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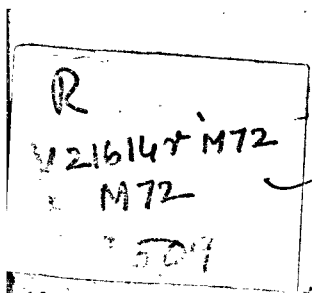
Selections
from
The Records
of the

KURNOOL DISTRICT

Report upon the Assumption of Kurnool

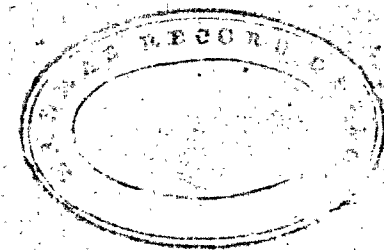


A.S.O. (D) 2102



SELECTIONS

FROM



THE RECORDS

OF THE

KURNOOL DISTRICT.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

REPORT

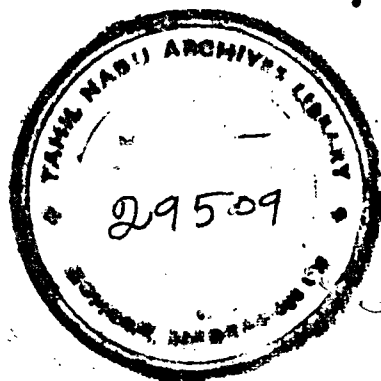
UPON THE

Assumption of Kurnool.

PRINTED AT THE KURNOOL COLLECTORATE PRESS,

1872.

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No. 13 A.

LIEUT. COL. S. W. STEEL AND T. L. BLANE Esq.,

Commissioners of Kurnool.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

We do ourselves the honor to report, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, our progress since the 12th Instant, the date of our last communication to your address. We arrived at Dhone, as we had expected, on the 14th Instant, the Troop of Cavalry, to complete the Escort, arrived there the previous day, as had also Namdar Khan, deputed by the Nawab of Kurnool to meet and accompany us to this place. He was the bearer of a complimentary letter, the exact counterpart of Nawab's reply to our address giving notice of our approach, with the addition that he had directed Mir Khan Bahadur to meet and accompany us, with instructions to see that proper supplies were furnished to us, the Troops and followers. But even at Dhone no adequate preparation had been made. Precaution had been taken of requesting the Tahsildar of Panchapallium to meet us at Dhone with supplies from his District, or the Troops and followers would not have had even a rice.

With a view of ascertaining whether after the previous notice that had been given, this neglect had been designed on the part of the Nawab, we remonstrated with Namdar Khan when he visited us to give the Nawab's introductory letter, upon the inconvenience to which the Troops and followers had been subjected, and inquired whether a better arrangement had been made at the next stage. He replied understood that supplies had been every where prepared, but that as we found them wanting at Dhone he could not be answerable, and he proposed to send a hukarrah to ascertain what articles had been collected at Yeldurtas. His manner was not exactly polite, we therefore directed one of our own Peons accompany the Hukarrah and bring an account of the various supplies that were actually ready. They were obliged us to halt on the 15th. The only remarkable circumstance that occurred at the interview was a request made by Namdar Khan, after he had received the usual signal for his departure. We were standing up, he desired every one to move out of hearing, and then requested that we would tell him the subject of the letter from the Right Honorable the Governor with which we were entrusted. In reply we were informed that our instructions were to proceed to Kurnool and to deliver the letter into the Nawab's own hands. This did not satisfy him, he pressed the subject again and again in every possible way. He observed that of course we knew the contents of the letter, that it was the custom always to give the party to whom a letter was addressed, to have some previous intimation of its contents. He needed instances in which other Gentlemen had given such information, he asked for even the slightest upon the subject, he did not wish for a full disclosure, and when, repeating that we could not, per our instructions, comply with his wish, we added that we had no means of knowing whether the Nawab had communicated to him such a request, he asserted that it was in the letter which he had brought and then produced in our possession. It is scarcely necessary to add that the letter contained nothing of the kind. At length, after repeatedly changing the subject and again reverting to our refusal, he pertinaciously in refusing to give him even the slightest hint upon the objects of our mission, this conversation having lasted considerably upwards of an hour, he took leave with much apparent cordiality, many professions of good faith and friendship on the part of the Nawab to the British Government.

The three stages from Dhone to this place, have been through roads nearly impassable from continued heavy rain. Yesterday's march was particularly distressing to the people and cattle, the rain falling in torrents the whole of the way. The Nawab's brother Gulam Khadar Khan was deputed to meet, and accompany us to our Tents and notwithstanding all our remonstrances, we found him some miles from hence. The river Hindery was barely fordable when we arrived and became impassable in the evening cutting off a portion of the Tents and baggage. It subsided in some degree during the night. A small boat has been supplied and as Elephants can now ford the river, the whole may be expected by this evening. Our Tents are pitched upon the only available spot, near the new petta, about 300 yards west of the Fort, which is so confined as only to afford room for two or three of them. We found here the same want of arrangement respecting supplies, which we have experienced since entering the Kurnool Territory. The precaution had been taken of bringing some in, under charge of the Panchapollim Tahsildar, or great inconvenience would have arisen from the scarcity; and, learning this morning that the few shops which had been opened by inhabitants of Kurnool were withdrawn, we thought it proper to send the Vakeel of the Nawab with a memorandum stating the circumstances, and requesting to be informed whether they were in future to depend upon our own resources, in which case the necessary arrangements should be made. The Nawab informed the Vakeel that orders had been given to furnish all supplies and to supply them in the Vakeel's presence.

We had at the same time requested to be informed at what hour to-day it would be convenient for us to wait upon the Nawab. The reply returned was, that his brother Gulam Khadar Khan, and Namdar Khan would be sent to escort us. They accordingly came about 3 o'clock.

Having heard that the Nawab had been preparing presents for the occasion of our visit, we thought it better to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding, by presenting the Nawab's brother and Namdar Khan that we could not accept them without the sanction of the Government, and requesting that this might be explained to the Nawab. The subject was pressed very much upon us, but at length gave up, and at about a quarter before four o'clock, we proceeded to the Fort, accompanied by the present by the Nawab to accompany us. The sentries from the Fort Gate to the Nawab's palace were lined with Troops of various descriptions, who saluted us as we passed.

On approaching the Dewan Khana, the Nawab advanced some distance on foot to meet us, and taking a hand of each, led us to our seats. After a short time the Kharecta was presented, and received the Nawab with every mark of respect. He observed that the Governor had done him great honour, and inquired after His Lordship's health. During the visit the Nawab at various times made professions of his dependence upon the Company, and of his constant fidelity since he had been, as a child, received under their protection. On our departure, the Nawab accompanied us in the same manner as at our reception. Throughout the interview the Nawab was apparently a good deal agitated, but evinced in every action, an obvious desire to receive us with all honour and to make a favourable impression. The Kharecta was not opened in our presence. Gulam Khadar Khan and Namdar Khan accompanied us again to our Tents.

From the continued heavy rain so unusual at this season, the whole of the surrounding country is completely saturated. By demi-official accounts from Major General Wilson, he did not expect the Troops from Secunderabad to join him, at the earliest, till the 22nd instant. If circumstances should require the presence of his force here, the state of the roads would prevent his making any progress in heavy ordnance, and until after a few days fine weather, no operations could be commenced, nor would there be any encamping ground but in black soil, knee deep in mud. For these reasons, it is altogether prudent not to press matters here more speedily than is absolutely necessary, until Major General Wilson's Force is in a condition to carry into effect the views of the Government.

By Express No. 17.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

We hasten to report for the information of His Lordship in Council the particulars of a conference which we have this day had with Namdar Khan the Minister of the Nawab which has given such an unexpected turn to the affairs that we had commenced investigating, and is altogether of so much importance that we are unwilling to lose a moment, in communicating them for the information and orders of Government.

2. Previously to our doing so however it appears to be proper to state as briefly as possible the manner in which we have been employed since the date of our last despatch.

The subject of the seditious document, forwarded by the Resident at Hyderabad, has been the object of our anxious consideration and enquiry, the result of which we hope to be able to report on either to-morrow or the next day.

3. On the day subsequent to our waiting upon the Nawab we received a visit from Namdar Khan in which he stated that he had been commissioned by the Nawab to inform us that he had carefully read and understood the letter addressed to him by His Lordship the Governor, and that he was ready to comply with whatever might be demanded of him. After some general expressions on his part of the loyalty and attachment of the Nawab and his family to the British Government, we thought it right to proceed to some more particular mention of the objects for which we had been deputed to Kurnool, the first in importance of which was the decrease of his Military establishment, and the large supply of Military stores which it was well known he had been for some time collecting. His answers to such questions as we put to him consisted generally of a denial of any such accumulation having taken place, though he was ready to admit that some guns had been bought and some cast; and that a few muskets and other stores had been collected but he stated that the accounts of them had been greatly exaggerated. He hinted that the Nawab had been some time ago not quite in his right mind, and that he himself had warned him of the consequences that might result from continuing his purchases, but he denied in the most earnest manner that they had ever been with the most remote view of hostility or rebellion against the Company's Government. This part of the conversation ended by our requesting him to communicate to the Nawab our desire that a full and particular list of all the guns, and Military stores, as well as of his present Military force, should be furnished to us under the Nawab's hand and seal.

4. The next point to which we adverted was the treatment of the Nawab's brothers, and their relations, particularly Ahmed Khan, a long and tedious account was given of the circumstances attending his present restraint, for Namdar Khan did not exactly admit that he was in close confinement. He stated that Ahmed Khan had kept some woman together with her mother, closely secluded in his house against their consent, that a complaint had reached the Nawab, who had endeavoured in every way to effect a compromise, but that Ahmed Khan had been most obstinate and violent in his refusal to admit even of the subject being mentioned to him, that subsequently it was discovered that Ahmed Khan had wounded one of the females slightly, and another of his household so severely that she died; and she had been within the precincts of his house. He further asserted that Ahmed Khan had in one got on the top of his house, and attempted to shoot the Nawab who was passing, his gun providentially missed fire.

5. Namdar Khan gave plausible accounts of the condition of such of the Nawab's relatives as we inquired after denying that any of them were in prison. Namdar Khan having stated his opinion that Ahmed Khan would have been a visit at our tents, it was agreed that the Vakeel should have

ascertain that point. The following day the 21st after a visit from Namdar Khan to propose that we should first examine his witnesses in Ahmed Khan's case, which we negatived, the Vakeel went into the Fort, and had a conference with that person, who expressed his readiness to come at any time we should appoint—On the 22nd we sent in the Vakeel with a memorandum stating that in accordance with the agreement made with Namdar Khan, we wished Ahmed Khan to be sent out to us. He arrived at about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 P. M. His appearance was haggard and wretched in the extreme—his clothes worn nearly to rags, and filthy from long continued use. It was not without the greatest difficulty and persuasion that he was induced to give a verbal statement of the cause of his imprisonment and the manner in which he had been treated by the Nawab. The cause he asserted was the Nawab's inclination for one of his women—his statement of the particulars, from the attempt to bribe his porter, who absconded without divulging it to his master, the violent entry of his house by the Nawab, by breaking the back door on which occasion several of the inmates of his harem wounded themselves, occupied till past seven in the evening. He gave a detail of many acts of cruelty towards himself, of his being on one occasion kept in the "Kalasofa" (the place where the Nawab holds his ~~harem~~) for three days without food and water, or moving for any purpose whatever—at another time being five days deprived of water, and that, after the last act of violence the breaking open of his house a corpse had been buried within the precincts of his residence and he had been accused of the murder, mentioned by Namdar Khan, to account for his confinement. On taking leave Ahmed Khan promised to transmit to us a written statement, the counterpart of one sent to Mr. Robertson, which he thought had never reached its destination.

6. It was reported yesterday that a man whom Ahmed Khan had sent with that document, had been prevented from coming by the guard over his house—and having reason to believe that Namdar Khan had not repeated accurately to the Nawab the particulars of our conversations with him, he addressed a letter to the Nawab requesting that he would hear our Moonshees read Mr. Grandun's of the several conversations that had taken place and inform us whether he confirmed the several statements made in his name, by Namdar Khan, that he would give instructions for the Vakeel, when sent by us, to have free admittance to his brother and other relatives—and that they, and other persons whom we desired to attend at our tents might do so without obstruction. The Nawab desired the Moonshees to read their Memorandums and after hearing them read, asked for copies—at which they demurred until they could receive our instructions. A message was sent to request an interview from Namdar Khan and another Native Gentleman upon the subject of the letter. It was late when the Hukara arrived and we therefore appointed 11 o'clock, this morning for the conference.

7. We have thus condensed what has occurred since our last report, because, what we are now about to communicate, has rendered our previous proceedings in a great measure unimportant, and superseded the necessity of our obtruding on the time and attention of His Lordship in Council the relation of more trivial details. We shall therefore at once proceed to relate what has taken place to-day.

8. Namdar Khan, according to appointment, visited us at our tents at about 12 o'clock to-day, accompanied by another Patan Surdar Oomudrass Khan, said to be greatly in the confidence of the Nawab. The conversation turned upon subjects previously discussed, and particularly referred to the requests conveyed in our letter to the Nawab which we had yesterday forwarded. After it had lasted for about an hour and a half or two hours, Namdar Khan requested to be allowed to say a few words to us entirely alone, and, on the departure of the other persons present, he commenced, under an understanding that it was to be strictly confidential, to lay before us, in the most unreserved manner, the whole circumstances of the Nawab, the nature of his Military preparations and the state of his family and

commenced by stating that as far back as five or six years ago, Gulam Rassaun began to show symptoms of insanity, which had gradually increased on him, until

himself had experienced the greatest difficulty in conducting the affairs of the Government under the yab, but that he had for the last two years been gradually recovering and he continued to cherish the hope that in the course of a short time he would entirely recover his right mind. He stated that the derangement of the Nawab's intellects was manifested in the most extravagant fancies and actions; that at times he was wholly occupied with the idea of building tanks where no water could come to them, he then abandoned this idea and commenced laying out money in making extensive gardens all over the district which were abandoned as soon as planted, that he had built houses and madhals at Kurnool and then abandoned them and rebuilt them a dozen times; and that he had at one time been occupied with the notion that the revenue of his district ought to be 25 instead of 8 lacs, and then insisted upon taking nothing from the Ryots in payment of their Kista, by which he had been a loser of many lacs of Rupees, as the Ryots had themselves been reduced to distress by the regular money collections having been made by the Amaldars on their own behalf.

10. With respect to the most important point of his conduct, viz., the accumulation of Military Stores, he freely admitted it. He said that there were now about 200 cannon of different kinds in the district; that 30 or 40 of these might be the number which had originally been there; that some had been brought in from the other forts in the district, others purchased from different places in the Hyderabad territory; and that many had been cast by the Nawab himself, some of these he described as being apparently good, but that many of them were utterly unserviceable either from having been ill cast, or from a bad admixture of the metals. He stated also that there was a large store of cast iron, lead, brimstone, petre and other materials, but little more Gunpowder than had been usually kept in store by his predecessors.

11. On our questioning him particularly as to the motive of the Nawab in making these preparations, he said that he had scarcely any fixed idea of the subject at all; for that he had at one time heard of an intended invasion from Afghanistan, and conceived the idea of increasing his Country in the event of taking place; and that at another time he would express his firm determination of proceeding to Egypt, and taking his Troops and Guns with him, conquering or killing Mahomet Ali, and taking possession of Egypt. Throughout the whole of this narration, however, Namdar Khan denied in the most earnest manner that the Nawab's views, even in his madness, had ever been directed against the English; and with respect to any treasonable correspondence with Mubarrizood Dowlah or other parties, he would answer that his own life that nothing of the sort had taken place or would hereafter be discovered.

12. On our asking him why all this had not been revealed to the Collector of Belary, the accredited Agent of Government, he said that he had been frequently down to Anantapur with the intention of doing so, but that Mr. Robertson did not understand a word of Hindustani or any language he would speak; that all their communications were carried on by means of a Bramin interpreter; and that he could not trust so important a communication to the hearing of a person who might betray him to the Nawab, in which case he would have stood in the greatest danger of losing his life. He had therefore been obliged to carry on the affairs in the best manner he could under the hope that the Nawab's recovery would relieve him from the difficult position in which he was placed.

13. With respect to the account of Military Stores, which we had previously called upon him to shew, he stated that he had been commissioned by the Nawab to say that we were at liberty to go into the Fort, and take an account of them; and Namdar Khan assured us on his own authority, and in the most solemn manner, that they would all be seen and that a few Guns which, he admitted, had been hidden, had since been dug up and exposed to view.

14. Regarding the confinement of the Nawab's Brother, Ahmed Khan, by the Nawab, he stated the account which he had given previously was not true, but added at the same time that the woman who had been the subject of dispute was in reality of a less respectable character than has been represented in the petitions forwarded by Ahmed Khan to Government; and that the possession of her had long formed the subject of dissension between the two Brothers.

15. After a long account given by him of the characters and dispositions of the different Brothers and other members of the family with which it does not at present appear necessary to trouble Government, we informed him that the account he had given of the state of the case might be a true one, but that the Military preparations which he admitted to have been made, and the objects for which they had been intended as reported from different quarters to Government, could not but be viewed as most suspicious circumstances, that it was our duty to forward an immediate report of what he had stated to

Government, in which care should be taken not to compromise him with the Nawab; and that, although we were not empowered to give any orders upon the subject but simply to inquire into and ascertain the state of the case, yet he must at all events be aware that the Government would in all probability consider that a person in the state of mind in which he had described the Nawab to be, was disqualified from running the Government of the Country; and we asked him what, in the event of its being determined to remove him, would be the result, adding that we presumed the Nawab himself would not consent to an arrangement. He stated in reply that if it were the determination of the Government to remove the present Nawab, and place his eldest son now about 12 years old, and of whose capacity he spoke in terms on the Mubnad, he had himself sufficient influence to carry through that measure without the intervention of the Company's power and authority, provided its intention to that effect was publicly signified. He also proposed, as the Nawab was now so much better, that there was a probability of his eventual recovery, that he might be permitted to remain as at present for two or three years in that hope, when if realized, his son would be of sufficient age to assume charge of the Jagher. Namdar Khan did not conceal that he had educated, and brought through with the youth whose cause he advocates, and it is clear that his influence must be greatly increased should either of his propositions be adopted by the Government; but we informed him we did not consider it likely that any immediate orders to either effect would be given; and that, though we were not authorized to make such a statement, we thought it probable the determination of Government might be to remove the present Nawab, leaving it to be determined afterwards what should be done regarding the succession, or whether the Country should be disposed in any other manner. To this, he replied, that in such a case, the Nawab had but few persons who would adhere to him; that he was, generally speaking, disliked by all Classes; and that he made little doubt that he (Namdar Khan) could himself carry into effect the orders of Government whatever they might be. At the same time, he besought us with considerable emotion to recollect the antiquity of the family; that was the last of the high Patan houses in Southern India; and that the numbers of Musselmauns in other places, reduced to a state of misery and depression, were supported by the existence of this state, and he urged us to use our influence that so old and noble a family might not be deprived of its inheritance through the fault or misfortune of one Member of it. The conversation which had lasted at least two hours was now closed. We informed him that we should immediately make a report of what he had stated to Government, and await its orders. In the mean time, we should take care that what he had stated should not become known to any one at Kurnool; and that with this view we should carry on the investigation as if nothing of the nature had occurred.

