series of authentic records of revenue even of a single village, much less of a large district and giving consequently occasion to frequent mutilation, and fabrication of accounts.

124th. But even were the gross collections from the country, proved to be correctly stated, it may still be found impracticable, even after the restoration of the former resources in population, and wealth, to realize from the same land, the same revenue, to which the justice of the English Government, will prove a material obstacle, by preventing the practice notoriously prevalent under the native management, of making good the deficiency of revenue, arising from the failure in the crops in any particular village, by an arbitrary increase in the assessment of another which may have been more fortunate in its produce.

125th. I have in this as in every other Hoondah, made the most attentive inquiries, as to the general produce of soil, the cause of increase or diminution in each village, and the means which now exist for calling forth the resources, of revenue from the land, in the number and condition of the ryots, Cadcem, and Pykarry, by whom the cultivation is carried on, and I am sorry to find, that the result of my enquiries, and only obliges me to suspend any sanguine expectation of increase of revenue by any early tillage of much waste land, but to confine my estimate of the produce from about three fourths of the land reported to have been formerly tilled; and I fear that even on this portion, the extended labors and divided attention of the husbandman, owing to the defective population, will often render the produce comparatively scanty in several parts of the country by preventing that carefull and minute attention, to the operations of agriculture, which under a more flourishing state of population, was the cause of the more abundant harvests that were then reaped.

126th. Immediately after the famine, the revenue of this district fell to little more than one-third of what it had before produced, the average of three years being only Rupees 28,308 12 9. In the year 1798 or Fuzly 1206, the Settlement was as high as 44,000 Rupees, but though from the accounts, that sum would appear to have been realized, (as no balance stands to the debit of the district in that year,) it must I apprehend have been considerably overstrained; the average revenue for six years succeeding the famine, including the one above mentioned, only amounting to Rupees 32,162 11 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ my settlement with the renter for the last year was for Rupees 38,500 and the Kham collections were Rupees 48,419 10 2, but from a failure of a great part of dry Grain cultivation I have reason to apprehend that the assessment fell rather heavy on the ryots.

127th. The cause however that occasioned this hardship was not likely to happen at the time I gave the Cowle for the present year, when a very favorable early rain had commenced, and I accordingly entered into engagements for a revenue Rupees 39,500 which I have reason to believe will leave the renter a profit though not large, without any distress to the Inhabitants.

128th. Much increase however cannot be expected in the dowle of this district without much expence, and patient industry, on the part of a proprietor, the effect of which, cannot (if the land be now granted in permanency) be taken into the calculation, and I have therefore found myself under the necessity

of confining my estimate to a gross dowle of Rupees 44,204 3 9, but, while the district evidently possesses the means of improvement, I should think that, an allowance of 12 per cent., would be sufficient for a proprietor receiving it upon those terms, and I have accordingly in my general statement inserted the proprietor's share at that rate, which will leave the permanent land tax of Government Rupees 38,809 11 9, to which if the usual proportion of the Cuttoobady and other extra receipts be added, the net permanent tax which I would recommend to be fixed for the estate will be Rupees 42,027 11 8.

129th. The only districts that now remain for notice are the two farms of Waltair and Oopadah, both compact in their Boundaries, and secure, and defined in their resources.

WALTAIR.

130th. The Waltair farm although in general exhibiting a barren and, ungrateful soil, (a very considerable portion of the land being covered with sand, and as much more consisting of a bed of rock covered with a shallow and light mould, intermingled with fragments of granite,) nevertheless from its possessing the very material advantage of the Vizagapatam market, by which means a constant and profitable mart for its productions is found, becomes as valuable an estate, as perhaps any tract of Mettoo land of the same dimensions throughout the division.

131st. This circumstance of course operated to prevent the same effects from the famine in this as were observable in other parts of the country, and accordingly, the gross Circar land revenue which on an average of five years was, (from a cultivation of about 49 cutties and 9 vissums) Rupees 4,948 4 10 fell only during the famine, to Rupees 3,750 15 from nearly 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ cutties of land the dearness of provisions, having occasioned an increase of about 15 per cent. in the value of the arable land. On an average of six years from the termination of the famine in ninety two, the revenue reverted to its old standard the extent of cultivation being 47 cutties and 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ vissums and the revenue 4,973 11 3 annually: since that period, it has undergone little variation, indeed the mode of settlement with the Inhabitants prevents this, the custom of a Bilmuktah or fixed quit rent, being prevalent throughout the greatest part of the farm, this being the case, and although from the exertion of the renter about 2 cutties have been added to the cultivation, the nature of the uncultivated parts of the farm being such as to preclude the prospect of any great augmentation, I have on an examination of the Kham accounts, thought it expedient to calculate the permanent settlement upon a land revenue of Rupees 5,305 15 6 from whence, considering the accuracy of the revenue I should conceive a deduction of 12 per cent., might be sufficient, which will leave a net Jerayetty land revenue of Rupees 4,669 4 0, making, with the Government share of Manium Cuttoobaddy, and other extra revenue, a permanent tax on the proprietor of Rupees 5,886 4 10.

