

SELECTION

FROM

OLD RECORDS

REPORT

BY

MR. J WALLACE

Collector of Trichinopoly

DATED

25th February 1803

ON THE

JAMABANDI OF

FASLI 1212

TO

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS

OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

FORT SAINT GEORGE.

GENTLEMEN,

1. The Jammaubundy of the Trichinopoly Division for Fasli 1212 is now submitted for your consideration. That it has not been forwarded earlier is entirely attributable to my having deferred my settlements with the Ryots of the high lands, to a later period than usual, on account of the backwardness of the season, which considerably retarded the cultivation in those lands. But although the close of my Jammaubundy has been thus delayed, the collections have not at all fallen in arrear, the amount collected to the present date exceeding, considerably, that which was paid into my Treasury, at the same period of the last year.

2. For the sake of perspicuity, I shall, in the remarks which I have to offer on the present subject, unite under one Head such Taluqs as, from similarity of situation, will admit of being brought under consideration together, and I shall divide the general subject of the Revenues of the year under the Heads, of Nunja, Punja, and Sovrundaum.

3. The western Districts of the Division composing the Taluqs of Iloor, Lalgudy, Vettoocutty, and Conaud, having all the same interior detail and the same advantages and disadvantages of situation properly fall under one head.

4. In these Districts, the low lands of which are dependant on the Cauvery, the Nunja cultivation of the year on which this part of the settlement has been formed is 1,15,984 Cawnees, the produce of which has been taken at 18,71,236 Cullums of paddy. Of this, the Government share is 8,87,350 Cullums. This amount has been commuted for Star Pagodas 2,37,854—41—59 which is the sum of $\frac{2}{7}$ Revenues derivable this year from the Nunja lands of the Taluqs under consideration.

5. The extent of the lands comprises 1,05,944 cawnees cultivated in Fasli 1211, and, in addition thereto, lands newly formed for cultivation to the extent of 703 cawnees, lands on which it has been agreed to cultivate a second crop to the extent of 8,974 cawnees, and excess of 361 cawnees which had been included in alienations, but which being discovered on remeasurement are now included in the Sirkar Lands.

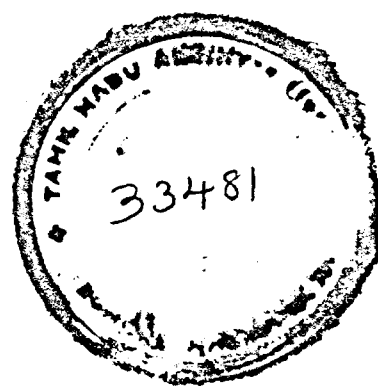
6. The grain amount on which the present settlement for these lands has been formed, is, in general, the result of the average between the amount on which the settlement of Fasli 1,211 had been formed, and the actual produce of that year.

7. It will be in the recollection of the Board that the grain amount of the settlement in these Districts for last year had, for its basis, an average of the produce of the preceding five years:—this average was the surest and fairest grounds on which the settlement for that year could be made, that it would have been universally or minutely correct was not to be expected, as the seasons and many other accidental causes, would occasion the actual produce of the year, in some places to exceed, in others to fall short of, the average. In forming my arrangements for the present settlement it occurred to me whether the actual produce of the foregoing year ought not to have its weight in this, and after due examination and inquiry, I resolved, from the following considerations, to take the average between it, and the result of the average of the preceding five years, which had been adopted for the settlement of Fasli 1211, as the basis of the settlement for the current year.

First.—The average between the grain settlement, and actual produce of Fasli 1211, appeared, from particular investigation as to the general state of the crop, to afford a standard sufficiently correct and just for the grain settlement of the year.

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Second.—It was desirable, that the actual produce of the first year in which the country had been under the Company's Government, and in which it had been free from the oppressions of the Nabob's Officers should be taken into the average, as, in it, the operation of the seasons had not been checked by a partial distribution of the waters of the Cauvery or by any unnecessary delay in the reaping, occurrences which, under the Nabob's Government, were not infrequent both from the interested motives of the Sirkar officers and the nature of the system prevalent in the country.