16. It is not our intention here to offer any particular comments on the nature of this communication; but we may be permitted to express our opinion that, although these are points which are liable to suspicion, yet we are inclined to view it as generally deserving of credit; we are the more inclined to this opinion because the account given by Namdar Khan of the state of the Nawab's mind is considerably strengthened by our own observation of his personal appearance and demeanour. We have seldom seen any one the expression of whose countenance, and general bearing more strongly indicated partial, if not confirmed, derangement of intellect; and it is a well known fact that more than one member of his family has been thus affected. Many of the particulars too which he mentioned on this subject were such as had before been the subject of general report, and tend still more to confirm the general accuracy of his statement; still it is possible, if the Nawab has actually been carrying on a treasonable correspondence, and meditates rebellion, that, now the discovery appears to be inevitable, the plea of insanity may be assumed in the hope of preserving the Jagher, if not to himself at least in his family.

17. It has thus become necessary for us respectfully to request the early Orders of Government upon the manner in which we should in future proceed and with whom we should conduct our business. This seems to us to be a question of considerable delicacy, on the one hand, if the account now given by Namdar Khan, confirmed as it is by our own observations and other circumstances, be taken as substantially true, the Nawab can scarcely be considered as a responsible moral agent, and the lives and fortunes of the family and other persons in the Fort, ought scarcely to be trusted to the determination which a man in his state of mind may choose to adopt; nor can any negotiation, carried on by us with such a person, lead to any beneficial result; on the other hand the proofs of his mental weakness are not so full as would warrant our at once treating him as a madman; they are chiefly derived from the statement of the Minister, Namdar Khan; and his immediate removal upon the strength of this statement might, when it be true or false, be made to appear as the result of an intrigue carried on by him from motives

of personal interest. We do not ourselves doubt that the strongest proof of his incapacity and weak mind will be obtained hereafter; but while he retains the power he is now possessed of, the dread which all who wish to do him harm entertain, must naturally deter them from coming forward with any statement to his prejudice, without the exercise of any direct influence on his part for their prevention.

18. It will rest therefore with the Government to determine what are the immediate steps which it may be necessary for us to take, whether a temporary suspension of the Nawab's authority, and the occupation of the Fort by the Company's Troops may be advisable, until a full inquiry into the subjects of the communication can take place under the instructions already furnished to us, and in the event of this taking place through the influence of the Minister without the necessity of resorting to hostilities, whether the ordinary management of the Country should be left in his hands, or if there be any other course which may be adopted with better effect for the attainment of the objects which Government have in view. We do not presume to anticipate the decision of Government, but shall anxiously expect instructions for our guidance, continuing in the interval to prosecute the inquiry into the subjects already entered upon.

19. We beg to state that it is our intention to avail ourselves of the permission tendered by the Nawab to inspect and take a list of his Guns and Military Stores, which we shall do either personally, or by putting one or two of the Officers attached to the Escort now with us for that purpose.

We have the honor to be &c., &c.,

(Signed) S. W. STEEL, LIEUTENANT Colonel,

T. L. BLANE,

Commissioners.

Camp near Kurnool,
24th September 1833.

No. 18.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

The great importance of the communication from the Resident at Hyderabad and the document enclosed by him to Government and subsequently transmitted to us in Mr. Secretary Clerk's letter in the Secret Department under date the 1st Instant, induced us to consider it as one of the first points which occupied our attention on our arrival at Kurnool. We accordingly lost no time in setting about inquiries as might tend to throw light upon the genuineness of the document or to establish the fact having been written and transmitted by the Nawab of Kurnool to Mubarezood Bowlah.

The first point to be established was the identity of the seal with that formerly in the possession of the Nawab's father, Alif Khan. We ascertained that such a seal had been constantly used by him, as by the persons from whom the document was obtained, and we had little difficulty in obtaining by the activity of the Vakeel, two old and undoubtedly genuine documents, being sunnuds granted by Alif Khan to which the seal was affixed. We shall further on offer such remarks as have occurred to us in bringing the two impressions.

The next fact to be ascertained was, whether the seal was now in the possession of Gulam Russal; and upon this point, we feel bound to state our opinion that the inquiries we have made tend to exculpate the Nawab from the charge of having transmitted the seditious document now before us. On the second day after our arrival we received, much to our surprise, a letter of complaint from the Nawab from Nubarie Khatu, one of his female relations, signed with this identical seal. This is a daughter of Alif Khan and own sister of Muzaffer Khan, the present Nawab, who is now a prisoner, confined at Bellary, in which branch of the family and the present Nawab the most determined enmity is known to exist, and from further enquiry we have been able to ascertain that, on the death of Alif Khan, the seal was left to the hands of his married wife, Ameen Khatu Beebee, the mother of Muzaffer Khan and of Nubarie Khatu; and, again on Ameen Khatu Beebee's death, was left by her to her daughter Nubarie Khatu who retains and uses it. The Vakeel has at our desire had an interview with Nubarie Khatu who made no statement to him much to the same effect, adding however that the seal was for some time in the possession of Muzaffer Khan previous to his imprisonment, and that it was returned to his mother Ameen Khatu Beebee, by Mr. Campbell personally and had never since been out of her possession, or used by any person but herself and her mother; and she also furnished him with an impression of it in wax, two of

4. We consider it to be established therefore that the original seal was not, and never has been the possession of Gulam Russul Khan, but by whom it was used or with what motive, is still involve considerable mystery. It is impossible to suppose that Nubarie Khata who now has possession of seal would have permitted any one to use it to verify a document purporting to come from Gulam Russul Khan, when she must have been aware that the fact of its being in her own possession was well known that any one else who was also aware of this fact, would have used it, or even forged it, for the purpose. We are more inclined therefore, as the only means of accounting for its having been made of, to suppose first, that it is not the impression of the original seal; and secondly that it is a forgery made and used by some one under the supposition, which in nine cases out of ten would be verified, that the seal of the late Nawab Alif Khan was in the possession of the present Nawab.

5. The probability at least of such being the case has led us into a careful comparison of the impressions undoubtedly made from the original seal with that affixed to the suspected document and confess that the result of it has in a great measure tended to confirm our suspicions that the latter is a forgery. From the exact correspondence in the size and form of such of the letters as appear different impressions; and which we ascertained by a careful measurement with a fine pair of compasses it is evidently not the impression of a separately engraved seal made in imitation of the original one. We think it bears a strongly suspicious appearance of having been produced by an ingenious person which is well known to be occasionally practised, by which the form of the letters is exactly copied on a thin piece of paper placed over the back of an original impression; the paper is then fixed on a substance easily cut, generally the rind of a dried pumpkin, and the letters cut out sufficiently deep to produce a very plausible imitation of an impression badly or carelessly taken off. In such cases, the forgery will seldom bear a close and nimble examination; for the letters will never appear so defined and perfect as when made from an engraved seal, and where there are minute letters frequently omitted and a few scratches substituted in their place to leave the appearance of their coming badly off in impressing the seal.

6. The whole appearance of the one now before us is exactly of this description; so imperfect an impression that one entire word is omitted, the inscription on the Original seal being "Allah Suna" "The Allah" being included in the "Ci" part of the "Tograh". There is nothing, however, in the state of the ink to account for this or for the entire failure in the figures of the date. There are two causes from which the impression may fail to be shown in an ink impression either from the ink being too thick and wet, and thus filling the letters and leaving it quite black, or from the paper not having been dampened so as to take the ink in the seal, and thus leaving the space nearly white; but where a moderate quantity of ink fairly spread the surface of the seal has come off in the manner observable in the impression in question, it could have failed to show the letters in the centre of the Tograh if they had been on the seal used. Any number of experiments with a seal of about the same size would show this to be invariably the case. Independently of these entire omissions of letters, the appearance of even those which are shown is defined and plain than it ought to have been, had they been produced from an engraved seal.

7. These considerations therefore, coupled with the fact that the original seal could not have been used if the latter had really come from the present Nawab, induce us to consider the seal at all ever a forgery. It appears necessary to consider by whom the forgery could have been committed, and see only two supposable cases which could possibly account for it, first, that the Nawab had himself such a forced imitation of his Father's seal as a measure of precaution; that he might be able to as in the event of detection that the seal was not on his possession, but in that of his enemies; and secondly that the persons who produced the letter before the Resident or some other persons, may have forged the letter, and affixed to it a false imitation of Alif Khan's seal, believing that seal to be now in the possession of his son the present Nawab of Kurnool. Of these two possible cases we are free to say that we think the latter far the most probable; for the enmity which these persons bore to the Nawab was not disavowed, and we cannot conceal our opinion founded on a careful consideration of the circumstances under which the document was brought to light, as related in the letter of the Resident at Hyderabad that the whole account is justly open to much suspicion. The manner in which it came into their possession

the long delay in bringing it forward; for which the excuse given is, we think, rather inadequate, and the means by which the fact of its existence was at length introduced to the Residents knowledge, without the necessity of their appearing to come forward, together with one or two other slight circumstances, which have struck us in a perusal of the letter, are, we think, very suspicious. The letter carefully avoids all particular details, and merely hints at circumstances which, it is not unreasonable to suppose were tolerably well known at the time the letter was produced as forming part of the charges laid to Mubarezood Dowlah, than which there are none more likely to have been made use of in an endeavour to bring the Nawab into disgrace and for a charge of treason upon him. We are not so perfectly acquainted with the custom as to be able to pronounce a certain opinion, but we believe it to be contrary to the etiquette, amongst Mussulmans of rank, to place a seal at the top of a letter addressed to a superior; and we think that the use of any seal at all on a document transmitted with such extreme precautions is unlikely.

8. It is scarcely necessary for us to add after the above observations, that we do not consider that the genuineness of the document has received that degree of proof, which Government has required, that should meet with, before we proceeded to act on the instructions furnished to us for our guidance in the event of its being so proved, and we have not, under these circumstances, considered it advisable to reveal to the Nawab or his minister the existence of such a document at present, although we have made some general enquiries from the latter respecting the Nawab's seals, and have obtained impressions of them.

9. It is perhaps not out of place to add that we have ascertained that the Nawabs of Kurnool have been, for a long time, in the habit of retaining, for general use, small seals with an inscription, similar to that of Alif Khan, now under discussion, but all differing slightly from each other, though the word "Luna" appears in them all. The present Nawab's seal engraved in the first year of his reign, and of which we enclose an impression, has on it the words "Allah Luna Hafiz" which has the same significance as that given to the other.

10. We have thought it right for the satisfaction of Government to return the original letter for inspection and comparison with the other seals, but we shall be glad to receive it back again, in case any thing further on the subject should come to light, as well as the two original Sunnads which are of importance to their possessors.

The accompanying list shows the different documents now forwarded.

We have the honor to be &c., &c.,
(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieutenant Colonel,

Camp at Kurnool,
26th September 1839.

F. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

List.

1. Original document forwarded in Mr. Clerk's letter of the 1st Instant.
2. & 3. Original Sunnads bearing the private Seal of the late Nawab Alif Khan.
4. & 5. Impressions from that seal furnished by his daughter Mubarie Khata.
6. & 7. Ink and wax impressions of the private seal of Gulam Russul Khan, engraved on silver in the Hegera year 1239.
8. & 9. Do. Do. of a seal bearing the same inscription but in a different form, and lately engraved by his order on.

(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieutenant Colonel,

F. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

By Express.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

We have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that, since the date of our last despatch and in consequence of a communication from the Nawab through Namdar Khan, that we were at liberty to inspect the number and state of his Cannon and other Military Stores now in the Fort, and the most positive and reiterated assurance on his part that no concealment should be made, but that a full and free exhibition of all that he possessed should take place. We de-

puted two * Officers of the Escort, for the purpose of making inspection. These Gentlemen proceeded into the Fort at 1 o'clock on the 28th Ultimo, and were accompanied by Namdar Khan and one of the Nawab's brothers, who took them over the Fort and pointed out the different places in which the cannon and Military Stores were deposited. The

* No. 1. accompanying * report which we received on the following day will exhibit the result of their inspection and the mode in which it was conducted. We have added an * abstract statement of the Guns inspected by them showing the size and the Number of each Class as nearly as can be ascertained

* No. 2. as well as the estimated quantity of ammunition and Stores of other description.

2. Our motive in directing this inspection at the desire of the Nawab was, not that we considered that it could be relied upon, but as Namdar Khan had, partly on behalf of the Nawab, and partly on his own account, assumed a tone of the most unreserved confidence, and sincerity towards us, we considered it extremely desirable to avail ourselves of the voluntary offer on the part of the Nawab to permit our inspection, because it would afford the best and surest criterion by which to test his sincerity hereafter and would effectually close every avenue for future misrepresentation or evasion upon the most important point embraced in our enquiry. We have now a distinct and defined statement of the extent of the warlike material, which he professes to possess, and any excess above it, which we may afterwards discover, will subject him to the serious charge of concealment and evasion whilst he professed sincerely and to the unavoidable inference to be drawn from such conduct viz., that the manner in which he has attempted to account for his Military preparations, suspicious as it always was, is now proved to be false and is totally inadmissible.

3. Having premised thus much, we now beg to state that even previous to the inspection taking place, we had received private information that a vast number of Guns was still buried in different places in the Fort, and that it was not the intention of the Nawab to show more than would give a fair colouring to the statement given us by Namdar Khan. This information was conveyed to us by means of the Vakeel, who brought to us the brother of one of the Jemadars of Colundauz; this person stated that he himself had been one of those employed in burying the Cannon, and he described the different places in which the guns had been buried.

4. We have now taken his deposition in writing in presence of a Bramin, whom he states to be his "Gurn" or Religious instructor and both have signed the document, of which we enclose a Translation. This statement has been corroborated by a communication made to the Vakeel by Rhyman Khan Mesah a cousin of the Nawab's, which he has offered to give under his hand and seal, and also in a remarkable manner by a demi official letter received this morning from Major General Wilson, particularizing the places of concealment which agree with those indicated in the other statements. We have since been anxiously deliberating upon the course which it will be most advisable to pursue; for we see the strongest reason to believe that the statement made by the above person, confirmed as it is by information given to us in other quarters, is founded on truth.

Whilst such is our impression, however, we feel satisfied that there is no effectual way of ascertaining the accuracy of our information, or of setting at rest the doubts which we are justified in drawing of the Military Stores lately inspected, being the whole which is in the possession of the Nawab except by a rigid search made through the fort in the numerous places which would be pointed out, and we are equally satisfied that to render such search effectual, the Fort ought to be in the Military possession of the company's forces.

We could not ascertain the exact position in which the Cannon are buried, many of the spots are said to be so, being in the Court yards and buildings of the Nawab's Palace, without opening the persons who can give us information into the Fort to point them out. Delays and excuses attending our admission, such as the places being occupied by women, would be made and urged, and a search could only be made during the day time we should be put off until it was too late; and it is not improbable that during the night the Cannon might be removed elsewhere.

Of this and other considerations, such as the probability of affrays arising between the Nawab's own, particularly on any discovery of concealed Cannon being made, we cannot wholly set aside the personal safety of those who would be willing to give us every information, and particularly of those now in the Fort when the fact of their being our informants became known. We are obliged to offer them the protection of Government, but we could neither ensure it to them, nor could we rely on our ability to do so, if they were sent with a small party into a Fort in the possession of the Nawab as Gulam Russul Khan, and who, supposing our doubts of his sincerity to be well founded, can be little doubt, be exasperated beyond measure, at discovering that he was betrayed.

Coming to the conclusion that the occupation of the Fort is essentially necessary to enable us to put the instructions of Government into full effect, we have not failed to take into due consideration what objections can be urged to our requiring it at the hands of the Nawab, and we confess to see now which could be viewed in the light of a harsh measure towards him, or one indeed which could reasonably object to. He has expressed and reiterated his sentiments of loyalty to the Government, his readiness to obey all demands which may be made on him, and his desire to meet us in the most open and candid manner, and thus clear his character from the suspicions attached to it. As far as he is himself concerned, therefore, he can have no plea for declining the measure by which alone, the object he professes so much to desire, can be effectually attained. On the other hand he has admitted the fact of his having made a considerable accumulation of arms, for which he has assigned no sufficient reason, and no consideration of justice or delicacy can, we conceive, be urged in opposition of the right of Government, to require his concurrence in measures most effectual for clearing up or confirming suspicions which his own conduct has

The preceding remarks are made principally with reference to the first object of our enquiry, but it is our duty to add that we see little hope of being able to fulfil the object of our mission without the co-operation of Government both in that as well as other points, unless some such measure be adopted of conduct pursued by the Nawab and his minister is that which of all others must throw obstacles in our way. Neither contingency contemplated by our instructions has happened which an interpretation of them would authorize was in calling up the force, for he has neither resisted nor has yet made upon him nor has any thing beyond what he has himself admitted been proved. At the same time we stand in a position which must in a great measure render our endeavour to effect a full and satisfactory investigation abortive. We are authorized to call for and examine such persons as we may desire, and in the 11th Para of our instructions a clear and defined line is laid down for our guidance in the event of the Nawab wilfully using his personal influence or authority to suppress information or obstruct the full attainment of the objects of Government. We do not charge any overt act of this nature, but we respectfully submit for the consideration of the Government that he cannot, even if he wished, divest himself of a great degree of such influence which is in factual in obstructing our enquiries as if it were openly exercised.

It is not perhaps less dreaded than hated by the people under his authority, and it is scarcely

We take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt by express of the reply to our despatch of the 17th Instant No. 17, and we are gratified to observe that our resolution of prosecuting the investigation which we had entered upon, has been approved of by His Lordship in Council.

high we had entered upon, has been approved.