OOPADAH.

132nd. The Oopadah farm, is more valuable than most other tenures of the same extent in this division, the mettoo land although rather sandy on the side of Amecnabad, being in general above mediocrity, and the pollum in both villages such as is hardly to be found in any other part of the country, yielding from thirty five candies to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ garce per vissum. The population of Oopadah too, being considerable, and the demand for grain in the neighbouring Zemindaries constant, the price which it has generally born has been much higher on an average than at any other place which must account for the comparatively high valuation of land in the estimate of this Farm.

133rd. The average Circar revenue for five years preceding the famine from a cultivation of about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ cutties was Rupees 1,567 14 8 a revenue which owing to the same circumstances that operated in the Waltair farm to occasion a mart for the produce did not decrease during the famine as the dowle of other parts of the country; on a six years average subsequent to that period it appears somewhat lower, being Rupees 1,366 6 10, and during the two last years, from the uncommon price of grain a small augmentation is observable, the price however that has prevailed for the last two years is too high to be adopted as a datum of calculation, my estimate therefore exhibits a dowle somewhat more moderate being a land revenue from 6 cutties and 13 vissums of Rupees 1,476 from which I should recommend of 12 per cent., for the proprietor which will leave a net Jerayetty land revenue of Rupees 1,298 14 1, making with the suggested proportion of revenue from the fishery and other extra collections a permanent tax on the estate of Rupees 1,708 12 5.

134th. This exhibits a decrease of the revenue recommended by Mr. Brown of Rupees 291 3 7 which as having been invariably been realized for some years the Committee might without further ex-

planations conceived carelessly relinquished, the difference is however principally owing to a diminution of the Moteerpha or extra revenue from the abolition of the cooly dally or tax on Palankeen bearers families which at my suggestion was abolished by the Board of Revenue in the course of the preceding year.

135th. I am aware, that it will be observable that in some instances my proposed permanent Jumrah falls below that of the late annual settlements, I have made; but this I think will be deemed admissible, when it is considered that the profits to many of the renters has been much below what I have judged a fair equivalent for the risk of seasons, &c. when by the purchase of an estate, a proprietor shall render himself answerable in his property, and person, to Government for the revenue without hope of remission, although it may have been perhaps as much as they in general looked to in an annual speculation.

136th. For the purpose of dispatch, and facility in the preparation, and for the sake of perspicuity in the comparison, of the statement now sent with those furnished by my predecessor, I have hitherto observed, the divisions of the country, as formed by him, but I think it necessary, (as the future improvement of the country may materially depend upon their boundaries and local circumstances) to point out one or two alterations, which occurred to me during my investigation as of considerable importance, towards promoting that object, and which I am sure had my predecessor continued in the situation he would have recommended.

137th. The most striking of these and one which appears almost indispensable, to enable the Proprietor of the Nackapilly estate, to take advantage, of the means afforded him by nature, for the improvement of the land; is the annexing to that estate the village of Darlapoody, and Soma Davapilly, now included in the Ryavaram Hoondah, through the lands of which, he must obtain his supplies of water for the villages of Chinna and Pedda Gomoloor, Beemavaram and part of Corepool, from a watercourse taking its source from the river in the first mentioned village, which it will be of course the proprietors interest to take care of, as well as all the others supplied by the same channel.

138th. Besides this, I would recommend the annexation of a village called Vencatapuram now in the Pansadarlah Hoondah, to the Ankapilly estate, a considerable connection having ever subsisted between that village, and Sersapilly on the borders of the Ankapilly lake, upon which, the former in a great measure depended for pasture; and polum cultivation, the greatest part of the Vencatapuram ground being mettoo of rather a stony barren soil.

139th. To the Ankapilly estate, I should also propose to join the village of Tantadah, now included in the Monagapank Hoondah, as the separation from Oomeladah, (which together with the former receives its supplies of water by means of a watercourse from the lake,) has given rise to numberless vexatious disputes prejudicial to the cultivation; which I have reason to believe would be effectually put a stop to, if both villages were included in the estate to which, (from their being supplied by the waters of its principal reservoir,) they seem properly to belong.

140th. These alterations, can of course from the materials now furnished to the Committee be with facility adopted by transferring the estimated revenue of all descriptions belonging to each village to the estate to which I recommend its adjunction.