Thirdly.—The rains from the months of August 1801 to December had been almost continual, owing to which and the high floods in the river, the crops of the low villages were continually under water, and their produce was consequently much lessened, from the same cause the lands which were most elevated produced a more than ordinary crop; in the present year the same causes have not operated; at no period of it has the river risen to such a height as materially to injure the lower lands, or to give more than usual fertility to those which are most above its level. It is therefore but just that those villages as well as others which benefitted, in an extraordinary degree, by the season of Fasli 1211 should contribute such a portion of those advantages which the experience of last year shewed them to have enjoyed, as the general turn of the present season justifies the expectation of, nor will it be less proper to alleviate, as far as may be consistent with the rights of Government, in this year by a moderate assessment the deficiency which occurred in a particular village in the last. I do not mean by this, to infer that the Revenues of this year are to be sunk in granting reimbursements to those whom the loss of the seasons had injured. My intention in this regard goes not further than the establishment of a standard, at once liberal and just, equally applying to the immediate and future advantage of Government and its subjects.

8 In the lands newly formed for cultivation, the produce has been estimated according to the nature of the soil and the consideration of the present being the first year of their being brought into cultivation.

9 In my report of the 22nd January 1802, I stated that the Town of Trichinopoly, from its great population, was the chief market for the sale of the produce of the Districts under consideration, and that, in fixing the price for which the grain amount of the settlement was to be commuted, I had formed these Districts into 4 Divisions, according to the distance of each of which from the chief market, the price of the Nunja grain produced therein was settled. As this plan was found by the experience of the year not to be quite so efficacious in putting the grain of each village on an equality in the market, as had at first been expected, I was induced in the present settlement to adopt the following more particular arrangement for the perfect attainment of that end.

10 The estimated selling price in the Town of Trichinopoly has been taken at 21½ S. P. per Madras Garce of the different sorts of paddy produced in these Districts, and from this standard price, which differs not materially from the price of the last year, the established cost of transport from each village to Trichinopoly has been deducted in the settlement with the Ryots; by this arrangement the Ryots in most distant villages from Trichinopoly can send their grain to market at the same rate as those which are situated closest to it, and should they be enabled to dispose of part of their grain in the high Districts surrounding their villages at a price considerably lower than what the inhabitants nearer the Fort can dispose of it for, the difference will be but a fair recompense for the trouble and wastage which must necessarily be incurred in greater degree by the former than by the latter, in bringing that part of their grain which must be disposed of at the chief market to Trichinopoly.

11 In the present settlement for the Nunja lands it will be observed that there is an increase of 10,845 Star Pagodas above the Jamma paid by these lands in Fasli 1211.

12 This increase principally arises from the augmentation in the cultivation, as set forth in para 5; it also partly arises from the circumstance of the actual produce of last year being thrown into the average on which the settlement of this year has been made. In some villages where the produce of last year so far exceeded the amount of the settlement as to shew that the average on which that settlement was founded was favorable beyond what, in justice or moderation, could have been expected by the landholders, the general state of the crops of the present year has been substituted in lieu of the average, which has been generally applied to the District. As this arrangement was justly beneficial to the Sirkar by causing an augmentation in the Revenue in some villages above what the general average would have given, so I have deemed it but equitable to lay aside the general average in those cases, where its applica-

would have been particularly hard on the ryots from the unpromising state of their crops, estimated produce of which, has, in such cases, been taken; this plan has been particularly adopted in eight villages of the Lalgoody Taluq which are considerably elevated above the other Nunja villages of that District, and which, being situated at the extremity of the principal water course of the Taluq, suffered materially in their Nunja crops from the want of sufficient water in the months of September and October, when a partial failure in the freshes occurred. In order to prevent this arrangement from being turned to a bad purpose, additional muchilikas have been drawn from the inhabitants of those villages in which it has been adopted, binding them to the payment of such sums besides their stipulated rent, as the real produce of their lands shall appear to admit of, and measures have been taken to ascertain with exactitude what the full produce of these villages may be.

13 To conclude the subject of the Jamma of the Nunja lands, I can safely say, that, in fixing it, a strict adherence to the just dues of Government has been combined with a liberal regard to the welfare and happiness of the inhabitants, and I am therefore sanguine that it will meet with the approbation of the Board.

14 The Jamma of the Punja lands has been settled on a cultivation of 1,44,252 cawnees. Its amount is 49,564 Star Pagodas.