Camp at Karnool }
and October 1839. }

(Signed.)

5 "

No. 30.

We have the honor to be &c.
W. STEEL, Lieutenant Colonel.
L. BLANE.
Commissioners.

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

With reference to our letter No 26 of the 2nd Instant we have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the Military possession of the Fort of Kurnool was given to the force, detached on our requisition by General Wilson consisting of the 51st Regiment and two Companies of H. M. 39th Regiment at sunset yesterday evening the 6th Instant.

In pursuance of the plan which we stated in our last letter that it was our intention to adopt, we on the 1st Instant addressed a letter to the Nawab, copy of which [marked A] is herewith enclosed. Immediately on the receipt of the letter we were informed that the Nawab was in communication with us. The demand had evidently

in pursuance of the plan which we stated in our last letter that it was our intention to send an instant messenger to the Nawab, copy of which [marked A] is herewith enclosed. Immediately on its receipt by him, Namdar Khan was sent out to confer with us. The demand had evidently taken him completely by surprise and numerous frivolous objections were urged by Namdar Khan, such as that the Nawab would never consent to have his Zenanah searched, that he would probably blow him up and all the women of his Zenanah up and the like. He reverted again to his statement regarding the Nawab's deranged intellect and proposed various modifications of our plan which were all met by a steady refusal on our part to consent to anything less than the complete Military possession of the Fort. Whilst making one of the objections to any search of the Zenanah he informed us plainly that it was the only place where any concealment had been made or would be discovered and he now alleged that he was ignorant of any such concealment. He was in the Nawab's Zenanah to which he had no access, and that in his previous assurances that no alarmment whatever should be made but that all the cannon and Military stores should without restraint be open to the inspection of the Officers deputed by us for their examination. He had only referred to the Zenanah as being in other parts of the Fort, exclusive of the Zenanah for which he was not answerable. It now appeared evident to us that our suspicions had been well founded, and the motive for resisting our offer of a request to have a statement furnished to us under the Nawab's hand and seal of the extent of his stores was made fully apparent. The necessity for adhering to the strict letter of our demand was in our opinion greatly strengthened and we informed him therefore that we should expect the Nawab's reply on the following morning and that the detachment would be admitted into the Fort at the same time.

lock the following morning and that the detachment would be admitted. Early on the following morning Naindar Khan again made his appearance bringing with him the Nab's three sons, and his own and several other children, the sons of relations of the Nawab and others in all about 12. He informed us that he had come to place them under our protection and promised that they should remain in our Camp. We did not at first see any particular objection to the boys remaining but during the conversation which ensued, it became manifest to us that his object was to take us parties to a deception by which it would have become publicly understood and the Nawab himself perhaps be led to believe that our permitting his sons to remain with us was a pledge that we had given them by the hand, and an acknowledgement on behalf of the Government that the claim of the eldest son to the succession would, whatever might happen, be recognized. When this design became

13. With the conviction that we are obeying the spirit of the instructions under which we are acting, we beg respectfully, to state our confident hope that the cause we have resolved to adopt will meet with the approval of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, upon which point we trust that our anxiety may be relieved by an early communication from Government.

manifest we at once saw imperative necessity for defeating it, for as we were not authorized to make acknowledgement of the young Nawab's right and we were ignorant of what arrangement might eventually be adopted by Government, our lending ourselves to any such deception would have had the direct effect of compromising the good faith of the Company's Government. We should have obtained possession of the Fort apparently under false pretences and if the eventual settlement of the question did not correspond with the colour which Nizam Khan intended to give to the transaction it would have afforded the opportunity of asserting hereafter that we had made use of deceit for the purpose of inducing a surrender and then falsified the pledge by which some that end was brought about. We steadily rejected his proposition therefore for leaving children with us and confined ourselves to urging on him the necessity for receiving a reply to our letter from the Nawab and of his complying with our demand. Much time was lost in irrelevant and useless discussion but we at length consented to give him until the evening to let the Nawab's answer and he took his departure carrying the children with him. In the evening at about 5 o'clock he again returned accompanied by another Patan Janquidar named Shalim Khan but without any written answer from the Nawab and to our surprise again bringing all the children with him. The same scene as what had taken place in the morning was acted over again. We did not conceal from them our suspicion that he was merely endeavouring to gain time and we warned them of the consequences which must ensue from this fruitless and unnecessary delay. Being however unwilling to subject ourselves to the possible irritation of hesitations and want of consideration we again desired him to inform the Nawab that we must positively receive his answer on the following morning at 7 o'clock and to prevent the possibility of Nizam Khan's deceiving the Nawab or keeping him in ignorance of what was going on we wrote a letter copy of which we enclose (marked B.) and sent it into the Fort to be delivered into the Nawab's own hands.

The remonstrances contained in our letter, and the plain alternative laid down appeared to have had some effect on him, for early on the following morning Nizam Khan again came to our tents in company with Khader Khan the favourite brother of the Nawab, and they brought with them and delivered a letter from the Nawab in reply to our two last in which he expressed his readiness to show his fidelity and obedience by delivering over possession of the Fort as has been demanded. Translation of this (marked C.) is also enclosed. After some conversation it transpired that there was still some difficulty regarding the entry of the troops into the Fort arising as alleged by them from the refusal of the Nawab to give it up. We could not however be certain whether this was actually the case, or whether the Nawab might not have given them secret instructions to resist whilst he personally professed a willingness to comply with our requisition; we therefore informed them that this could make no difference in the line of conduct to be pursued by us that it could make little difference by whom we were kept out of possession whether by the Nawab himself or his Rival and that in either case it would be necessary to call up the remainder of the Force to enforce obedience. We consented to a further delay until 12 o'clock to enable them if possible to effect the necessary arrangement. Nizam Khan however was afraid to trust himself again in the Fort, and went to his tents which were pitched under the walls of the Pettah, messages from him and to the Fort continued to be sent and at 4 o'clock he again visited us and even at this late hour he thought it advisable to renew his request on behalf of the Nawab for modification of the demand. He stated by the express desire of the Nawab that he admitted that a number of cannon and stores had been concealed from us in the first instance and that the Nawab would now send us a true account under his own hand that we might then send in a small detachment to examine the stores and that if it was found to correspond with the account that the Nawab would admit that he had been guilty of deceit and evasion. It appeared to be the object to induce us by this means to forego any proceedings or opinion

the previous examination and to rest our opinion and the course ultimately to be taken solely on the result of a second trial of his sincerity. We told him plainly that such evasions and proposals were inadmissible and that he could not expect us to trust him again after having once been so grossly deceived by his professions that he was wasting the short time that remained in endeavours which he could not expect to succeed in. We finally informed him that the time had now arrived when we could not comply with our duty admit of any further procrastination and that unless the Nawab admitted by sunset we had determined to call up the remainder of the Force. A message was sent to the Nawab to this effect by a Hukarah for Nizam Khan would not again go into the Fort, and after an hour before sunset the Nawab's brother came out accompanied by Yassim Meeah a person of some distinction with an intimation that all was ready and that he was prepared to conduct the troops inside. They were accordingly got under arms as speedily as possible and entered the Fort in full possession at about 7 o'clock without any opposition or disturbance as will be seen from the report from Colonel James received this morning (marked D). The Nawab had it appeared from the Fort last night and this morning he has been observed crossing the Hendry river to a Village named Kurnool on the south side named Zorapur apparently taking with him a portion or the whole of the Garrison. As we did not understand the instructions respecting the retention of the Garrison to be in the event of hostilities, and their consequently becoming prisoners of war we have not considered ourselves justified in demanding that they should remain under the walls of the Fort, or in using measures for preventing their going to this Village but should it become apparent that they intend to pass through the country we shall consider ourselves authorized in taking measures for preventing them. We can receive the instructions of Government.

We now about to proceed into the Fort for the purpose of adopting such measures for discovering concealed cannon &c., as may appear advisable.

We have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) S. W. STELL, Lieutenant Colonel.

T. L. BLANE,

Commissioner.

No. 33.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

In reference to the last para of our Despatch No. 30 dated the 7th Instant we have the honor to inform you that we were employed during the whole of yesterday and until 10 o'clock this morning in breaking up and partially inspecting the places in which the Nawab of Kurnool had concealed or deposited his stores. Considerable delay was occasioned by their being reported to be within the precincts of the Palace and our desire to conduct the investigation with all the delicacy and consideration which was consistent with a rigid and minute examination. The places which have been opened have been so carefully built up and concealed that without the assistance of the workmen employed in their construction it would have been almost impossible to detect them. There still remains one portion of the

place which we have been unable to inspect in consequence of its being necessary to remove the wall from the neighbourhood but which we intend to visit this evening.

2. We are not using the language of exaggeration when we say that we have been utterly struck by the enormous extent of the Military preparations which have been presented to our view during the course of our inspection; and which even with the information we had previously received so far exceeded our expectations that we feel perfectly at a loss to convey any adequate idea of them. The whole place indeed the appearance of a large Arsenal, but in consequence of the guns having been buried and thrust into corners and every other place fit for concealment, we have not even been able to count them. We are however that we are within the mark when we estimate the number which we have already seen at 400. They are most of them of brass, and some of enormous size and very beautiful workmanship. They are in every stage of preparation, in one concealed place there were no less than 41 field pieces of different sizes complete and ready for use being all mounted on new carriages. In another square of the Fort there were about 140 Guns lying on the ground, mixed up with heaps of shot and shells of every size, some of them bored and some in the state in which they had left the furnace. There are some of the guns which have evidently been only just cast being still in the furnaces. The guns and mortars which have been buried, appear to be those which the Nawab set the most value on from their immense size. There are amongst them two new mortars which were pronounced by one of the Officers of Engineers to be larger than any piece known in Europe, one of them having a bore of 28 and the other of 26 inches diameter. Many of the cannon may be said to be of similarly large proportions compared with those in ordinary use.

3. The shot, shells and ammunition as well as the raw materials for making them are on a scale of equal extent but it is utterly impossible to make even a guess at their numbers or quantity. There are shells evidently intended for the large mortars, strewn and piled up over the whole surface of the square enclosure and numerous extensive buildings in the vicinity are heaped up with shot of every size granister evidently newly made up and leaden musket balls which could only be estimated by millions. In many places in the Zenana and throughout the Fort there are extensive godowns filled with saltpetre sulphur and with lead, zinc, copper, and other materials, particularly crude iron, which latter it appears he has never yet been able to turn to account from the difficulty of procuring persons capable of working in it.

4. Such is the best account that we are at present able to give of the state of his preparations. We had previously to commencing the search appointed a committee of Officers to assist us in inspecting and drawing out an Official report of them, but we now find that it will be requisite that this should be taken by Officers accustomed to the duty; and that the presence of some Artillery Officers as well as assistance of men and tackle for the purpose of raising the buried guns and arranging them, and of sitting in a place of safety, the large quantities of combustible materials which are scattered about, will be absolutely necessary, to enable us to lay before Government any thing like an accurate and full account of the material. We have accordingly adjourned the committee and addressed an application to Major General Wilson for the assistance required.

5. Notwithstanding that the whole of these vast preparations has now been laid open, and any attempt at concealment would appear to be useless, we have been unable to elicit any information from Nizam Khan respecting the motive with which they have been formed. He continues to speak vaguely and generally of their having been the result of the Nawab's madness, and, with a degree of folly and obstinacy almost incredible, he persists in asserting his own entire ignorance that any thing of the sort was going

parts when we look at the enormous outlay required for these preparations, (for the cannon shells and shot are all made of the most expensive materials none of them being of iron) we do not doubt whether the whole disposable revenue derived from his own district, taking into account the large sums he has lavished on other objects, would have been sufficient for the purpose of these preparations. In the last eight years, the time from which he is said to have been employed in these preparations, he has expended lacs of Rupees in fitting up his palaces, in laying out expensive gardens, in purchasing jewels and other costly articles. His force though ill paid and perhaps not so extensive as it once was, must yet have formed a considerable drain on his revenue and if the whole resources of the district when it was in a more prosperous condition under his father Alif Khan were as estimated by us, scarcely adequate to the maintenance of that Chief's Military establishment, it may be a subject for serious consideration whence the necessary funds for those extensive Military preparations have been derived, and whether at least a portion of them may not possibly have been supplied from some quarters as yet unknown. Their great extent also appears to us to be unaccountable on the supposition that they were for his own exclusive use, even in the event of his rising in open rebellion against the Company. It would rather justify the suspicion that he had been forming a depot to be utilizable for the service of the combined forces of other powers in connection with his own.

It is however premature to indulge in any speculations upon this subject though our attention is directed to the means of clearing it of its present mystery. The subject which we now consider of immediate importance is the measures to be pursued in consequence of these discoveries; they depend on a point which we are not competent to decide viz., whether the fact of these extensive Military preparations which he has studiously endeavoured even to the last to conceal from the knowledge of the British power is a sufficient indication of an intention hostile to that power to warrant the immediate intervention of his country. We venture to solicit the early instructions of Government on this subject.

The present situation of the Nawab and of the force of Rohillahs still with him, is also a subject of considerable embarrassment to us and we are desirous of receiving the instructions of Government on the subject. We explained in the conclusion of our last despatch that we did not consider ourselves bound to act as if hostilities had actually commenced and yet they cannot be allowed to retain their position or to disperse over the country. The principal Jemadar Shah Wully Khan was discharged from the service of Mubarezood Dowlah and bears the character of being an intriguing and desperate man and possessing great influence over his party. It is not quite certain nor is it a material point, whether the Nawab is remaining with the Rohillahs of his own accord or is detained by them until payment of some trifling arrears due when they left the Fort, the first consideration is to prevent their having an opportunity of doing mischief. The Force at present within Kurnool is not more than sufficient to occupy the place, we have therefore explained to Major General Wilson, the position of the Rohillahs and requested him to furnish us with a detachment of such strength as he may consider requisite to enforce our orders if necessary. When so prepared we intend to endeavour to separate the Nawab from the Rohillahs and inform the latter that they must remain quietly in a body until the orders of Government are received, respecting them and to warn them of the consequences of attempting to disobey the order. It is only by this means that they will try to cross the rivers occupied as they are by Lieut. Colonel BLAIR's Cavalry, shall be prepared against an attempt to move in any other direction.

It is probable that the Rohillahs will offer to depart quietly if a Passport be granted to them but in accordance to our previous instructions that they should not be allowed to retire into the Territories of the British Government, or any other State in alliance with the British Government, we request to be informed whether

they shall now be required to proceed to their own country, under the assurance of security of life, property and a safe conduct. Many of them came from the Nizam's dominions where they have been established for thirty years, have married and have families. It will be necessary that the route by which they are to proceed should be laid down, that the means to prevent their evasion should be pointed out, whether the whole shall proceed by one route. It would also be necessary to determine if any and Escort should accompany them to the borders of the different States through which they would have to pass and it will be obvious that the strength of such Escort should in a great measure depend upon the circumstance of whether they were allowed to retain their arms or not. We consider it our duty to however that the measure of disarming them is so contrary to their habits and repugnant to their feelings that they would probably refuse to accede to it, and if peremptorily insisted on would lead to considerable bloodshed if not to the destruction of the whole party.

We have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Colonel.

T. L. BLANE,

Commissioners.

Camp at Kurnool, 5th October 1839.

P. S.—The Packet for Madras having been closed yesterday, before this despatch could be completed we take this opportunity of reporting the result of our inspection of that part of the Palace referred to above in Para 1. We were taken into some chambers, said to be closely adjoining the Zenanah, in which we found Tumbrils of Ammunition ready packed, chatties filled with Gunpowder, and a very large supply of English made Gunpowder in Canisters of 1lb each. There were many double barrelled Guns, a Muskets, each with a large bag of balls attached to the butt, in readiness for use. Some hundreds of Swords, many Pistols, English made, and generally of superior manufacture to those furnished to carry were lying on the floor, having been apparently left there by people who had been employed in flint them, and making up cartridges, materials for which were scattered at hand. All bespoke a hurried preparation, suddenly abandoned.

We were then conducted with much precaution to a large shed, within the Purdahs of one of the entrances to the Palace, where we found about 50 Guns, some of large Calibre, all mounted upon carriages beyond this an intricate passage led to two chambers in which there were Tumbrils containing shells, with fuzes driven. Small Arms and ammunition of various kinds. Bars of Iron, Zinc and stores in fact a similar Depot to those already described but in a more advanced state of preparation.

We have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt by Express, of your despatch No. 443 the 7th Instant.

(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Colonel.

T. L. BLANE,

Commissioners.

10th October 1839.

No. 51.

To,

The Chief Secretary to the Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

We do ourselves the honour to acknowledge the receipt by express of the despatch No. 456 in secret department, dated the 14th Instant, and to report for the information of the Right Honorable Governor in Council, our proceedings since the 10th Instant, the date of the postscript to our despatch No. 33.

Conformably to the intention expressed in the conclusion of the 8th Paragraph of last despatch

(No. 33) the detachment * detailed in the margin having

arrived on the — Instant, we addressed letters to the

Nawab and the Jemadar of Rohillahs, of which copies are

enclosed (No. 1 and 2). On the evening of the 14th

Instant after we had sent a message to require an answer,

a very long unconnected letter was delivered to us by

two persons deputed by the Nawab, who at the same

time gave us, in reply to our letter to the Rohillahs, an

anonymous Memorandum to the effect that those Troops did not intend to act in any way inconsistent with

fidelity, leaving us to fancy to whom, and in what manner it was to be manifested.

Squadron 13th Light Dragoons.
 Squadron 7th Light Cavalry.
 Six pounders Horse Artillery.
 Five and half inch Howitzers Foot Artillery.
 Companies Her Majesty's 99th Foot.
 and the
 1st Regiment Light Infantry.
 Under the Command of Lieut. Colonel Dyce.

3. We have not yet been able to prepare a full English Translation of the Nawab's voluminous letter which shall be forwarded hereafter. He expressed a desire to proceed with his Rohillahs to Mecca, for the purpose he requested to be provided with means, and a Passport, and he proposed that, during his absence his Eldest son with the assistance of Namdar Khan might manage the Country, the tenor of the

rest of this letter will be seen by our reply, * which was

about to be transmitted when the arrival of instructions

to resume the Jaghire enabled us to conclude it by con-

veying that intimation to the Nawab.