141st. Thus Gentlemen; I have brought a close my estimate of the Revenue of this division in their present state, the result of which is a supposed gross Circars Dowle, of Rupees 3,94,884 6 4 which upon a permanent settlement if made at the present juncture; I have proposed with all deference to your better judgment, to reduce by an allowance to the proprietors in various gradations of Rupees 53,032*8 1, to Rupees 3,40,901 14 3.

142nd. In adverting to the very great inadequacy of this revenue, when compared to the estimate of my predecessor, I have only to request an attention to the settlement of 1203, amounting to Rupees 337,464 0 10 which with little or no balance was realized, but from which period, although the collections according to the Ryanny system were supposed to be the Circars immediate share of the produce, coming directly from the Inhabitants to the Collectors Treasury, and subject to no diminution from any intermediate advantage of the Managers, the revenues have regularly declined: when this circumstance is considered I feel little apprehension that I shall be accused of a neglect of the Company's Interest, from the amount, of my proposed Jumrahbundy.

143rd. I think it my duty however to state in addition to the foregoing remarks, with a candor, that ought to be observed by every person earnestly desirous of promoting the real prosperity of his employers, that several circumstances concur to render information regarding the revenue, so far uncertain, that if it were not contrary to the sentiments on the subject of the settlement, expressed by our honorable employers; I should feel much inclination adverting to the present state of the country, to recommend a long but temporary settlement, in preference to one in perpetuity; such a settlement were it made for eight, or ten years, would I imagine by no means impede the establishment of the judicial system, and an experience of the benefit of which, if it answers the expectations entertained of it, would by the security afforded to all ranks of people, tend greatly to enhance the value of landed property, at the expiration of the lease; when, of course, a permanent Sale of the Company's lands might be made, under advantages, which do not now exist.

144th. The circumstances to which I chiefly allude, as rendering my estimate more than I could desire, liable to the possibility of inaccuracy, are the uncertain mode hitherto in use, of taxing the land by the Systoo and Mulwatty Assessment, the deficiency of ryots in many parts of the country; the powerful, but indefinite effect, which the extensive Manium tenures, has had upon the value of Circar land, (which can be ascertained only by a legal investigation of the justice of such alienations); and, the defective state of the Tanks, which the trifling annual repairs that have been usually made, have by no means prevented from going so far into decay, as to render an estimate of the operations necessary to restore them difficult and uncertain.

145. These circumstances Gentlemen, have made me aware of the possibility of error where I should most anxiously wish to avoid it, but they have also awakened my attention, and I hope not without effect, to take the greatest pains to guard against it; and therefore should it eventually be resolved to dispose of the country on a permanent land settlement, at the present time, I do not hesitate in proposing the terms now submitted, as reasonable, and proper to be adopted.

146th. In forming the foregoing estimates of the future revenue; I was of course obliged in some degree to proceed upon the dictates of my own judgment, the variety of abuses, under which the true value of the country has been almost impenetrably concealed, preventing altogether in many instances the possibility of establishing from existing documents data wholly unquestionable upon which to form satisfactory conclusions for the future; for in this part of the world, as in every other, oppression, on the part of the Superior, has been followed by its usual concomitant, of evasion, and deceit, on the part of the inferior, so that it becomes a nice task of discrimination, in attending to points relative to the Revenue, to decide between the masked injustice of prescriptive oppression, and the fraudulent complaints of fictitious misery it is however notorious, that in general the property of the weaker ryot, has been the victim, to the avarice of the Native Managers, and therefore, I have found myself obliged to make allowances for the abolition of practices of extortion, which however unjust, have continually swelled the Jumrahbundy of former years at the sacrifice of the little property of the ryot, which I reflect with exultation will be carefully protected, by the establishment of a system of judicature, that will allow leisure, and opportunity, for a more careful investigation of the rights and property of the Individual, than the late system of management could admit of.

147th. Thus Gentlemen while the effects of the famine, (which is certainly to be considered as a very material cause for the diminution of the revenues,) may be done away by an increase of population, and commerce, (the result of a wise and mild Government,) another no less desirable effect of the same happy cause, will I earnestly hope continue by its operation long after the traces of that calamity shall be lost, to prevent their ever being raised to their former height, upon the same unstable foundation.

148th. Actuated by these sentiments, but not less with a zealous, and anxious wish to promote as far as lies within the verge of my duty the increase of wealth, and prosperity to the Company's Government, I submit with the utmost deference to the superior judgment of the Committee the present address, trusting that whatever may be its defects, they will receive with candor, and indulgence what has been the work of labor and attention.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Yours most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) ROBERT ALEXANDER,
Collector.

1st Division Vizagapatam District.

Vizagapatam,
30th April 1802.

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