15 Although there has been an increase of 932 Cawnees in the Punja cultivation of this year, a net decrease has occurred in the Jamma of 4337 Star Pagodas. From this amount must be deducted 1814 Star Pagodas which has been included in the Nunja settlement of the present year, the lands from the produce of which it was paid last year, being cultivated with Nunja during the present.

16 In explaining the cause of the real decrease 2,523 Star Pagodas, I have to mention the total want of rain in the months of August, September, October, and December. The drought in these months had been particularly felt in the Taluqs under consideration and its effects are at this moment visible in the dried and poor appearance of the crops still unreaped. The want of rain in the months above mentioned, prevented the sowing of the early, and more valuable Punja productions, and obliged the inhabitants to confine themselves to the cultivation of those articles which thrive by accidental showers and the effects of the heavy dews which was expected in the first month of the year. These being the least valuable articles of cultivation to the husbandman are, consequently, according to the established and general custom of the Districts under consideration, (which has fixed the Revenues to be paid from these lands on the nature of the article with which they are cultivated) liable to pay a revenue proportioned to that value, hence arises the decrease under this head in the present year. It is also to be remarked that the increase of cultivation has not been general. In some places a considerable decrease has taken place owing the return of some of the Toriore inhabitants to their own villages, whence they had been driven by the former disturbances in that District, and in other quarters the Punja lands, although ploughed, have not been sown, owing to the want of rain, since the commencement of December to the present day.

17 Under all these unfavorable circumstances, I rather congratulate myself than otherwise on having effected a settlement to the amount before stated, with the inhabitants of the Punja lands of these Districts.

18 The amount settled under this head for the present Fasli is 9353 Star Pagodas. It includes the Putcut taxes, the Revenues from Shrotriens and other alienations, the Nanniavuttum or shroffage Fees and canugors Russooms.

19 In the Settlement under this head a small decrease is observable of 460 Pagodas, which arises from the variable nature of some of the articles included under it, but principally from part of the Revenues brought under this head last year being transferred to that of Punja in the present settlement.

20 The Nunja Settlement for Toriore has been formed on a cultivation of 6,664 Cawnees, and an estimated gross produce of 69,432 Cullums, the Government Share of which 35,523 Cullums has been commuted for 10,625 Star Pagodas.

Taluqs.—Toriore including Volconda Nunja.

21. In the Nunja cultivation of this year a decrease has taken place of 1406 Cawnees which has arisen from a deficiency of water in some of the tanks on which the Nunja cultivation of that District is, with a few exceptions, entirely dependant. These lands have been included in the Punja Settlement of the year being cultivated with dry grain. This deficiency has occasioned a decrease in the Nunja Jumma of 682 Star Pagodas.

22. For the grain amount of the Settlement the actual produce of the last year was taken as the standard, and it was lowered or raised according to the appearance of the crops in each village. The price at which the inhabitants are to pay for the Mailvaorum was fixed at the general average selling price of the District. It amounts to 8½ G. fanams the cullum or St. P. 22 fs. 28 the Madras Garce.

23. The Punja cultivation of this District amounts to 82,817 cawnees, the Jumma of which has been settled at 79,260 Star Pagodas.

24. It will be satisfactory to the Board to learn that an increase has taken place in the Punja cultivation in this Taluq of the present year of 20,176 Cawnees inclusive of the 1,406 Cawnees of the Nunja, which, as before stated, from the deficiency of water in the tanks, have been cultivated with dry grain. The augmentation of Punja Revenue in this Taluq in consequence of the increase of cultivation is 16,422 Star Pagodas.

25. As, under the head of Punja, in my remarks on the Jumma of the four Western Taluqs, I stated that, although the cultivation was increased, the settlement was lowered on account of the want of rain, the considerable increase of Revenue in Torriore which is situated close to the western Taluqs, and which may be supposed to be influenced by the same reasons may, notwithstanding the great increase of cultivation, without explanation, appear irreconcilable. I shall therefore proceed to state the principal circumstances which have occasioned the increase of the Jumma under this head in a season acknowledged to have been unfavorable in the High lands.

26. The increase in cultivation and Revenue is attributable in the first place to the return of many ryots to their villages early in the present Fasli. From the combined effects of the former disturbances of the Poligar and the vexatious and oppressive management of the Nabob's officers, this District had, since the year 1796, been nearly depopulated; a very considerable portion of the inhabitants having taken refuge in the surrounding Districts where they cultivated as Poycarrahs. The transfer of the Country to the Company's authority occurred at too advanced a period of the year 1801 to admit of all those emigrants returning to their Villages under the change of Government: a considerable portion of them, however, came back in the early part of Fasli 1211, and a return of almost all the remainder, has once more restored this District to a flourishing and productive state.