4. The express arrived early on the morning of the 17th Instant, our arrangements were made during that day. We transmit a copy * of our instructions

to Lieutenant Colonel Dyce and of our address to the

Rohillahs † at day light yesterday morning the 18th we

despatched the letters ‡ to the Nawab and the Rohillahs.

A Moonshee was sent to read the paper to the latter party

who refused to receive it and in the most peremptory manner desired him to take it back again. It will

be observed that the Rohillahs were informed they were allowed one hour only for consideration; but

being aware of their habits of delay, in our instructions to Lieutenant Colonel Dyce he was permitted the

liberty of extending this time to two or even three hours, in the hope of preventing unnecessary bloodshed.

5. The Troops were in position at the time appointed and Lieutenant Colonel Dyce with infinite

patience and forbearance, endeavoured for three hours and a half by every means in his power to carry his

orders into effect without resorting to force. Messages were carried to and fro by the Persian Moonshee, and

a very clear and full statement has been drawn out by him, translation of which we shall tomorrow forward

without admitting of our doing so at present. It appears that the Nawab was at first inclined to tempo-

rise and did not consent to come in having more than once sent messages requiring that he should be per-

mitted to go with all his people to Mecca and that Colonel Dyce should pledge himself, that this should be

granted to him, or that he should be allowed to enter into further negotiation with us. Some of the

respectable Patans endeavoured to persuade him of the folly of resisting now telling him that if he intend-

ed to resist he should not have surrendered the Fort. It is impossible to say whether it was in conse-

quence of the arguments of these persons or the firmness of Colonel Dyce, and the repeated expression of

his determination to carry his instructions into effect, but at length the Nawab signified his readiness to

come out and accompany him to our tents. It was now however too late for him to do so peaceably. The

Nawab and Rohillah Jamadars positively refused to allow him to leave them, they were no longer under his

* Copy forwarded No. 3.

* Enclosure No. 4.

† Enclosure No. 5.

‡ Enclosure Nos. 3 and 5.

control and they treated with contempt the assurances which we had given them in writing and Colonel Dyce had in the most patient and conciliatory manner repeated and explained to them and finally pledged himself for their fulfilment. He had a personal interview with Shah Wally Khan and other Jemadar, but all the arguments he could use to induce them to accede to the liberal terms put to them were met with insolence and defiance.

6. After every effort at conciliation had thus been exhausted, which apparently served only to increase the presumption of the Rohillas, no alternative remained to Lieutenant Colonel Dyce but to proceed by his instructions to enforce their obedience. The attack upon the position commenced, and completely succeeded, a copy of Lieutenant Colonel Dyce's despatch is herewith forwarded. The casualties are great, except among the European Officers, of whom we regret to observe that two were killed and severely wounded. In addition to the 98 Prisoners reported by him, there are many wounded in the hospitals, we have just received an intimation from Lieutenant Colonel Blair that he has secured 40 Rohillas who had crossed the River, and expected to capture some few others of whom he had intelligence, and trust that a good account will be given of the whole party.

7. The Nawab uninjured, though without any other clothing than a light Jacket and Drawers brought in a coolie to our tents after sitting a short period, he was supplied with a Palankeen and sent to a mosque in the New Pettah, where Tents have been pitched for his accommodation, and a Company of Native Infantry is stationed to guard his person.

8. As much as could be recovered of the property which the Nawab had with him, has been secured by Lieutenant Colonel Dyce, and is now under a guard in his camp. We beg to solicit orders respecting its disposal and trust we may venture to add that we should be much gratified if the service which has been so well performed could be acknowledged by making it the prize of the actual captors.

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Colonel.
" T. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

Camp near Kurnool, 19th October 1839.

No. 64.

To,

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to the 2nd and 5th Paragraphs of our letter of the 19th Instant we have the honour to transmit for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council translation of the Nawab's reply to our letter to him dated 12th Instant and of the statement drawn out by the Persian Moonshee, ABDUL ALI, of the whole circumstances attending the negotiation with the Nawab and the Rohillahs on which he was employed and in the conduct of which, considering the personal danger to which he was exposed by being placed entirely in the power of this lawless class of men on such occasion we consider him deserving of much credit.

have not yet ascertained the exact number of prisoners taken, but seven others in addition to previously mentioned as having been seized by Colonel Blair's detachment, have been sent in by the regret also to state that a great many appear to have perished in their attempt to cross the River. Colonel Blair mentions that upwards of 100 bodies had been counted floating down past Alumpur. Many others must have passed unobserved. Upon the whole we are inclined to think that few if any escaped.

Nevertheless as we regret for the sake of humanity the great destruction of life which has been the result of the obstinacy and infatuation of these people in rejecting the liberal terms held out to them, we feel that it was unavoidable and that this very great benefit will at least result from it that it will serve to come as a salutary lesson and warning to their class of soldiers throughout India and especially in the Hyderabad country by impressing on them the fact that with however great tolerance and leniency they may be treated, it is in the power of the Company's Government at once to put them under the orders of Government and on ascertaining this fact we shall consider ourselves at liberty to treat these people. With respect to the Rohillahs and other foreign troops they will be detained in Kurnool until the orders of Government may be received respecting them. There can be no question as much as they were (if the Nawab's apparent wish to dismiss them was sincere) not only not under any legitimate authority, but in direct disobedience to their lawful master, they can have no claim to be considered as prisoners of War, but stand in the position of outlaws, but if we might be permitted to venture an opinion we think that considering the awful lessons they have received it would be better to send them as strict prisoners to their own country and that there would be good policy in so doing because it would be the readiest and most effectual means of publishing amongst their countrymen the treatment which the line of conduct they have adopted may meet with on a similar occasion.

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Colonel.
" T. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

Kurnool, 22nd October 1839.

No. 65.

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

In reference to Mr. Secretary Clerk's letter in the Secret Department No. 465 under, date 16th October 1839, we have the honor to state that we have apprized Major General Wilson that he is at liberty to direct the return to cantonment of that portion of the field force belonging to the Hyderabad Army Force.

We did not think it expedient to intimate to Major General Wilson that a further reduction of the force should be made until we had ascertained the temper and feeling of the people and the manner in which the order for resuming the Kurnool territory had been received. We have however no intimation of any attempt at resisting the orders of Government, and we do not expect that any thing of the kind is likely to occur. On the contrary we believe that the measures will be satisfactory to the great body of the people, particularly the cultivating classes.

We have informed Major General Wilson that we consider the force noted in the margin as sufficient for the occupation of the country and of the and we make little doubt that a considerable reduction may be made hereafter when every thing is settled.

2 Six pounder Guns with Artillery men.
1 Squadron of Native Cavalry.
2 Companies H. M. 39th Foot.
2 Regiments Native Infantry.
The Sappers and Miners.

The services of the Sappers and Miners will only be required until the Guns and Military found in the Fort have been arranged and secured.

With reference to the 3rd Para of the letter now under reply we have the honor to state that now taking active measures for securing the public and private property of the Nawab which we find a work of considerable labour in consequence of his having no regular treasury, and his money and valuable effects being scattered about in different places in the interior of the Zenanah. His Lordship in this respect may rely upon our giving every attention to the delicacy and feelings of the Ladies of his Zenanah, carrying into effect the Orders of Government.

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed.) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Col.

" T. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

Camp near Kurnool, 23rd October 1839.

No. 74.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

We have the honor to transmit, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council a copy of the Proclamation issued by us on the 18th Instant, on the occasion of resuming, on behalf of the British Government, the Kurnool Jagher. We beg to point out that the course of events having rendered inappropriate that clause which stated that the Proceedings of the Commissions had been interrupted by the object of Government opposed by the Nawab it was altered as shewn between the places marked in the remainder of the Proclamation remaining as originally furnished to us.

We beg to state that in the press of business the earlier transmission of a copy of this Decree was overlooked.

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed.) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Colonel.

" T. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

Camp near Kurnool, 30th October 1839.

PROCLAMATION.

The conduct of the Nabob of Kurnool having rendered his allegiance to the British Government doubtful and his unwarrantable behaviour towards certain subjects of the Company and his refusal to redress, or to listen to the remonstrances of the Principal Collector of Bellary and the treat-

tments and subjects having called loudly for the interference of the paramount Power, a Commission was instituted for the investigation of all charges connected with such transactions and to receive from the Nabob any explanations he might have to offer.

On the arrival of the Commissioners, and on requiring from the Nabob a true account of the state of his Military preparations, he endeavoured by every means to deceive them and conceal the true state of the case. Subsequently when according to their demand they had been put in possession of the whole of a vast quantity of Guns and other Military Stores, sufficient for a large army and altogether what was necessary for so small a Jagher, have been discovered concealed in his Palace, as to the above mentioned doubts respecting his loyalty to the British Government. This having been brought to Government, orders have in consequence been received as follows.

It is hereby notified, in the name of the Government of Fort Saint George, that Gulam Russul Khan is no longer considered Ruler of Kurnool, and that all persons and property of that District are henceforth placed under the immediate protection and authority of the British Government.

The peaceable and well inclined inhabitants of Kurnool are hereby required to aid in the suppression of attempts to disturb the tranquillity of the country and in securing prompt and ready obedience to the provisions, who are vested with full powers from the Right Honorable the Governor in Council of Fort Saint George to establish such temporary measures of administration as may appear to be immediately necessary for the quiet and good Government of the country and the perfect protection of the lives and property of the Inhabitants, the prompt redress of grievances and the realization of the Public Revenue.

In order to support the authority of the Commissioners, a British Force has been ordered to enter the Territory its presence will afford security to the peaceable and well disposed inhabitants whose rights and liberties will be scrupulously respected by the British authorities.

Payment will be promptly made for all supplies &c. furnished to it and any act of violence towards the country people or irregularity of any kind will be inquired into and punished.

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed.) S. W. STEEL Lieut. Colonel,

" T. L. BLANE,
Commissioners.

Camp near Kurnool, 30th October 1839.

No. 79.

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

In view to carry into effect the instructions of Government to secure the public and private property of the Nawab we have been employed for a considerable time each day in inspecting the numerous intricate apartments of the Palace and have been freely admitted into the Zenanah the Ladies coming from that part under examination, and such portable property as appeared to us to be of value contemplated by Government we have brought out and secured or sealed up until leisure permit our examining it. It consists principally of rich Cloths Shawls &c., a great many valuable articles which may probably be worth 5 to 6 lacs of rupees and expensive Silver articles of different

kinds. The amount of ready money found, and we believe we have secured nearly if not more than that was in his possession is about Company's Rupees 1,10,000. He had no regular treasury money was carried into his Zenanah as received from the districts without even being counted or audited and was discovered in different places in bamboo or leather baskets, and in general mixed up with cloths or other property.

2. There is a vast deal of other property consisting of furniture, (glass ware chiefly expensive daliers) and other miscellaneous articles respecting which we have as yet been able to do nothing than to secure it from being made away with. The great expense of keeping his live stock consisting of horses, elephants, camels, bullocks &c., induces us to request the early instructions of Government in disposing of them. We have however taken upon ourselves to advertise the sale of the horses next week account of the expense of maintaining them and because the presence of the detachment of Nizam's army under Colonel Blair affords an opportunity of disposing of them to greater advantage than could be expected after they have left this neighbourhood on their return to Hyderabad.

3. The numerous body of persons maintained by the Nawab both in his public and private service is one of the subjects of greatest solicitude to us, there are many employed in offices of a public and other private servants who could not conveniently be discharged until final arrangements have been made respecting the Nawab's family and Zenanah and the property under their charge has been disposed of. There are many considerations which induce us to hope that their case will meet with the consideration of Government, amongst which we may venture to point out, the unpopularity which a measure of resuming the country would occasion, if it involved so many persons in ruin, and the effect to the peace of the country which would probably ensue by suddenly depriving them of bread, the servants of the Nawab are of such an advanced age that they could never hope to get employment elsewhere if dismissed, and we feel assured that we are anticipating the wishes of Government in endeavouring to make such arrangements as may cause the resumption of the Country to be felt as little as possible in the light of a calamity to the numerous families which have been hitherto supported under the patronage of Government, and that the policy of endeavouring to impress upon the public mind that the measure of resumption has not been dictated by views of aggrandizement or profit, but has been forced upon us by the political offences of the Nawab, will be approved of. We wish in short so to act, that as far as possible should have cause to lament that they have come under the Company's rule and that if possible none but the guilty should suffer by the policy which has dictated the resumption. Under the circumstances of the case we hope that Government will approve of the determination we have come to of discharging the last month's pay due to persons of the above description who would be put to serious inconvenience by its being withheld and before another month has expired there will be sufficient time for us to submit the orders of Government and its sanction which we hope to obtain, for our making such disbursements as may appear necessary and advisable until we are enabled to report more fully on the claims of individuals and the consideration to which they are entitled.

4. In the above remarks we refer chiefly to the unarmed servants of the Nawab. The subject of military retainers but particularly the siwars will also require the orders of Government. We are not directly aware what has been the course pursued with respect to this class of people on similar occasions in Mysore, and on the resumption of territory in the Southern Mahrattah country and other places to be offered any suggestions at present regarding them, but recollecting that they have been retained in conformity with the stipulation entered into with the Honorable Company by the Nawabs of Kurnool, and in consequence therefore for their service, that they are for the most part ill paid and consequently so poor as to be

dependent on their monthly salary, that from all we can learn they are quiet well disposed people, and may have been chiefly employed about the taluks in Revenue and Police duties, we are inclined to deem them entitled to the same consideration and indulgence as has been granted to others on similar occasions.

Respecting the relations of the Nawab who have received a monthly allowance from the Treasury in like manner our intention to pay them the customary sum for the past month. There were some who were paid by means of villages assigned to them in Jageer, but as much irregularity in the payment of these Jageer villages appeared on enquiry to have prevailed we considered it expedient to place them in the general resumption of the country at all events temporarily and until the circumstances under which they were granted and enjoyed could be thoroughly investigated and we shall pending the orders of Government, pay to the holders of them from the Treasury the monthly portion of the allowance at which they were granted. We trust that Government will approve of this measure by which the good Government of these villages will in our opinion be rendered much easier.

6. For the support of the ladies and other women of the Nawab's Zenanah consisting of about 300 persons we have not yet been able to make any other arrangement than paying the necessary daily sum for their maintenance.

7. With respect to the management of the country and the realization of the revenue we have taken such measures as appeared to us advisable for giving confidence not only to the people but to the public district servants, but we have thought it right to avoid making any material innovations until the question of the final resumption or disposal of the country may have been determined on. We think it not however even thus early to bring to the notice of Government the subjects of the customs and town duties. The frontier customs on grain and all other articles continue to be collected on imports from the Company's territories and the duties levied in the Pettah of Kurnool are so exceedingly oppressive and extortionary that we should be glad to modify them to a certain extent immediately. The most common necessities of life such as firewood milk vegetables &c., are taxed and this not by fixed assessment on each habitual vendor but by daily collections from the poor people who bring them in.

We have the honor to be &c.,
(Signed) T. L. BLANE, Lieut. Colonel.
Kurnool, 3rd November 1839.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.
Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Clerk's letter of the 6th instant (No. 511) enclosing copies of correspondence with the Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, and communicating the desire of his Lordship in Council with reference to Major General Fraser's remarks regarding the state of the sick prisoners sent to Hyderabad, that no foreign troops or prisoners may hereafter be removed from Kurnool who are in a state of health requiring medical treatment.

2. As the remarks of General Fraser appear to us to convey however unintentionally a reflection upon our humanity we trust that His Lordship in Council will not consider our desire to offer a few remarks in explanation as unnecessary or uncalled for.

3. We wish in the first instance to observe that none of the wounded prisoners who were according to the opinion of the Medical Officer who attended them in a perfectly fit state to travel were sent to go. Those who had severe wounds had the option of remaining until cured and it was only at urgent request of such of them as were desirous of accompanying their companions that they were forwarded on carts and bearers being furnished by us for their easy transport with every indulgence and assistance in regard to food and clothing which it was in our power to provide.

4. The list which accompanies Major General Fraser's letter appears to us to be most unnecessarily swelled by the insertion not only of those who were avowedly cured and discharged but of others whose wounds it is within our personal knowledge were of a slight nature some of them indeed amounting to little more than mere scratches.

5. One example will be sufficient to illustrate. This Musa Khan prisoner whose name stands 5 in the list and who is described as having a Gunshot wound on the lower part of the right calf nearly well "was admitted into the hospital for this wound which was a slight flesh one and discharged from it after some days, no further medical treatment being considered necessary in his case. He then effected his escape running and travelling to a considerable distance and having been traced made such an active resistance by climbing over walls and defending himself against the sepoy's sent after him that it was only with the greatest difficulty he was secured without their resorting to their arms.

6. We are at a loss therefore to imagine why Major General Fraser should have thought it necessary to include the names of men already "cured and of others having slight wounds" nearly well "and nearly healed" amongst those "whom it would be but an act of humanity to detain at Secunderabad until they are cured." No objection can of course exist on our part to their being so detained but we are desirous of removing the impression that wounded men in an unfit state to travel were sent as prisoners by us against their own consent or that there are amongst those prisoners 15 men having such wounds as would render their being sent on a journey an act of inhumanity.

7. We feel most grateful for the view taken by His Lordship in Council of the implied absence of all necessity for attacking the Nawab's Robillahs. The necessity which existed for doing so mainly arose in our opinion from its being incumbent upon us to fulfil the instructions which we had received not to permit the foreign troops to disperse or retire into the Hyderabad country, and which we believe to have been communicated solely in consequence of Major General Fraser's special application to Government to that effect; for had we been left entirely to our own discretion upon that point we should not have deemed it necessary to insist upon their not dispersing but remaining in a body until they could receive the necessary passports for proceeding to their own Country. All that it would in that case have been requisite for us to do would have been to satisfy their claims to arrears and permit them to take their departure in any direction they pleased, which there can be no doubt would have been into the Hyderabad Country but we were precluded from granting them any such permission or latitude by our instructions to negative any proposition on their part for retiring into any state in alliance with the Company's Government. Aware as Major General Fraser was of this circumstance, and of the connexion of nearly all the Robillahs with the Hyderabad country and imperfectly informed as he must have been of other circumstances affecting the merits of the case, we trust that we shall be excused for expressing our surprise and regret that he should have given such ready credence to the unsupported statements of the Prisoners themselves interested as they are in exciting his compassion by any means, and have forwarded direct to the Governor General a report grounded upon those statements alone, which we cannot but consider as conveying a serious reflection upon our public conduct, while attaching at the same time an undesired stigma to the Officer who

during the Military operations and calculated to leave upon his Lordship's mind an erroneous impression respecting the whole transaction, which we are inclined to think would never have been received if General Fraser had made a previous reference to us, or to any other authority possessed of the information which is furnished by the Official reports of the occurrence, already transmitted to the Government.

