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42/2
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A PLAN OF SETTLEMENT FOR TANJORE.

From the Collector, to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, No. 27, dated 8th September 1805.

GENTLEMEN,

Para. 1. I have delayed submitting to your consideration, a plan of Settlement for Tanjore, until I had ascertained, from the progressive effects of the season, a reasonable probability that the arrangement, if approved of, might be established in the present. Fusly without meeting difficulty or occasioning inconvenience on its first introduction.

2. Every measure which depended on the labour of the country, and a proper application of the Public money to secure and extend the effects of a beneficial season was adopted and completed in due time. The banks of the rivers were raised and strengthened, their beds were cleared and deepened, mounds of sand, the accumulation of many years, were removed at the point where the Cavary first enters Tanjore, the sluices and piers were repaired or rebuilt, and every other precaution that suggested itself was taken to turn to the greatest advantage, the expected inundation of the rivers.

3. I am happy to inform the Board, that nature has bountifully seconded these exertions by a most favorable season as far as it has hitherto gone. Heavy rains below the ghauts and in the Annamall mountains in May, June and July, occasioned plentiful freshes during those months in the Cavary, and in the present month the river has risen to a height unknown in the last four years, occasioned, I presume, by the periodical rains at the sources of the Cavary. It is under the prospect thus afforded of a favorable year, that I submit to the consideration of the Board a plan for the settlement of the Revenues of Tanjore.

4. In the formation of a plan involving the many important considerations inseparable from the settlement of the Revenues of an extensive province, I have taken it as a first principle, not to fix on a certain amount, as the Revenues which the country ought to pay, and then to square the subsequent arrangements to that amount,—but to establish in the first instance equitable and certain data, whereon to form a Land Tax which will yield to Government, a Revenue moderate, just and unobjectionable, and leave to the people a full return for their labour and industry, and which at the same time shall secure to them, exclusively, the whole advantage of increased industry, and the whole extraordinary profits of favorable years.

5. Without entering on the question of who is proprietor of the soil, I will content myself with stating that immemorial usage has established, both in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, that the occupants, whether distinguished by the names of merassadars or mahajenums, have the right of selling, bestowing, dividing and bequeathing their lands, in the manner which to them is most agreeable. Whether this right was granted originally by the ancient constitution of the country, appears to me not worth considering at the present day. I think it a fortunate circumstance, that the right does at present exist, whether it originated in encroachment on the sovereign's rights, in a wise and formal abrogation of those rights, or in institutions coeval with the remotest antiquity. It is fortunate that at a moment when we are consulting on the means of establishing the property and welfare of the numerous people of these provinces, we find the lands of the country in hands of men who feel and understand the full rights and advantages of possession, who have enjoyed them, in a degree more or less secure, before the British name was known in India; and who, in consequence of them, have rendered populous and fertile the extensive provinces of Tanjore and Trichinopoly.

6. The class of propriet

STATEMENT
JUMMABUNDY and Kistbundy of

DIVISIONS.	DISTRICTS.	NUMBER
		Mouzah.
1	2	3
Principal Collector's Division	Papanaussum	372
	Mauttore	282
	Trivalore	389
	Keevalore	108
		1,151
Mannargoody Do.	Talacaud	909
	Mannargoody	339
	Talacaud	394
	Puttoocottah	1,041
		2,066
Mayaveram Do.	Combaconum	428
	Coottaulum	427
	Mayaveram	795
	Nunnellum	562
		2,212
European Possessions		5,429
Nagore District included in the Principal Collector's Division.	Nagore	280
	Negapatam	32
		312
Deevacottah included in the Mayaveram Division....	Deevacottah	36
Carriacaul included in the Mayaveram Division	Carriacaul	18
		5,795
Extra Revenue		
Batta		