27. In the second place, the Punja lands of Torriore including Volconda are not, like the generality of those of the four western Taluqs, entirely dependant on the immediate effects of a fall of rain for their cultivation. They are watered from wells, sunk in great numbers throughout the whole of the High lands of the District, and, in many places, from lakes which afford ample supplies of water to the crops during many months in the year.

28. Thirdly—The Torriore Taluq from its proximity to the Hills has experienced, throughout the season, many refreshing showers which were not felt in the Districts south and west of it.

29. These are the principal causes of the augmentation of cultivation and Revenue in the Torriore Taluq—notwithstanding which, it must be allowed, that the season has not been altogether a favorable one to the cultivation.

30. The Jumma settled for under this head amounts to St. P. 6645, Fs 35, C. 62 and includes the Pallaputtada or Bazaar Tax, the usual shroffage fees called Nanniavattam, payments from shrotriams, neer-cooly &c.

Sornadayam.

31. An increase of Revenue amounting to St. P. 843, Fs. 30, C. 19 is observable under this head during the present Fasli.

32. The lands under cultivation in the Districts composing this Division are 42,013 Cawnees, the settlement thereon is 78,250 Star Pagodas.

Taluqs—Wodiarpothem including Arellore.

33. An increase of cultivation amounting to 3,893 Cawnees has taken place in the cultivation of this year which has caused an augmentation in the Jumma of 6,763 Star Pagodas.

34. The settlement under this head amounts to 4,922 Star Pagodas which is 566 Star Pagodas less than that of last year. This decrease arises from the exclusion of certain taxes of Looms from the settlement, on the subject of which the Board will be addressed hereafter.

Sornadayam.

Taluqs—Mannargoody including Chidambaram Nunja.

35. The Nunja settlement of this Taluq has been made in a cultivation of 14,291 Cawnees, the estimated gross produce of which is 2,04,895 Cullums, the Mailvaorum being 1,06,943 Cullums has been commuted for 23,982 Star Pagodas.

36. A very considerable decrease will appear under this head in the Jumma of this District for the present year. It occurs both from a diminution of the Nunja Cultivation, and from a very indifferent crop on those Nunja lands which are cultivated.

37. The deficiency in the extent of Nunja lands cultivated is 3,662 Cawnees, which, according to the average produce of last year, would have yielded, had they been cultivated this year, and had the season been commonly favorable, 57,782 Cullums gross produce. These lands in the present year have been cultivated with dry grain.

38. In the Nunja lands which have been cultivated, a deficiency, it is estimated, will take place below the produce of last year of 71,878 Cullums gross produce. The Nunja lands last year yielded on an average 17½ Cullums per cawnee; by the estimated average produce of the present year they will not yield above 12½ Cullums leaving a difference of 28 per cent.

39. The loss sustained by the Sirkar from these two heads is, in grain, estimated at 66,473 Cullums. The decrease below the Jumma of Fasli 1211 in the Nunja lands is 12,161 Star Pagodas.

40. The principal portion of the deficiency is in the Chidumbrum Mohal, in which there is a decrease in the actual Nunja cultivation of 3,160 Cawnees and of the estimated produce in the lands that are cultivated of 37,453 Cullums. The total deficiency may be taken at 82,027 Cullums. The decrease of Revenue in Mannargoody proceeds from a deficiency in the cultivation of 502 Cawnees, and of the estimated produce in the lands that are cultivated of 34,424 Cullums, the total may be taken at 47,633 Cullums.

Taluqs—Mannargoody including Chidumbrum Nunja.

Cals.	Cawnees.	Not cultivated in Chidumbrum.	Not cultivated in Mannargoody.
44,573	—	3,160	502
13,208	—	—	—
57,781	—	—	—
37,453	—	—	—
34,424	—	—	—
71,877	—	—	—
1,29,658	—	—	—
Total deficiency in the grain produce of the Mannargoody Taluq.			
66,473	—	—	—
of which may, according to the present wantum be considered as the loss to Government.			