Under those circumstances we trust that His Lordship in Council will pardon our anxiety that the matter should also be submitted for the consideration of the Governor General with as little delay as possible; to effect which we have ventured to forward a transcript of this communication to the Secretary in the Political Department with a letter of which a copy is enclosed.

We have the honor to be &c.,

(Signed) S. W. STEEL, Lieut. Colonel.

T. L. BLANE,

Commissioners.

No. 123.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Having carried the investigation into the several matters, for which we were deputed as Commissioners to Kurnool, to as great a length as we see any prospect of being able to do at present, we do hereby give the honour with reference to the wish of Government conveyed to us in the concluding paragraph of the Secretary Clerk's letter of the 11th Ultimo that a report should be furnished upon these subjects with the least possible delay now to submit the result of our inquiries.

The information which we have been enabled to obtain has not we are ready to admit entirely met our expectations and wishes, and we think it probable that additional light may be hereafter thrown upon some of the subjects at present involved in considerable mystery particularly when the committee recently assembled at Hyderabad shall have resumed and closed its proceedings in cases of this kind. It does not often happen that the whole truth can at once be arrived at, but is more frequently attained by degrees and by following up some clue or disclosure accidentally obtained and previously mentioned. We should not however be justified in deferring our report in the hope of making it more complete under such expectation, and there are many points embraced in our inquiry the information regarding which is as far as possible, and which it is requisite that we should communicate without further delay. It will therefore be necessary to advert to the several heads under which the objects of our inquiries were defined in the instructions furnished to us for our guidance as Commissioners.

The first and most important object of our inquiry is the alleged disaffection of the Nawab as manifested in the augmentation of his Military establishments, the repair of his fortifications, the secret accumulation of Military stores, and his communication with persons known to be engaged in designs inimical to British interests, or to those of their allies. It will be necessary that we should consider each of these points separately, and we shall take them in the order in which they are placed.

On this subject we have been enabled to gain pretty exact information by reference to the accounts found in the Fort, made out on the last occasion on which a muster of the troops took place viz., for the Month Rajab, (September and October) of the present year. An

abstract of their numbers and pay is as follows; being exclusive of unarmed persons included in account of each department such as Mutasuddies, Messengers, Chobdars, Pakees and the like.

HORSE.		Armed Men.	Monthly
Sawars 3 resalas ...	...	525	3,52
Mutafarikat, or single horsemen on higher pay. ...	...	60	
Bageers for riding the Nawab's own horses ...	...	344	2
		637	9,75
FOOT.			
Rohillahs...	...	500	2,8
Baluchies, persons dressed up as Arabs &c...	...	135	1,01
Golundaz. .	...	754	2,732
Line or Foot Soldiers in imitation of Sepoys. ...	...	223	806
Sentries over the Zenanah ...	...	75	199
Attending on Company's vakeel ...	...	12	40
		1,699	8,585
Total Horse and Foot...		2,336	18,417

It will be observed that this number while it exceeds that mentioned by Sir H. Montgomery in 14th para of his letter to Government under date the 9th March last as reported to him by the V falls considerably short of that estimated by him from an average of the different reports he has received and we think it probable that this may in some measure have arisen from the circumstance of the number of persons attached to the different classes above described is about 240 which would somewhat swell the amount, but still leave it below the estimated number by about 1,000. The number of Foreign Rohillahs and Arabs is greatly in excess of that mentioned by Mr. Chaplin who estimated them at 500. We have much reason however to suspect that his statement must have been made on erroneous information, for we learn from good authority that in Munuwar Khan's time they generally amounted to about 1,000 though they are considered to have been a less bold and turbulent class of men. We remark indeed there is a considerable discrepancy in the estimate made by Mr. Chaplin on two different occasions about this time for in his letter of the 2nd November 1813, he estimates the Cavalry at the rate of 1,300 and the Infantry at 1,300 of all kinds, but in his letter dated 2nd June of the following year we find the following observation. "After all his late preparations he could not muster more than 1,000 horse and from two to three thousand Pezda at Kurnool. The whole of the latter were armed with swords and shields, spears, bows and arrows and muskets."

5. The most striking increase in his present Military establishment is in the number of Golundaz. On his accession to the muznud and for some years afterwards they did not much exceed fifty in number but they were by the last return, as above shown 752. They have not however been at all exclusively employed as Golundaz but many of them have performed the duties of Police in the Pettah, and have been employed in other capacities unconnected with his Artillery. It appears that many of the other classes of irregular troops such as spearmen, rocketmen, flag bearers &c., have been absorbed into this one corps of Golundaz and that the Nawab has for sometime taken considerable pains to get them drilled in the use of the musket. It is said indeed to have insisted upon all Classes of his soldiery making themselves proficient in

and that great discontent prevailed amongst some of the respectable Patans on his insisting on their being drilled. To induce them to consent, he himself joined in the exercise for some days, but on persisting in their refusal to do so, many were dismissed. The Rohillas made no objection to learn the use of the Guns, and were considered as tolerably proficient. The great excess in the numbers of the Class of Troops had evidently excited the apprehensions of Namdar Khan, and he took considerable pains to conceal the real state of the case. In drawing out statement we had required from him of the Nawab's Troops he could not venture to diminish their actual numbers, for he imagined that we had pretty accurate information on that subject from other sources, but he directed the Mutasuddi by whom the statement was made out, as that person has since distinctly informed us, to distribute the number of Golundaz under their former designation of spearmen, khas burdars, or personal attendants, flag bearers and the like, giving those actually set down as Golundaz at the reduced number of 195 only.

6. Whilst such is the actual number of armed followers of the Nawab it seems of importance that their description and state of efficiency as well as their Cost should be noticed. In Sir Thomas Munro's letter to the Military Secretary, under date the 5th September 1803, which is referred to in His Lordship the Governor's minute on the affairs of Kurnool, he states the Nawab Alif Khan to maintain a force to which his means were inadequate, and he estimates the expense of from 1000 to 1100 horse and from 1200 Infantry, at six lacs of Rupees yearly. The present Nawab, whilst he has not materially decreased the number of his followers below this amount, except in the number of horse, has reduced the expense of maintaining them nearly two thirds: the yearly estimated charge being somewhat more than two lacs, and the probable actual disbursements considerably below even this, for it has been his policy to let them run in arrear and then make a compromise by the payment of some thing less than what was due. This reduction has been effected by lowering the pay of every class of his Troops in the same manner as to diminish in a great measure, if not entirely destroy their efficiency. The monthly pay of the horse which used formerly to be from 35 to 40 Rupees has been reduced nominally to 10, but actually, in consequence of petty deductions to 9½ Rupees, and the pay of the Patan Sirdars who are classed under the general terms of Mutaparikat or khoosbash has been reduced from 360, 400 and 500 which they formerly received regularly to 50, 100 and 150 and this not all or regularly paid to them. The same diminished scale of pay has also been assigned to the Infantry, those called the line received only 3 Rupees monthly and the pay of all other Classes is in the same proportion. It is scarcely necessary for us to point out that no horseman could perform any thing like efficient service on 9½ Rupees, with himself and his horse to maintain. The Nizam's irregular horse are not considered over paid at 40 Rupees a month, and the utmost reduction which could be made from that amount in the pay of the Poona irregular horse was to reduce it to 10 Rupees leaving them 30 Rupees per month. The consequence is that as horsemen they are for the most part utterly inefficient and worthless, many of the horses are mere tattoos and half starved. No regular service or attendance could under these circumstances be expected of them nor has it we are informed been demanded. They were not required to assemble more than once a year but have been kept out in the Districts quartered on the different Villages, and it is not unreasonable to suppose, managed to take out their small pay which was generally months in arrear by exactions from the inhabitants of Villages on which they had received tankahs. The only duties they appeared to have performed were those usually assigned to peons assisting in the Collection of the revenue and performing police duties. The foot soldiers or line were in the same neglected state receiving only 3 Gudvali Rupees per month and even that irregularly paid. They were not allowed to retain their arms or dress which were kept locked up for fear they should steal them and they were on the whole of so very inferior a description as scarcely to deserve the name of soldiers at all.

7. It may therefore we think be safely pronounced that the Nawab's troops were never in a less efficient state than they have been for the last few years. Every other object indeed appears to have been rendered subservient to the one grand passion for collecting Military stores and cannon. His revenue would not have sufficed for this purpose added to the expense of maintaining his Military establishment on a respectable and efficient footing; and if he ever calculated the comparative advantages of the two courses, as bearing on any ultimate object he may have had in view, it is not improbable that he may have considered it easy to renew the efficiency of his troops in a short time after completing the other arrangements to which in the mean time they were sacrificed. The only class of troops indeed who were kept in an efficient state were the Rohilla and other foreigners, for although the pay of these people had lately been reduced from 10 to 7½ Rupees per man they compelled him to discharge it regularly and would not suffer him to run in arrear with them.

8. This has been going on partially for some years, but has been conducted on a more extensive scale within the last three years though it is as yet far from complete. The repairs consist principally in rebuilding and repairing the parapet wall on the Western side and at the point where it was attacked on the last occasion on which a force was brought against it. The work though solid and expensive, being brick in Chunam of great thickness has been unskillfully done, the embrasures, as in most native forts, placed much too close together, and in other respects ill adapted for the use of cannon. This part of the work appears to be merely the renewal of the old parapet with little alteration in form. Another and more important part of the repair which has been going on consists in widening the ramparts, so as to admit of cannon being used along the whole wall; they were previously so narrow that for the most part none but the smallest kind of wall pieces could have been used except the towers or bastions.

This work which is of considerable magnitude and well designed and executed would, had it been finished, have rendered the place much stronger, but it has as yet only been completed on a portion of the northern side facing the river, though it would appear to have been his intention to have carried it round the whole extent of the wall.

9. Upon this subject the report contained in our letter of the 9th of October, No. 33, of the state, in which we found his preparations on gaining possession of the Fort, the enormous number of cannon in every state of advancement, and the vast accumulation of Military Stores of every description, as well as the precautions taken for their concealment, leaves us little to add on the subject, particularly as the proceedings of the Committee forwarded with our letter of the 16th Ultimo, No. 97 will have put Government in possession of a correct account of their actual quantity and extent. We do not therefore see any advantage in dwelling upon this particular branch of the subject; but the fact of their secret accumulation, as well as subsequent concealment is one of much importance, because it forms the strongest ground for what we cannot but consider as a fair and legitimate inference, that the design with which these preparations have been made was one which it was necessary for him to keep secret particularly from the Company's Government, and that the only reason which could render such secrecy necessary was that they were of a nature hostile to their interests. That every possible effort has from the commencement been made to conceal these preparations is abundantly proved, not only by the information obtained from time to time by Government and the seizures of stores on their way to Kurnool, but by the correspondence on the subject between different parties which has fallen into our

hands. The Nawab appears to have had agents in every place where it was likely that Military stores of any description could be procured, as shown from numerous letters received from Madras, Cuddapah, Bellary and Hyderabad, conveying information respecting the price of such articles as sulphur, saltpetre, lead, tin, copper muskets, musket-barrels, locks &c., their purchase and transmission, as well as the best means of sending them without detection. In one letter from an Agent at Bellary it is stated that he had seen some of these articles which he could purchase for a particular price and that the Bandies, about 70 in number could easily pass to Kurnool unperceived, amongst the crowd and confusion of persons proceeding to the great Jatra at Gudwal the road to which lies in the same direction.

10. This attempt at concealment did not terminate during the accumulation of these stores, but even after our arrival here every art of evasion and deception was practised with a view to mislead and keep us in ignorance of the actual state of the case. Neither the Nawab nor his Minister could have been unaware that an open and unreserved disclosure must have operated considerably in their favor and that on the other hand a discovery of the deceit they had been practising, after all their professions of sincerity, could not fail to add greatly to the difficulties in which they were already placed. Nor could it well have escaped the penetration of Nandhar Khan that such discovery was by no means an improbable event, yet he appears to have been held preferable to an acknowledgment of the real truth and the Minister in particular appears to have flattered himself almost to the last that the open and candid manner he had used, the oaths and protestations which he so liberally made use of, and the repeated expression of his readiness to suffer any degree of punishment should he ever be found to have deceived us in the smallest particular would have disarmed our suspicions and misled us into the belief that the reports which had been made by the Government, had been, if not wholly without foundation, at least most grossly exaggerated by the agents of the Nawab's enemies.

With every desire to take an impartial view of the subject, and carefully to avoid being carried away by any preconceived ideas of the Nawab's culpability we cannot at the same time, but attach very considerable importance to these strenuous and persevering efforts at concealment; particularly when they are viewed in relation with the explanation offered by the Nawab in his letter to us of the 14th October because they in themselves furnish a refutation of the alleged motive or rather absence of all motive, in making this collection of Military Stores. For admitting, for the sake of argument, that the Nawab's mere passion for possessing such things could have induced him for years to oppress his subjects, impoverish his country and render himself hateful to his relations and dependants, for the attainment of this object; and that he was unaware that he was thereby committing an act offensive to the British Government, even this plea, absurd and untenable as it is, except on the supposition of his being of unsound mind, still leaves his motive for concealment unaccounted for. It is just possible that he might have had the extreme folly to set his whole heart upon and waste his substance in accumulating things of no earthly use to him, and had he done so openly and without caring who knew it, it might, in the absence of any other ostensible motive, have been set down to this cause alone; but the extreme anxiety evinced from the first to prevent the fact from transpiring and his persevering denial of its existence to the very last, proves we think both that the plea urged by him viz. that he did not know that his collecting these Military Stores was objectionable, was a false one, and that he had some ulterior object in view of sufficient importance in his estimation to outweigh any apprehensions he might have entertained from the risk of discovery.

12. What this object may have been, we are sorry to say that with all our exertions we have yet been unable satisfactorily to ascertain. All the papers which were discovered in the interior of his Zenana, and in other secret places have been examined by us, but have tended to throw little or no light upon the

subject, with the exception of one letter which will be noticed presently. Every person also whom we thought was willing or able to give us information on the subject has been examined, but the result has not been so satisfactory as we wished or anticipated. Though we feel disappointed at this, we do not think that it is a subject of much surprise when it is considered how long the Nawab retained the power of destroying any letters or documents which might implicate him after our arrival at Kurnool, and after the subjects to which our inquiry was to be directed became known to him. We make little doubt that Namdar Khan could have thrown considerable light upon all these points but he has from the commencement up to the present time evinced such an utter disregard to all truth and principle that we no longer expect to receive any communication from him which could in the smallest degree be relied on. He still adheres to his former declaration of entire ignorance of what the intentions of the Nawab were; but as he at the same time continues to affirm that he was unaware that these Military preparations were going on at all, which it is manifestly impossible he should have been, we see no reason to give any more credence to the one statement which we think in the last degree improbable, than to the latter which we know must be false. We have within the last few days again had an interview with the Nawab, but the explanations offered by him differ little from what are contained in his letter to us of the 14th October. He continues to affirm that he had no object in view in making the preparations, or that he ever concealed them; and he lays the chief blame upon Namdar Khan who he says instigated and encouraged him in all that he has lately been doing. It does not appear to us material which of these mutual recriminations is entitled to the most credit for the statement of neither party tends in the least degree to clear up the question which is now most important viz., the final object of these preparations.

13. Although we do not pretend to have discovered any certain or positive evidence upon this point, the enquiries we have made, and such information as we have been enabled to obtain, lead us to think that if the Nawab really had any fixed or specific object in view, the explanation may be looked for, and will perhaps be eventually found to be connected with the dangerous and seditious Wahabee doctrines, which Government is already aware have been preached with so much zeal and success in every part of the country. How far and to what extent these have been directed towards some political object, opposed to the British interests in India, it is not within our province to pronounce, but that they have such a connexion appears to be a very general opinion both amongst European public servants who have had the best opportunities of forming a correct judgment on the subject, and also amongst the Mussulman inhabitants of the Country and there is some reason for the belief, that the Nawab of Kurnool, has for some time had a leaning towards these doctrines himself. One of the principal points inculcated by the professors and preachers of this faith is the merit, or rather obligation of the "Jahad", or holy war against infidels; and it appears to us not an unlikely or improbable supposition that the Nawab who to say the least of him is of a depraved disposition and of the weakest intellect, may have been worked upon by his zeal for the new faith to take such measures as he may have thought most likely to conduce to the desired object, when the opportunity occurred.

14. However this may be, it will be apparent to Government that this is not an unfounded notion, taken up by ourselves alone; but that, if it be a fallacy, it has at least been participated in by one of the best informed and most influential Ministers of his own religion. The enclosure (marked A.) forwarded with this letter is a translation of an original letter, found amongst the Nawab's papers from one of the principal Moolvies at Hyderabad named Sheijah od Deen Husein. It is an admirably written and sensible letter of remonstrance and advice to the Nawab against what the writer appears to have considered as a prevalent opinion, that he was making preparation of a warlike nature against the Christian Infidels. It recommends him in forcible terms to attend to the good Government of his Country and the protection of

the people, and whilst it speaks generally in favour of the British Government in India, it endeavors to dissuade him from "setting his heart upon war and contention," laying it down as his (the Moolvie's) opinion, that the Holy war talked of in these days is not that prescribed as an essential duty in the Koran. The Nawab does not, as indeed he cannot deny the receipt of this letter, but he has given the explanation best adapted to exculpate himself. He says that the Moolvi may have heard reports of the above nature and written to him accordingly, but that he was not answerable for all the idle rumours which might get abroad, and that there was no foundation for them. He states, what we have reason to believe is true, that he never replied to the letter.

15. Whilst we are ready to admit that this document does not convey any positive evidence of the Nawab's sinister designs, we are at the same time inclined to attach considerable importance to it; for if it does not actually prove what his intentions were, it certainly proves what they were understood to be, by the best informed and most respectable of his countrymen at Hyderabad. The report of the Nawab's supposed leaning to the Whabee faith is partly confirmed by the statements of two Fakeers named Shah Jama and Shah Jamal and of a Mashayah named Seid Abdul Hossan ol Husseiny, but their depositions only go the length of stating their belief of the fact founded on his having given up keeping the Moharum and stopped the allowances of Fakeers amongst others of themselves. They also allege that he had been frequently heard to speak in favour of the war against the Infidels as a duty and in praise of Mulvi Salim and Mubbariz Od Dowlah, the former of whom is one of the principal Wahabee doctors and has been confined by the Hyderabad Government for his sedition and alliance with Mubbariz Od Dowlah. We feel bound in justice however to observe that the statements of these persons deserve to be received with extreme caution; for they are evidently greatly incensed against the Nawab for stopping their former allowances and would gladly make out the worst case against him that they could. The most they can allege consists of ill supported reports of general expressions of the Nawab and we cannot but consider their being able to adduce so little, when there was evidently a disposition to implicate him as much as possible, as on the whole rather in favour of the Nawab than otherwise; for admitting the fact of his having spoken in favour of the Jahad, it does not prove his intention of engaging in it. The conversation amongst Mussulmans is constantly turning upon such points of their faith and one might easily give his opinion in favour of or against a mooted question of this kind without any intention of acting on that opinion.

16. We have had the necessity of much caution in receiving vague reports of this nature somewhat prominently forced upon us by a circumstance which we think it right here to mention. The above named persons in their statements given before us appeared to lay great stress on the fact of a book having some time since been brought from Hyderabad carefully packed up, and delivered into the Nawab's own hands by the son of a man named Fyz Oolah, a moonshee in the service of Mubbariz Od Dowlah. The Nawab had taken this book into his Zenanah and no one had seen it, and it was inferred from this apparent mystery and the quarter from which it had come, that it contained some matters of great importance. Their account of the circumstance led us to the same conclusion; and after a long search and much delay we at length gained possession of this book. It has been carefully examined but turns out to be nothing more than a miscellaneous collection of different histories and other matter; amongst other things an account of the different residents at Hyderabad; but so far from containing any seditious matter, such parts as refer to the English are rather in their favor than otherwise. We are free to confess that had the book not been found we should have considered the circumstances of its delivery as related by the Fakeers as most suspicious and have been inclined to attribute its non-production to its having been purposely destroyed or concealed in consequence of the nature of its contents.

17. In what we have above stated regarding the possible connexion which may exist between the Nawab's late proceedings and the propagation of the Wahabee faith, it will be seen that we have no very sure ground to go upon nor is there any sufficient direct evidence of such being the case. We would not willingly be understood as desirous of giving undue weight to trivial circumstances and of distorting facts which may admit of another interpretation into proofs of what may be only a supposition of our own, but in the absence of all positive information as to what the intentions of the Nawab were, we consider it our duty to point out what they may have been, being careful at the same time to draw a proper distinction between probabilities and proved facts.

18. There is yet another mode of accounting for the Nawab's Military preparations which, at the same time that it would in a manner acquit him of any intention of positive rebellion, would account for the failure in obtaining any proof of the existence of any specific fixed plan of operations on his part. The Nawab may possibly have participated in the impression which, arising from the machinations of our enemies, we believe to have been somewhat prevalent, of the instability of the British power in India, and of an approaching struggle against it, and he may have wished to prepare himself to take advantage of it, either for the protection or extension of his own power, as circumstances might render expedient when the day arrived. His weak, inconsistent and vacillating character however renders it difficult to suppose him capable of the foresight which would have dictated such a plan and induced him steadily to adhere to it; and it is these very defects in his character which render it more difficult to fix on any one object as more likely than another to have occupied his thoughts or engaged his attention. Had he been a steady, intelligent and enterprising person unaddicted to any other extravagancies or follies of the kind, it would have been more easy to attribute some regular consistent motive to him; but he is the very reverse of all this. Both his friends and enemies speak of him as a fool or a madman and though we do not consider the statement of Namlar Khan upon this point as detailed in our letter of the 24th September last No. 17 to be entirely borne out by our own observation, yet so many acts of absurdity and extravagance have come to our knowledge since assuming charge of the country, that we can scarcely wonder that this impression respecting him obtained current belief, particularly when we recollect that his appearance and manner at our first interview with him induced us ourselves partially to yield to it.

19. It is within the bounds of possibility therefore, though difficult to credit, that in seeking for a specific motive for his conduct we may have been searching for what has no existence; and that the universal answer which we have received from every one whom we have questioned, viz. that they were ignorant of his motive, may be true. He has for many years led a life of the greatest debauchery filling his Harem with women of every description and then half starving them, and purchasing the commonest dancing girls at enormous sums. Of late he has been addicted to excess in opium and other intoxicating substances such as bangh, and it is said even to spirits. He had such a passion for game cocks, which he used to deck out in gold chains and bangles, that the interior of his Zenanah when we entered it presented more the appearance of a poultry yard than a human dwelling, not even excepting his own sleeping place, where his bed was surrounded by baskets full of cocks and hens. We shall take an opportunity of forwarding some specimens of coins which he had lately had struck off, covered with nonsensical characters and inscriptions, some of the latter of which, if they bear any meaning at all, seem to confirm what we have heard from other quarters, that he had an intention of setting himself up as another Prophet or Imam. These coins we have since learned were planned and made under the directions of a fakeer named Shah Rajah Sahib, whose religious disciple the Nawab became, and who had fully persuaded him of his proficiency in the science of Alchemy, and had promised him unbounded wealth by the assistance of the king of

the Genii whose name appears on some of the inscriptions. This man, after cheating him out of considerable sums of money, quitted Kurnool and went to Hyderabad. The Nawab had assumed and was addressed by the Nizam's peculiar title of "Bundagan Ali", and endeavoured to ape all the forms and ceremonies used at the Court of a sovereign prince. He had his picture pointed with a ray of glory round his head, to indicate his being a Padshah, or shah in shah, of which he is said to have been constantly boasting.

20. These are not the only acts of folly and extravagance which he has been guilty of, but as they have come under our own immediate notice we are induced to cite them as characteristic of his general conduct. Where we see so many instances of such conduct in comparatively unimportant matters, we think it, as we have before observed, within the range of probability that the enjoyment of almost absolute power which he fell into suddenly, and the dissolute and debauched habits he has given way to, operating on a mind naturally weak and ignorant, may have so far impaired his intellect as to lead him into other and more serious acts of folly; and that his warlike preparations may have been the effects of a species of monomania without any defined object or end. Perhaps the inconsistency and extravagance evinced in some of these preparations may be taken as partly indicative of this; the entire neglect and depression of his Military followers, in a person preparing for any warlike movement; the fanciful and extraordinary forms in which he has cast his cannon; and the enormous size of many; which would have rendered them perfectly useless, look less like the careful adaption of his limited means to an important end, than the indulgence of a fanciful passion. Whilst he was, on the one hand, strengthening and repairing his fortifications, he had on the other rendered them utterly insecure by building a broad solidstone staircase on the river side from the top to the bottom of the wall, by which any number of Troops might have entered without difficulty, and almost without opposition. It is true that this might have been removed, though it has not the least appearance of a structure intended to be temporary; but his neglect to do so on the present occasion seems to indicate that he had no thoughts of resistance: whilst on the other hand (so inconsistent and unaccountable do all his acts appear) the immense quantities of loaded shells found in his palace, and the other preparations as described in our letter of the 9th October, would point to a conclusion the very reverse.

21. The above facts and observations are offered, rather with a view of showing the difficulty of coming to a decided opinion upon the cause and object of the Nawab's extraordinary and suspicious conduct, than as a ground-work upon which to found conclusions either for or against him, which we feel unable satisfactorily to arrive at.

22. With regard to the last point comprised in this branch of the inquiry viz. his communication with persons known to be engaged in designs inimical to the British interests and to those of their Allies, we have the honor to state that no clue or trace of the existence of any such communication has been discovered by us either amongst his papers, or from the information of any of the persons examined. The person with whom he has been suspected of holding the most direct and frequent correspondence is Moobarizod Dowlah, the Nizam's after brother, now in confinement, but nothing has been elicited tending in our opinion to establish that such communication has been carried on; nor does the suspicion appear to be founded upon any thing but the surmises of particular individuals, unsupported by facts or evidence which could be accepted or relied on. We except from this class the document transmitted by the Resident at Hyderabad, purporting to be a letter addressed by the Nawab to Mubariz Od Dowlah, but our opinion together with the facts on which it was grounded that the letter was a forgery, is already before Government; and so far from having since seen any cause for altering that opinion we are in no small degree confirmed in it by the events and

discoveries which have since taken place. The tenor of that letter is clearly intended to convey the impression that a place and time close at hand had already been appointed for the meeting of the Nawab and Mobariz Od Dowlah, preparatory to some act of open rebellion. The Nawab is made to state himself as "prepared with arms and materials for war" and as being "ready", so perfectly ready indeed that the party addressed is urged to forestall the time appointed and to make no further delay. Now admitting, for the sake of argument, that the rising against the English power here clearly indicated had actually been settled and agreed upon between them, it has become evident from the discoveries made in the Fort since its occupation, that the Nawab of Kurnool was so far from being ready that all his arrangements though far advanced were incomplete; and that they were in fact in that very stage of preparation, in which he would have been above all things most anxious for further time to complete them. He had few efficient troops ready, the greater portion of the cannon he had cast were unbored and unmounted. The repair of his fortifications was not half completed, and he had no store of grain in the Fort, nor at that season any probability of being able to collect one. A rising at that time, viz., in May last, would have found him in even a less complete state of preparation than he was when we entered the Fort, and would have effectually marred all the benefits he might have contemplated from the extensive arrangements he was then making. It is scarcely credible therefore that the Nawab, if in his right mind would have urged his associate to adopt a measure which would have defeated so completely the object which they must have had in view. If it be supposed that the time was considered most suitable when our armies were employed to the north, and that the opportunity was one which ought not to be neglected, his letter would have had some reference to this argument; but he would scarcely have grounded the necessity of immediate action upon his own perfect readiness, when all his arrangements wanted so much to bring them to completion.

23. In the same letter, mention is made of Ilahi Buksh (rather an ostentatious one, we would observe, to appear in a document where the names of other individuals or places, and even time, so carefully avoided,) who has since been apprehended and a copy of whose deposition has been forwarded to us by the Resident of Hyderabad. There can be no doubt that this man, as he indeed admits, came down to Kurnool, at the time he was supposed to have done; but he alleges that he was never able to procure an interview with the Nawab, and all the inquiries we have made tend to confirm this statement. He had interviews however with some of his people, amongst others with Shah Wully Khan, the notorious Rohillah Jemadar who was killed at Zorapur. This man had been formerly in the Service of Mobariz Od Dowlah, and Ilahi Buksh is well known to have been an agent of the latter. The interview appears to have had relation to some attempt to rescue Mubariz Od Dowlah by bringing the Rohillahs back again to Hyderabad. Through information given to Major Armstrong, by the adopted son of Shah Wully Khan, a lad taken prisoner amongst the Rohillahs at Zorapur, a letter addressed by that Chief to Mubariz Od Dowlah has since been discovered at Hyderabad by the Resident. We have the honor to enclose a translation of this document (marked B.) It speaks in plain enough terms of his devotion to Mubariz Od Dowlah and his readiness to return to Hyderabad with a thousand Rohillahs or as many as he could procure. Though no reference is made in the letter, of this proposal being with the sanction of the Nawab, it may be supposed that it might still have been with his concurrence; but whatever probability there may be of this, there is no proof of it; and it may be argued, against such probability that the Nawab would scarcely have consented to part with his only efficient troops, particularly if he meditated hostilities, and that it is not improbable that a daring adventurous character, like Shah Wully Khan might have preferred returning to his former master and patron, to remaining at Kurnool on the limited pay to which the Nawab had reduced his Rohillahs, as mentioned in Para 7 of this letter. The expression in the

24. Before closing our reports on this branch of the inquiry we are desirous shortly to revert to the remarks contained in the 5th Para of our letter of the 9th October last, in which we expressed our doubt whether his disposable revenue would have been sufficient to meet the expenses of the great preparations he was making, and whether he might not possibly have received assistance from other quarters. The further information we have obtained, since the date of that letter, has tended to dispel these doubts, and we see nothing in the preparations which might not, we think, have been the result of his own unaided resources. Taking his disposable revenue, as estimated by Sir Thomas Munro, at only two lacs of Rupees it would not have sufficed, but we have shown that instead of expending the remaining six lacs on the maintenance of his Military establishment, he in fact devoted little more than two lacs to that purpose. If his revenue be estimated at 8 lacs this would have left him about 6 lacs annually to expend in any manner he chose and supposing that he had devoted two lacs a year of the surplus revenue of the district since he ascended the Masnad, 15 years ago, this would have alone amounted to 30 lacs of Rupees, which considering that the purchase of the raw materials for making cannon &c., was the chief expense he incurred, for the labour and other contingent expenses could have been with his manner of conducting the operations but very trifling in comparison would in our opinion have been more than sufficient for the purpose. He himself speaks of having spent about 15 lacs on these objects, though he does not probably know with any degree of accuracy what they cost him. At all events they do not appear to us to be greater than he could have paid for out of his revenues, and we learn besides that he inherited a large sum of ready money from his mother the favourite wife of Alif Khan, all which he is said to have squandered away since her death.

25. The second object of inquiry as laid down in the instructions furnished to us is the injuries stated to have been done to British subjects, and the inattention of the Nawab to demands for reparation made by the accredited Agent of Government. "We have made it our particular business to investigate the cases of this nature, adduced by Sir Henry Montgomery and referred to in the minute of his Lordship in Council, and shall proceed to notice them separately. The first which we shall refer to is that mentioned by Sir H. Montgomery in the Paragraph noted in the Margin. The name of the person here referred to is Hyder Ali, an inhabitant of Arcot, and there can be no doubt that he was himself confined by the Nawab, as well as his wife and children, and the sister of the girls who had been taken into the Nawab's Zenarah, who was released by us on gaining possession of the Fort. With respect however to the fact of his having taken forcible possession of Hyder Ali's Sister, it does not on investigation bear the same appearance of gross outrage that this person had given to it in his complaint to Sir Henry Montgomery, for they were avowedly common dancing girls; and though we think it more than probable that some force was in the first instance used to obtain her, for otherwise the confinement of the family afterwards was unaccountable yet we find that a price viz. Rupees 10000, was agreed upon and paid for this girl and two others by the Nawab, 9000, of which was actually brought out by Hyder Ali's Sister, when released by us from confinement, and claimed and taken

away by her as her own property. She did not deny that this was the very money paid for the girls and it appears indeed to have constituted that property the restitution of which had been claimed through the intervention of the acting Collector of Bellary.

26. The course pursued by the Nawab on this occasion appears to have been very frequently resorted to; most of the persons who were released by us having been confined for apparently the same reason. There were no less than 17 persons men, women and children released who were all the relations of dancing girls whom the Nawab had taken into his Zenanah. One man had been thus confined for 15 years, for no other ostensible object than to prevent his making any complaint, and the girls would appear to have been generally obtained either by placing their owners under restraint until they consented to sell them, or by the Nawab's assurances that he would only keep them for a limited time and then let them out again, to which arrangement persons of this class would generally speaking have no objection. As the parties however here referred to were not immediate subjects of the company but inhabitants of the Kurnool or Hyderabad territory, we do not consider their cases as coming under the inquiry into injuries done to British subjects, and can only adduce them as instances of the injustice and tyranny of the Nawab.

27. The next case which we shall advert to is that of the Nellore bullock merchants referred to in the 12th Para of Sir H. Montgomery's letter of the 11th of July last. We find their case to be as follows. They are inhabitants of the Nellore District whose employment consists in breeding or purchasing bullocks for sale in the Ceded Districts, a great number of which they annually bring through the Kurnool country on their way to Adoni, and other parts of the Bellary District. It is customary to collect a tax from these merchants, on transit through the Kurnool country, of one Rupee for each head of cattle, and the Nawab and his predecessors have been in the habit of purchasing cattle from them, but instead of the price being paid in ready money, it was done by exempting them from the transit duty for a longer or shorter period until the price of the bullocks had been adjusted. A species of running account was thus kept up, sometimes it was in favour of the Nawab, and sometimes in that of the bullock merchants according as the amount of the tax remitted exceeded or fell short of the price of cattle taken by him. These transactions appear to have been carried on for a long time to the satisfaction of both parties, but a dispute has lately arisen in the adjustment of accounts by the Nawab setting up a claim to a large sum which he alleges to be due by the merchants for the tax on bullocks in his father's time, which he considered as a set off against the demand of the merchants for bullocks furnished to him last year. To ascertain the real merits of the case, and to whom the balance is now really due, would require the careful examination of accounts and documents extending back for a space of twenty years at least, and of witnesses who are not now present, and the question appears to be one of such complexity that we think it would be difficult to settle it except by compromise or arbitration. We are disposed to think that the balance would be found to be in favor of the merchants, but we are not yet able to pronounce that it actually is so, and until this can be ascertained we must consider the claim of the bullock merchants more in the light of a disputed account, than as an acknowledged debt due by the Nawab. The detention of these persons by the Nawab's authority was undoubtedly an unjustifiable act but their restraint appears to have been of a very mild kind, inasmuch as they were not imprisoned but merely prevented from leaving the village, and they were immediately released on the requisition of the Collector of Bellary made through the Vakeel.

28. We now come to the murder of the Post Office Writer's servant by one of the Nawab's Rohillabs, and the Nawab's neglect to punish this man, and his supposed connivance at his subsequent escape. It is unnecessary to say any thing regarding the murder which it is not denied on any hand was committed by the Rohillah, and the only part affecting the Nawab's character is the latter part of the charge, respecting which we have endeavoured by all means in our power to arrive at the truth. It appears that the Rohillah, was imprisoned and subsequently made his escape under circumstances having a strongly suspicious appearance of its having taken place by design. The person however, under whose charge he was at the time of his escape, was himself immediately thrown into prison by the orders of the Nawab or his Minister and was found in confinement when we gained possession of the Fort having then been imprisoned for about seven months. This man has been examined by us and most positively declares that he never received any hint or instructions to allow the Rohillah to escape, and that it was the result of accident or his own negligence, his detail of the manner in which it was effected bears an air of great improbability, but we can conceive no motive which could induce this man now to deny or conceal the truth; and as his is the only obtainable evidence of a direct nature we are bound to consider the charge of connivance, if not disproved at least, not substantiated. To account for the Rohillah not having been brought to trial and executed for the murder we should mention that capital punishment appears to have been very seldom resorted to at Kurnool in proof of which there are now three persons confined in the fort as a punishment for that crime.