41. Having stated the extent of this considerable deficiency, it now becomes necessary to detail the causes.

42. The Nunja lands of these two Districts are dependant partly on lakes, partly on the waters of the Coleeroon, and partly on early rains, for their cultivation; in the two former cases, the Nunja grain is first sown, and then transplanted; in the latter, transplantation does not take place, the grain being allowed to grow and come to maturity, in the lands on which it is at first sown.

43. In all these three cases the expectations of the ryots have been, during the present year, greatly disappointed. The Districts being situated at the eastern extremity of the Division, and receiving the waters of the Coleeroon just before the junction of the river with the sea, experienced, almost throughout the season, the scarcity of water which was felt, I believe, in other Districts, which, being equally dependant on the floods of the Caugary, are also equally situated on the eastern extremity of the differ-

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ent branches. The lakes which are partly filled by channels leading into them from the roon did not receive the expected supplies at the usual period, nor were the water courses, which some of the lands are dependant, affected to any useful degree by the scanty streams of the river. This failure in the waters in the eastern parts of the Division occurred principally in the months of September and October, when even the more elevated Nunja lands about Trichinopoly, which are so much higher up the river, experienced, in a considerable degree, the want of a full flood.

44. To add to the distress of the ryots in the Chidumbrum and Mannargoody Districts, which this deficiency of water in the Coleroon occasioned, the rains which, in general, fall in heavy and beneficial showers in the 1st three months of the Fasli totally failed, hence a further deficiency of water in the lakes and a total stop to the sowing of those Nunja lands, to which the expected showers were indispensable.

45. In those villages where seed had been sown with the intention of being transplanted, the young plants could not be removed from their original beds until a considerable time after the period allotted to that purpose had elapsed, and this delay had a very injurious effect in lessening the crops which they were to yield. In other situations the young Peshannum plants could not be removed at all, and a species of paddy inferior both in quality and quantity which its crops yield was sown in those fields into which it had been intended to transplant the Peshannum shoots.

46. Both the sown and transplanted crops have, in addition to the detrimental causes which occurred in the early part of the season, experienced considerable damage from the want of rain in the months of December and January, only one shower having fallen since the 5th of the former month to the present day. This has been particularly felt in Chidumbrum.

47. From all these causes I trust it will appear that the considerable deficiency in the jamma of the Nunja lands of these Districts proceeds altogether from the very unfavorable turn both of the commencement and the termination of the season between the months of July and January.

48. The total amount of the decrease in this year in the Nunja Revenue St. Pag 12151 10 79, of which St. Pags 9665 occurs in Chidambram and, St. Pagodas 2485, in Mannargoody. The decrease would have been still greater if I had not raised the price at which the commutation has been made $\frac{1}{4}$ of a fanam per-cullum or about 8 per cent. This I conceived myself perfectly justified in doing, as from the scanty crops of paddy in the surrounding Districts, the inhabitants will be enabled to sell their grain at a price, higher than that at which I have settled with them for, the decrease of Revenue has thus in some measure been lessened without injury to the inhabitants.

49. Muchilikas as to the correctness of the estimates on which the grain amount of the settlement has been formed have been entered into by the inhabitants, and precautions have been taken for ascertaining the precise actual produce of the crops. Any extraordinary excess in the produce is to be accounted for by the inhabitants to the Sirkar, according to the terms of the Muchilikas, which specify that all excess above the estimates shall be at the disposal of Government. These Muchilikas I was induced to take, first in order to ascertain the real produce of the Districts, and to secure Government from any loss which might eventually occur by incorrectness, from whatever cause, in the estimates; and secondly as the inhabitants of some villages, whose crops appeared not to have suffered in so great a degree as others, insisted that the deficiency would be greater than what I was willing to allow them, as the assertion of the inhabitants could not be ascertained exactly until the crops were fully ripe. I, with the intention of preventing any delay in the general conclusion of the settlement, took bonds from them for the amount which they were willing to allow the villages could bear and Muchilikas to the effect before mentioned were likewise drawn from them; the result of the actual produce of these lands shall be hereafter reported to the Board, with my opinion as to the expediency of enforcing the terms of the Muchilikas.

Punja. 50. The Punja Jamma of the year has been settled at St. Pags 17,609 Fs. 19 C. 29 being the amount of the assessment on 22091 Cawnees.