29. The above are the only cases which have been adduced or which have come to our knowledge of injuries sustained by British subjects at the hands of the Nawab, with the exception of one referred to in the 17th Paragraph of Sir H. Montgomery's letter above quoted, the complainant in this case was not an immediate subject of the company and with regard to the first part of the charge it does not appear to us to amount to more than a suspicion, unsupported by facts, of the Police having been concerned in a robbery which took place and as it is not alleged that the Nawab was in any manner concerned, we do not consider that, even if the fact of the Police being implicated were substantiated, which it is not, it would in any way affect the character of the Nawab for such cases will occur even under our own Government and we are bound to say that from all we can learn the Police in Kurnool is more efficient, and robbery of every kind much less frequent, than in the neighbouring Districts belonging to the company. The latter part of the transaction however was of a more serious and offensive character for the circumstance as related by the Vakeel can leave little doubt of an attempt having been made to carry the man into the fort under the orders of Namdar Khan, and the only circumstance which can be urged in favor of the Nawab is the uncertainty of his having been privy to the attempted outrage.

30. There were five other cases of claims to the amount of about \$000 against the Nawab by

	Ra.
Amed khan Bhattu	4000
Vijagah Geer Gosein	2150
Munsud Geer Gosein	1403
Do. price of shawl	250
Hasham khan	240
	8043

British subjects as noted in the margin which had been brought to the notice of the Acting Principal Collector and the settlement of which was demanded by him from the Nawab but they had in compliance with that demand been settled previously to our arrival here, and we do not therefore think it necessary to revert to them.

31. We think it right here to notice another case mentioned by Sir H. Montgomery in the 3rd Para of the same letter, though the sufferer was not an immediate subject of the company but an inhabitant of Kurnool. It has been fully proved before us that the man referred to was taken into the fort and beaten by Namdar Khan's orders, that by such beating he died, and that large sums were paid to his relations to secure their silence, the alleged cause of his being thus beaten was his failure to bring the supplies of articles referred to by the Acting Collector within the appointed time, or to return the money; but we think it more than probable that the reason assigned by Sir H. Montgomery was the true one. We do not find however that the Nawab was personally cognizant of the act of barbarity and murder which appears to have been perpetrated under the immediate orders, and in the presence of Namdar Khan.

32. The allowances which Gulam Russul Khan on his accession agreed to make to Muzaffur Khan's Mother and to Davod Khan are as follows.
Reported breach of stipulations in the discontinuance of allowances to the families of Muzaffur Khan and Davod Khan.
To Muzaffur Khan's mother, the monthly sum of 300 star Pagodas was continued, agreeably to former usage of which 40 Pagodas were to be appropriated to the support of Muzaffur Khan and 260 to that of his mother:—To Davod Khan, a jagheer or a money allowance of 12,000 Rupees per annum, the sort of Rupee not being expressed, it is presumed to be the current coin of the country, the Gudwal rupee, these allowances do not appear to have been altogether discontinued by the Nawab; but sometime after the death of the Principals to whom they were specially granted, to have been reduced in amount, and payments to have been made on the reduced scale up to Jemdelavul, Hijree 1255, corresponding with the lunar month between the 13th July and 10th August of this year.

33. The allegations in the various Petitions from Abdul Wahab Khan and his Vakcel Raswah Pundit,* are unsupported by evidence and highly exaggerated in common with the Nawab's brothers and other relations, he was not allowed to quit the Fort without express permission; but he does not appear, from his own account to have been in very strict confinement, and never to have had reason to fear as alleged in his petitions that the Nawab had designs against his life. When questioned upon this point he said he meant that the stoppage of his allowance would deprive him of bread, and thus put his life in danger, he is very corpulent for his age, and his appearance does not indicate his having ever experienced distress of any kind.

34. The allowance to his *Grand Mother, was stipulated to be 300 Pagodas per month or Company's Rupees 12,600 per Annum, and deducting Rupees 1,680 for the support of Muzaffur Khan at 40 Pagodas per month, the sum of Company's Rupees 10,920 was paid to Ameen Khatun Muzaffur Khan's Mother for herself and the rest of the fa-

family. Some time after her death the Nawab considering her share to be 4000 Rupees (equal to the

allowance to his own brothers.) deducted that amount from the yearly stipend, leaving Company's Rupees 6,320 * or Gudwal Rupees 7,900, payable to Abdul Wahab Khan and the remainder of the family in the monthly proportions shown in the margin. In March last when Namdar Khan waited upon Sir Henry Montgomery at Anantpur, the stipend for Abdul Wahab Khan and his relatives was settled at Company's Rupees 8,600 per Annum to be distributed as stated in the margin, but the Nawab at first contended that the payments should be in Gudwal Rupees, and although that point was referred to Sir Henry Montgomery and overruled he continued to make the payments at the reduced rates already stated viz, 7,900 Gudwal Rupees per Annum.

12000 Rupees	
1680 for Muzaffur Khan.	
10320 Paid to Ameen Khatun.	
4000 deducted on Ameen Khatun's death.	
6320 Company's Rupees or Gudwal Rupees 7900 per annum.	
Per month Gudwal Rupees 658 - 5 - 3.	
DISTRIBUTION.	
Abdul Wahab Khan	341 - 10 - 9.
His Aunt	150 - 0 - 0.
Step Mother	83 - 5 - 3.
Grand Mother's Sister	83 - 5 - 3.
	658 - 5 - 3.

	PER ANNUM.
To Abdul Wahab Khan Rupees 400, per month	4,800 - 0 - 0
Mubareck Khatun (Aunt) 150 per month	4,800 - 0 - 0
Step mother 83 - 5 - 4 per month	1,000 - 0 - 0
Grand Mother's Sister 83 - 5 - 4 per month	83 - 5 - 4 per month
Total per Annum.	8,600 - 0 - 0

35. The statement contained in the letter in the Political department from the Sub Collector, in charge of Bellary, dated the 7th August last, has been fully corroborated by an examination of the Vakouls of Davod Khan's two sons, Ibrahim Khan and Rimdulah Khan. The allowance has been reduced to 500 Rupees Per month, one half less than the sum stipulated for Davod Khan. Namdar Khan, on the occasion already referred to, agreed at Anantpur that the full allowance should be continued to Davod Khan's Family or 6000 Rupees Per Annum to each son, but on his return he falsely stated that Sir H. Montgomery had decided that the whole allowance was to be 6000 Rupees Per Annum at which computation a settlement has been made for 18 months subsequently to the reduction of which the family complained. The family were forcibly escorted to the Fort, as described, and were there detained until permitted by us to return to their residence in Zorapur. No violence appears to have been used or intended towards any of the members of the family beyond depriving them of the power of making complaints to the British Government against the Nawab.

36. If the stipulations into which Gholam Russul Khan entered be taken according to the letter, he has strictly speaking not committed any breach of the original agreements, which were to allow certain sums to specified persons, without any allusion to their families or issue. The grants appear to have been generally regulated by the claims of the several parties, from high rank, or degree of connexion, with the present Nawab or former rulers of the Country and as claims of this nature are weakened by each remove in blood, it does not appear harsh or unjust that the portions of those who lapse should revert to the State. For instance the allowance to Ameen Khatun, a widow of the Nawab

her former state deducting the charge upon it for the maintenance of her son Muzaffar Khan, the Nawab appears to have subdivided the remainder into certain portions, and some time after the death of the lady to have resumed that part appropriated to her personal support, leaving to Abdul Wahab Khan a sum equal to that given by him to those of his brothers for whom no stipulation had been made, and smaller sums to the relations in a more remote degree. In defense of this proceeding it might be urged that if all such grants were considered to give to the heirs or descendants of the grantee a valid claim to the whole amount in perpetuity the Jaghirs would in a few generations be unable to bear the burthen. This however appears to be an innovation upon the custom of this petty principality introduced by the Ex-Nawab and probably induced by the pressure of his other expenses, for he paid the amount of the original grant to Muzaffar Khan's family for about 18 months and to Davod Khan's family for two years after the decease of the original grantees, and at this present time Ghalib Khan son of Alli Khan, Rhyman Khan son of Aya Khan, and Gholam Murtaza Khan son of Yakub Khan, retain nominally the original Jaghirs of 12000 Rupees per Annum granted to their fathers, respectively who were brothers of the Nawab Alif Khan, the present incumbents being cousins of the Ex-Nawab, but they complain that Gholam Russul Khan has for many years appropriated a large proportion of the Collections.

37. There is abundant proof that the Nawab has committed acts of violence and tyranny

The Alleged acts of violence and tyranny exercised by the Nawab towards Ahmed Khan, and other members of his family and the denial of the right of the British Government to interfere with the affairs of his family.

all the feelings of his tribe, especially in regard to

*Two Petitions from the maid servant (Aaseel) of Ahmed Khan, received in Extract from the minutes of Consultation dated 9th July 1839.

relations had made a complaint of Ahmed Khan's violence in detaining her against their consent and her own and under pretence that the case should be investigated by the Kazee, before whom it was never regularly brought, he placed Ahmed Khan under restraint for a time, and subjected him for a day or two to severe privation. Ahmed Khan invariably refused to enter into any explanation, saying it was not a subject upon which any one had a right to interfere. The Nawab repeatedly sent his own mother, Taz Khatun, and other females to Ahmed Khan's Zenanah to obtain the woman. On one occasion the outer door of the Zenanah was broken open by the Nawab's Orders, and on his brother, Khader Khan, and others attempting to pass farther, some of the women exploded a small quantity of Gunpowder, setting fire to some clothes, at the same time making an outrage, and inflicting upon themselves, or each other, slight wounds. Another account states that one woman only received a cut in the hand, but it is not known whether by design, or in attempting to seize the weapon from another, or inflicted by herself. The assailing parties retired on seeing the blood, and a report prevailed that the woman had killed herself. The Nawab's mother spread the rumour with the design of so ending the dispute between the brothers, saying that when the Nawab imagined the woman to be dead, he would cease to prosecute Ahmed Khan. To confirm the Nawab in that impression, in the event of a farther investigation, Taz Khatun induced Khader Khan to have the body of a Pariah

towards his brother Ahmed Khan, but not to the extent stated in the petitions referred to in the *margin. The cause of dispute was a Dancing Girl who had been taken into Ahmed Khan's Zenanah, and with whom he asserts the ceremony of the Nikah had taken place. The Nawab outraging Women so connected with relations, endeavoured to effect her transfer to his own Zenanah. With this view he tried to bribe Ahmed Khan's Door-keeper to admit people either to seize or to release the woman. He afterwards asserted that her

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

Sir

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter which I have this day received from the Quarter Master General of the Army and of my reply to the same, respecting the amount of force at present stationed at Kurnool and the possibility of reducing it. What I have said regarding the European Detachment has reference, it will be observed, mainly to the want of accommodation for them and the inconvenience and distress to which they would be put by a residence in tents during the hot season, but the general motives of policy which dictate the necessity or prudence of associating a small force of Europeans with the Native troops on such occasions will no doubt be taken into consideration in determining whether the detachment from Her Majesty's 4th Regiment referred to by the Quarter Master General should be sent from Bellary.

With regard to the withdrawal of one of the Native Infantry Regiments I have stated my opinion that it is not for the present advisable. The continued payment of a great portion of the Ex-Nawab's establishment has obviated the distress and consequent discontent, which would otherwise have been felt, but the uncertainty of this provision, the continued presence of the Nawab and the doubt as to what may be the final intentions of Government, tend to keep the minds of the people to a certain degree in a state of excitement.

Though I see no reason to apprehend any open resistance to the authority of Government, I am not without apprehension that, should the final orders of Government for the removal of the late Nawab and the resumption of the country be received during or about the time of the Mohurram, it might give rise to disturbance and attempt at outrage amongst the large Mahomedan population residing in the Pettah of Kurnool, a great proportion of whom will unavoidably lose all prospect of present livelihood or future employment by the measure. In any event I think it would be but prudent to guard against the possibility of any such disturbances occurring. One Regiment would not be sufficient for the duty of Garrisoning the Fort, protecting the stores and property therein and at the same time furnishing the other necessary guards over the Nawab &c., and I trust that I shall be excused for venturing an opinion that the manner in which the men of the 16th Native Infantry are at present distributed with their families about the Pettah mixed up with and in constant intercourse with the population of the town, and open as all those off duty would be, to be cut-off in the event of any sudden disturbance, would perhaps somewhat diminish their efficiency for preserving order in the possible occurrence of any such event.

I have &c.,

(Signed) T. L. BLANE,
Commissioner.

Camp near Kurnool,
19th February 1840 }

No. 185.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Lordship the Governor in Council that the Ex-Nawab of Kurnool and Namdar Khan quitted this place on their march to Trichinopoly this morning,

escorted by a Company of the 33th Regiment Native Infantry under the Command of Lieutenant Corfield of that Regiment. A small party of Cavalry has also been sent to accompany the detachment as far as the borders of the Kurnool Country with directions to return from thence on the detachment entering the Bellary District.

A person has been deputed to accompany them with a sufficient sum of money to meet all the necessary expenses on the road and in the provision of tents, servants and in every other respect, I have endeavoured to consult their convenience and comfort on the march as far as lay in my power.

A greater delay has occurred in sending them off than I at first anticipated, arising principally from the difficulty of persuading such of the women as the Ex Nawab desired to accompany him to go with him, and from other obstructions offered by the perverse and extravagant conduct of the Ex Nawab. Since the intelligence was first communicated to him he has persisted in conducting himself in a manner which, I have informed him, furnishes an additional proof if any were required of his weakness and incapacity and of the necessity for removing him. He has thrown off all his cloths and adopted the costume of the lowest kind of fakcer, and has persisted in refusing to eat, subsisting entirely upon conjee water. On my endeavouring to ascertain what things, and servants he required to be sent with him, I could obtain no answer but, that he would not go except by force unless all his wives and other women and children were sent with him. I stated in my letter of the 17th Instant that his married wives had refused to accompany him with their children, and in addition to my not feeling authorized to compel them to go, there were other considerations, such as the tender years of some of the children who could not have undertaken so long a march in the hottest weather, and the difficulty or impossibility of procuring the necessary number of palankeens and carriage for the accommodation of such a vast number of followers of every description as it would have been necessary to send with them. With regard to the other women, Government is aware that many of them have been forced into his Zenanah by the most oppressive acts and many more obtained by very doubtful means. These of course it was out of the question to compel to go, though he loudly insisted on his right to use them as he liked on the plea of having purchased them. Of the whole, number six at first only consented to go, and all these he refused to take. I informed him that I could not at present send more than four, and after much delay he consented to give in the names of five others. Many days were occupied in endeavouring to persuade four of these to go but at length they agreed to accompany him, and were sent out the Zenanah. He had no sooner got these women with him, than he again reverted to his former demand, and insisted on having sixty more at least. I was then obliged to inform him that I could not permit any more time to be wasted in discussions of this kind and appointed the 30th Instant for his march. He has continued his complaints and demands up to yesterday and I did not expect that he would have moved except by compulsion, which I endeavoured in every way to persuade him not to render it necessary for me to resort to, and I am happy to say apparently with some effect, for he made no difficulty this morning about starting, merely observing that he was now ready to proceed, and recommending his family and children to the protection and consideration of the Company's Government.

The conduct of Namdar Khan has been more firm and manly and he has made no difficulties about going. He has preferred leaving his family, which is very large, here for the present, until as he stated he could after his arrival ascertain what accommodation there would be for them and what means he would have of providing for them. He appeared to be much depressed on my visiting him yesterday and whilst he acknowledged his error in having endeavoured to deceive us expressed his readiness to submit to the orders respecting him.

It has been found necessary for the comfort and convenience of the state Prisoners during their march, to provide them with more servants than will be necessary when they are stationary and many of these have expressed their intention of returning after having accompanied them as far as Trichinopoly.

I shall forward a list of these servants to the Collector of Trichinopoly, but in the event of a fixed allowance being assigned for the support of the Prisoners, it will be better to allow them to make their own arrangements regarding their personal attendants.

With respect to what the amount of that allowance should be, it so much depends on the degree of consideration and indulgence which Government may feel disposed to concede to them, that I feel some diffidence in offering any suggestion on this point. Adverting however to the high station which Gulam Russul Khan has held and to the amount of his allowance previous to his accession to the Musnud, which was Rupees 25,000 per annum, to the number of women who have accompanied him and their attendants, as well as his own personal servants and his general inability from his previous habits of exercising a strict economy, I do not think that the sum of Rupees 1000 per month would be more than sufficient to maintain him in comfort and respectability; but with a character so perverse and extravagant it is impossible to say what his own expectations and wants may be, and it would be advisable therefore, I think to limit his allowance to about half that sum at first, making the payment of the additional moiety to depend on his good behaviour and quiet demeanour. He will thus probably be induced to consider the addition made afterwards somewhat in the light of a boon, which it is likely he would not do if it were granted him at once.

For Namdar Khan I think that the sum of Rupees 100 per mensem would be sufficient at present which might be increased to 150 in the event of his family joining him.

The provision for the Ex Nawab's children and the other members of his family left at Kurnool may be settled when the manner of disposing of the country has been finally determined on.

Camp near Kurnool,
30th March 1840.

(Signed.) T. E. BLANE,
Commissioner.

No. 212.

To,

The Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Secretary Clerk's letter of the 18th April last (No. 27 in the Political Department) I have the honor to report that in conformity with the instructions therein conveyed regarding the prisoner Kola Subbah, referred to in my letter of the 2nd April, as there did not appear to be any extenuating circumstances in his case, which called for the remission or commutation of the sentence passed on him for the cruel and deliberate murder of which he had been convicted, he was executed, by hanging, on the 23rd of last month.

2. I find it again necessary to solicit the instructions of Government respecting certain other Judicial Proceedings, which I have considered it necessary to order the Cauzy of Kurnool to hold, in four other charges of murder committed previous to the assumption of the Country by the Company's Government.

3. These cases were shortly alluded to in the 28th Para of our letter of the 26th December last, and we were at that time under the impression that the persons so confined for this crime had been formally tried and sentenced. On subsequently enquiring into this fact, however, I ascertained that they had not

been subjected to any trial, but had been, after being apprehended, committed to prison under the authority of the late Minister Namdar Khan and so continued for different periods until the Fort fell into our possession. The grounds of suspicion against each of them appear to have been sufficiently strong to warrant their apprehension and in one case the murder had been committed in open day in the middle of the Pettah, but as it appeared inconsistent with justice to detain men in prison without some Judicial investigation being held, by which their guilt or innocence could be established, I considered it my duty to direct them to be sent for trial before the Cauzy's Court.