51. There is an increase of the Jamma under this head of 2582 Star Pags. arising from increase in the cultivation of 7590 Cawnees, including the 3662 Cawnees of Nunja lands, which, I before stated, were this year cultivated with Punja grain. This increase would have been still more considerable, had the season permitted the cultivation of those productions which being of the greatest value, yield the highest Revenue to the Sirkar; but the failure of the early rains prevented this.

Sornadayam.

52. The Jamma under this head amount to 4893 being a decrease of St. Ps. 1009 below that of last year.

53. This decrease arises from the Revenue of a garden in Lalpettah which was included in the settlement of last year, but which being inserted in the lands of the Colemalli Jagheer-dar have, in consequence, been given up to him; the Revenue of the garden in question amounts to 223 St. Pags. and was included in the settlement of last year, it having been understood that it was only rented by the late Jagheer-dar, a mistake which has since been explained to this sum must be added 421, St. Pags. on account of sandirwarid, which being paid by a centage on the total land Jamma, has been in consequence of the diminution thereof, in the present year lowered in the amount here stated. The loom tax requiring a reference to the Board has not been included in the settlement. It amounts to 347 St. Pags. and has until the decision of the Board, been kept under ammani. A tamarind tope on the banks of the Veer-ranum Lake which last year was rented for 53 Star Pagodas has this year been placed under the Tahsildar, the inhabitants refusing to rent it on account of its promising not to yield any crops; from these particulars arise the deficiency under this head.

54. Having thus gone through the Jamma of each taluq, it remains for me to state a few general and comparative particulars on the total amount of the settlement of the year.

55. The total settlement in the Nunja lands amounts St. Pags. 272463 Fs. 8 C. 40 formed on a cultivation of 136940 Cawnees the estimated and averaged gross produce of which is 2145564 Cullums. General remark on the settlement for Fasli 1212. The allotment of this amount is particularized for each mohal in the statement marked A in which it will be seen

the government share amounts to Cullums 1029823.

The total settlement in the Punja lands is 228227 St. Pags. formed on a cultivation of Cawnees.

The total Sornadayam Revenue of the year amounts to St. Pags. 25815 Fs. 5 C. 11.

56. The total settlement for the land Revenues of the year amounts to St. Pags. 526,505 77 formed on a cultivation of 428,116 Cawnees. The extent of lands cultivated in each taluq, distinguishing the Nunja from the Punja, will be found in the statement B.

59. The statement C. gives a comparative view of the extent of the cultivation in each mohal in the present year for Fasli 1212 and last years, shewing that there is a net increase in the Jamma of Fasli 1211 & 1210 whole Division of Cawnees 37564, of which 4970 are Nunja and 32594 are Punja.

60. The statement D gives a comparison between the grain settlement in the Nunja lands of each mohal in the last and present years.

61. In the statement E will be found a detailed comparison between each Head of Revenue in the last and present years. In it the particulars of decrease and increase are particularly specified for each mohal as well as the total increase or decrease in each of these sub-divisions.

62. A comparison between the amount of the last and present year's Jamma will be found in the paper marked F which leaves a gross increase in favor of this year of 30202 Star Pagodas and a net increase of 18,171 Star Pagodas, the former being $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and the latter $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent in proportion to the settlement of last year. The comparison extends to each Taluq of the province. I have thought it proper in the same statement to give a comparison between the settlement of each Taluq for the present year and the Jamma of Fasli 1,210 the last year of the Nabob's management. The gross increase in the present year appears to be

47,116 and the net increase 36,334 Star Pagodas, the former being an augmentation of 1 per cent and the latter 7½ per cent on the Jamma of Fasli 1,210.

63. Having, in the early part of the Fasli, had good reason to reckon on a considerable increase of the cultivation, I naturally flattered myself that a proportionate augmentation would have taken place in the Revenues of the year, but the untoward occurrences, which I have described, combined to defeat this expectation; the reflexion however is in some measure consolatory that, if great advancement has not been made, retrocession has been prevented, and that, in a year confessedly unfavorable, a general improvement in the resources of these Districts has not been carried to the extent, which I had myself expected, the partial amelioration of them has been effected in those situations where improvement has been practicable. Under this impression, I submit the settlement for Fasli 1,212 to the favorable consideration of the Board.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your Most Obedient servant,

(Signed) J. WALLACE,

Collector.

TRICHINOPOLY,

25th February 1803.

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