4. The trial of all the four cases having now been completed I shall proceed to state the circumstance connected with the case of each prisoner.

1. *Ksoph Khan* confined about eighteen months ago on the charge of having murdered a woman of the name Buktavour in the Pettah of Kurnool. The circumstances of suspicion against him were his having been in the habit of frequenting the house and his having fled on the night of the murder into the Hyderabad Country and one person since dead having been said to have witnessed the murder. On his return shortly afterwards he was apprehended and confined by orders of Namdar Khan. The Cauzy has acquitted him in consequence of the absence of sufficient evidence against him, and, as this appears to be the only decision he could have come to consistently with the evidence now forthcoming, I have directed the man to be released.

2. *Narigah* confined about 22 months ago on the charge of having murdered a woman named Gungah with whom he had cohabited in the Village of Nandikotkur in the Taluk of that name. There was no sufficient evidence against him, the chief cause of suspicion being, some of her property having been subsequently found in his possession, but it was doubtful whether as alleged by the prisoner the property had not been previously entrusted to him to take charge of and, in the absence of any sufficient evidence against him, the Cauzy has pronounced his acquittal and I have ordered him also to be released.

3. *Fenkata*, an Hurkarrah in the service of the late Nawab, confined about 16 months ago under the authority of Namdar Khan for the murder of his wife Seetamma. The charge in this case is proved beyond the possibility of doubt, not only by the evidence of numerous eye witnesses but by the confession of the Prisoner himself. It appears that he had had some misunderstanding with Vencojee, his father-in-law, regarding his behaviour to his daughter, who on meeting him in the street had used harsh language to him, and struck him two or three slight blows with a cane. A scuffle then ensued, during which Vencojee's son came to his father's assistance and was stabbed by the Prisoner with a knife, who on thus releasing himself from their hands immediately proceeded to his own house, at the door of which he met his own wife, the sister of the man he had just wounded, and in the height of his rage stabbed her also in the back with the same knife, of which wound she instantly expired. The act was committed in the presence of several persons, and on their evidence as well as the prisoner's confession, the Cauzy has pronounced a decree of Kisas against the prisoner.

4. The fourth case is that of one Horelly charged with the murder of a child, the daughter of a ryot in the Village of Nunnur for the sake of her jewels. He was apprehended and confined about a year and a half ago. The case of this prisoner is one of more complexity, not from any doubt which I have of the Prisoner's guilt, but from the peculiarity of the Mahomedan law which will admit of no degree of circumstantial evidence as sufficient to carry a decree of Kisas. The child who was killed had been left by itself to watch the crops and on the return of its father, was found murdered with the hands cut off and the ears and nose slit for the purpose of getting off the ornaments worn by it. The prisoner had been seen in the neighbourhood shortly before, and was immediately followed and tracked to a neighbouring

village where he was apprehended stained with blood and having the jewels worn by the child in his possession, and the only way in which he pretended to account for this was, that he saw the child lying dead as he passed by and took off the jewels and appropriated them to his own use, without giving any alarm or mentioning the circumstance to any one. In addition to this a silver lingum (worn by all Linga Bulariars of which caste the prisoner is) was found lying near the body, and was recognized as his, having probably fallen off his neck whilst he was committing the murder. Such a chain of circumstances as these can leave no room for doubt that he was the actual murderer, but the Mahomedan law is peremptory in requiring either the evidence of an eye witness or the confession of the prisoner, and the Cauzy being in consequence precluded from awarding a decree of Kisas, has given his futwah that there is the strongest suspicion against the prisoner and that he is liable to "Galib ul zun" or discretionary punishment by imprisonment. Under these circumstances I thought it proper to adopt the course laid down in clause 3 Section 2 Regulation XV. of 1803, requiring the Cauzy to declare by a second Futwah to what specific punishment the prisoner would have been liable under the Mahomedan law, if he had been convicted by full legal evidence and he has declared that in that case he would be liable to "Kisas."

5. In both these two last cases I should have had no hesitation in recommending that the prisoners should be executed for the murders, had these crimes been committed under the Company's administration and there can be little doubt that, had their trial not been put off or neglected through the apathy or indifference of the Nawab's Government, the prisoner Vencattah at least would have suffered death. There are no extenuating circumstances in the case of either of these prisoners, and the course to be pursued towards them will depend upon whether Government shall be of opinion that the extreme penalty of the law should be inflicted under its authority for crimes committed before the country came under its immediate control, or whether there be any thing in the circumstance of this change which can furnish a plea for commuting the punishment to which they are justly liable to a continuation of the imprisonment. We found them suffering when we came here. On the one hand it may with justice be said that as no formal sentence had been before passed on them, they would not, if now executed, suffer an enhanced degree of punishment beyond what had been previously awarded, and that a change of Government ought not to afford protection to such criminals, but on the other hand as it is nearly certain that under the late Government no further proceedings would have been taken against them, they would, if now sentenced to death, be in some measure placed in worse circumstances by the fact of the country having come under the immediate authority of the Company's Government. If this latter consideration be considered as deserving of any weight, His Lordship in Council will perhaps be inclined to allow them the benefit of it, and so far to extend mercy towards them as to direct their imprisonment to be continued during the term of their natural lives.

Kurnool Commissioner's Office,
Panich, 29th June 1840.

(Signed) I have &c.,
T. L. BLANE,
Commissioner.

No. 267.

To,

H. Chamier Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo (No. 395 in the Judicial Department) directing me to report upon the state of crime in the Kurnool Territory, whether it be

more or less prevalent in the Kurnool Territory and particularly the crimes Gang Robbery, Perjury and Forgery, which were represented by me as being so common in the neighbouring district of Cuddapah.

2. In proceeding to do so, I have the honor to state that, under the circumstances attending the temporary resumption of the country and the absence of any regular system under the late Government, it was not found possible to introduce much regularity either in the manner of administering the Police or in obtaining regular returns of crimes committed. In the inferior class of crimes, the heads of Villages had been hitherto accustomed to exercise a much greater degree of independent authority than is done in the Company's territory and, pending the introduction of any regular system of administration, it appeared preferable to confine myself to directing and controlling them under the system hitherto in force, than to attempt to introduce any innovations which would, by being ill understood, have been probably less efficient in the main object in view, viz., the prevention of crime and the apprehension of offenders. Periodical Reports have been required from the several Amildars of the crimes committed within their jurisdiction and though I feel confident that none of a heinous nature have been omitted to be immediately made known to me, I do not feel so certain that minor offences may not have been perpetrated which the heads of Villages have neglected or omitted to report.

3. The crimes committed in the Kurnool country and reported during a period of 10 months and 14 days or from the date of the assumption of the country (being the 18th of October last up to the end of August) are as follows:—

Murder.....	.....	.....	2	}	3
Robbery and murder...	.....	.....	1		
Robbery and wounding...	.....	.....	1		
Gang Robbery.....	.....	.....	1		
Highway Robbery.....	.....	.....	7		
House breaking.....	.....	.....	19		
Theft.....	.....	.....	37		
Petty thefts of grain in the open fields...	.....	.....	10		
Attempt to poison.....	.....	.....	2		
Cheating.....	.....	.....	2		
			82		

Of the three murders above mentioned, the criminal in one case was apprehended and subsequently executed under authority from Government. Of the other two, which were committed in the open country, no traces have been discovered. The only case of Gang Robbery which has occurred was in fact but an attempt at this crime as it appeared that no property was lost. It was committed in one of the southern taluks where the villages are intermingled with those of the Cuddapah District and the robbers *proved to be Cuddapah people*, having been afterwards apprehended within that jurisdiction and confessed the crime. None of the other classes of Robbery appear to have been attended with aggravating circumstances. Those set down under the head of House breaking include all offences which could be under any construction so classed. Of the thefts a greater proportion have been committed within the town of Kurnool than in any other place and the offenders have mostly been found not to be natives of the place, but followers and hangers on of the camps of the different Regiments which have been at Kurnool during the past year.

4. As the principal object of Government, however, appears to be to ascertain by comparison the prevalence of crime in this and the neighbouring district of Cuddapah, I have procured from the Magistrate

of that District copies of the returns forwarded to the Foujdaree Audalut for the first and second half years of 1839. These will be a sufficient guide for the purpose, though it will be observed that they embrace a period of one month and 18 days greater than that for which I have been able to furnish accounts for this country. From these returns it appears that the total number of crimes and misdemeanors exclusive of petty offences reported in the Cuddapah District for the year 1839 was 1106. It does not however appear necessary to enumerate every class of offences but merely to take the number of the most heinous crimes. These appear to have been as follows:—

Murder.....	.....	.....	.....	30	}	38
Robbery and Murder.....	.....	.....	.....	8		
Gang Robberies.....	.....	.....	.....	263		
House breaking by day and night.....	.....	.....	.....	228		
and thefts.....	.....	.....	.....	136		

The Kurnool District however, not being perhaps more than about one third of the extent of that of Cuddapah, it appears necessary for forming a just comparison between the extent of crime in the two that only one third of the amount of crime in the latter district should be taken, which would be as follows: Murders 12, Gang Robbery 88, House breaking 76, Theft 45, being, as compared with Kurnool, murders four times as great, Gang Robbery eighty eight times, house breaking four times as great, and thefts nearly the same, if the petty thefts in the Cuddapah District be excluded, but, if included as they are in Kurnool, about double. The greatest difference it will be observed is in the crime particularly referred to by me and in your letter under reply, viz., Gang Robbery. It is by this crime that the greatest sufferings are inflicted on the people. Of the whole number of Gang Robberies committed in the Cuddapah District 128 are stated as having been "attended with aggravating circumstances", by which is to be understood murder, maiming and wounding, and the most refined and cruel tortures such as wrapping the hands in cloths soaked in oil, and setting fire to them, scaring with hot irons and other expedients resorted to for the purpose of compelling persons to point out where their property is concealed. It must be admitted therefore that the almost entire absence of this crime in the Kurnool country is a blessing to the people which cannot be too highly appreciated.

5. I have not before me any account of the number of crimes of a similar description within the Bellary District for the corresponding period, but by the returns for the first six months or from 1st of January to the 30th June 1839 it appears that in that district the murders were 15, including Robbery and murder, Gang Robberies 56, House breaking 50, and theft 66, showing a great excess in Gang Robberies when compared with Kurnool, though not to the same extent as in Cuddapah.

6. I have on a previous occasion stated my conviction that the great extent of crime in Cuddapah and Bellary may in some measure be traced either directly or indirectly to the operation of our Judicial institutions, and I must confess that the experience I have since had in this State has not tended to alter that impression. I have no means of ascertaining what the amount of crime was in the Ceded Districts during the earlier part of the Company's administration, but I have frequently heard old and experienced native Officers, both Revenue and Judicial, state that it has increased enormously of late years, and I believe that a reference to the records for the period after the country had become perfectly settled, or during the latter years of Colonel Munro's administration of these districts, and for many years subsequently would show this to be the case. I mention the latter years of his management, because during the earlier part of it, and until the Polligars who were then deprived of their lands were effectually put down, murdering and the plundering of villages were common crimes, but they were instigated or commanded by

these petty chiefs as a system of annoyance or intimidation towards the Government, and arose therefore out of circumstances of a political nature, widely differing from the motives by which private persons now leagued together to plunder the villages, are actuated. If then it can be shown that crime was comparatively of small extent under the Native Government which preceded ours, and that it prevailed more after the introduction of the Madras Regulations and has subsequently continued to increase until it has attained its present height, there appears no means of escaping from the inference that there is something defective in the institutions under which this has taken place.

7. The number of murders (36) during the past year in the Cuddapah District appears to be enormous, but excepting such as are in some way connected with Robbery, which a great proportion of the number I fear are, I should not be disposed to lay much stress on this fact as connected with the Police or Judicial system, for where murders are perpetrated from motives of jealousy, revenge or sudden anger, it is impossible that there can be any preventive check in the Police, nor are previous examples likely to deter persons from crimes, which are perpetrated only during sudden and uncontrollable fits of passion. Gang Robberies however are altogether different in this respect. They are perpetrated on a systematic preconcerted plan, and the chances of punishment or impunity, by whatever means, no doubt, enter largely into the calculation of those engaged in them.

8. It will probably be expected that I should attempt in some way to account for the comparative immunity which this country enjoys from heinous crimes, but I feel much diffidence in attempting to do so. It is easier to state facts than to trace them to their origin and it frequently happens that where they have been attributed to some apparent and present cause, they have in reality their origin in others more remote and less obvious, though not less influential. The increase of crime in provinces under British rule is not it must be observed peculiar to this part of India. It would appear to have been equally the case in Bengal and frequent references to this lamentable fact may be found in the Revenue

and Judicial selections. It has been attributed in a great measure to the nature of our institutions by many of the most experienced and able Officers in India; a reference to Sir T. Munro's correspondence, when he was in charge of the

See Lord Minto's despatch May 1810. Report on the Police by Mr. Dowdswell, Chief Secretary to Government. Letter of Mr. E. Strachey, Judge of Circuit, to the Registrar to the Nizamut Adawlut 13th June 1808.

Ceded Districts will show how strongly he was opposed to the introduction of the Regulation system into them, and the opinion of Sir J. Malcolm appears to be not less decided on that point. In his minute of 30th November 1830, he remarks "The end of all systems of justice is the decrease if not the suppression of crime. At present the task of seizing the most notorious criminals is easy compared to that of proving their guilt according to the forms and principles of our Courts of Justice. There is seldom that full evidence they require and the consequence is the annual discharge of well known plunderers to recommence their career of guilt and to take ample vengeance on those whom they suspect of having aided in their apprehension. If our laws are not modified to meet this great evil it can alone be mitigated by a change in the executive branch" as no observation, which I could offer could however carry any thing like the weight which the sentiments of so distinguished and able an Officer must command I shall here quote another passage of his which may be considered applicable to Kurnool as well as to other Native States and would seem to attribute our want of success in the suppression of crimes to causes which are unavoidably connected with a foreign rule he says "The same classes of men do not fill the same places in society under our Government, as they did under a Native Prince nor are men actuated by similar motives. Our

administration, though just, is cold and rigid. If it creates no alarm, it inspires little or no emulation. The people are protected, but not animated or attached. It is rare that any native of India living under our rule can suffer injury or wrong, but still more rare that he can be encouraged or elevated by favor or distinction. Our rules and regulations constitute a despotic power which is alike imperative upon the Governors and the governed. Its character compels it to generalize and its forms as well as principles are unyielding. Under a Native Prince, however just and indulgent, there is still sufficient awe of the chief authority to prevent an individual hazarding displeasure by evading a duty, which he knows the ruler desires him to perform. There must also be a strong inducement to flatter such a ruler by a display of promptitude to anticipate his wishes, as well to obey his commands". It is far different with the British Government which proceeding upon a defined general system rejects every thing personal. There is neither a ruler to dread nor a people to please.

9. Whatever weight may be due to this as an original inherent cause connected with our rule of the country as foreigners, as it is incapable of amendment or remedy it can answer no useful end to dwell upon it, nor does it appear to me that it is at all sufficient to account for such an extraordinary difference as is apparent in the comparison above instituted between Cuddapah and Kurnool, or that under a system more suited to the habits and sentiments of the people, greater success in the prevention or suppression of crime might not have been looked for.

10. In my Police report for the year 1838, I stated some of the reasons which I believed to have operated in causing the great increase of crime in Cuddapah and, in the 3rd Para, I particularly referred, to the deteriorated state of the morals of the people under our Government. I may here add that the contrast is more remarkably apparent in the Kurnool country than any that I had, at the time of writing that report, any opportunity of judging from. They are not only more honest, but far more simple in their habits, and this renders the administration of justice infinitely more easy. It as often happens that a criminal on being apprehended, confesses the crime at once in the hope of receiving some indulgence, as that he denies it, and even when he denies it, there is none of that skilful resort to chicanery to evade justice or procure the acquittal of a prisoner, which is practised before our courts and which so embarrasses the mind of a judge. There is no such practice as bribing witnesses to give false evidence, or intimidating them into withholding it or absenting themselves, by threats of future vengeance; or any resort to fictitious pleas of alibi skilfully supported by false evidence obtained by the exertions of the prisoner's friends or counter accusations against the native officers of ill treatment, to invalidate a previous admission of guilt. All these are the offspring of our complicated and dilatory system and are never dreamed of, under a native Government. The consequence of this, as well as the more speedy disposal of offences, is that the real merits of the case are more easily arrived at and fewer loop-holes furnished for the escape of actual offenders.

11. As far as preventive checks to crime go, I certainly think that the old system of Native Police still in force in the Kurnool territory, whatever objections may be urged against it on other grounds, is more efficient in its operation. The village watchers are held responsible for all robberies committed within their respective villages and they must either trace the offenders to the next village and recover the lost property or make it good. In 21 cases of robbery or theft in which the offenders, were not apprehended and in which the value of the property lost was estimated at 1068 Rupees, the talaries made good the loss to the amount of Rupees 505. This being an ancient and established rule, they make no objections to complying with it, but it necessarily compels them to be more alert. They watch every suspicious character residing in or coming to a village and it is their direct interest to use their utmost efforts for the apprehension of offenders. There is also a practice which it may be observed is sanctioned in the Bombay

Presidency but not under the Madras Regulations, of expelling notorious or suspicious characters, an occasional resort to which is found to operate most beneficially, particularly in the large town of Kurnool.

12. It is necessary to advert particularly to one point which is that, whatever may be the causes which prevent crimes in this country, the resort to severe or cruel punishments is certainly not one of them. No instances of capital punishments under the late Government has come to my knowledge and only one of maiming by cutting off the hand, in which case the offender was a notorious thief. All except very heinous offences are generally disposed of by the Heads of Villages or Amildars and their exertions are principally directed to the recovery of the property stolen. In theory I believe the Mahomedan law does not view such crimes as offences against the public but as against the individual sufferer, and restitution of the property being the main object he has in view, the village authorities generally consider it as sufficient if this be attained and content themselves with taking the security of some respectable inhabitant against future attempts, or, if this cannot be procured, with a short imprisonment, or the expulsion of the offender.

13. The other crimes particularly referred to in your letter under reply are those of Perjury and Forgery. As these crimes originate for the most part out of Civil suits I have purposely omitted to make mention of them in considering the state of crime as connected with Police. The investigation of Civil suits at Kurnool has still been left in the first instance to the Canzy as under the late Government, and excepting therefore such cases as have been appealed to me where the parties were dissatisfied with the decision given by the Canzy, which have not been many, and others involving questions connected with the possession of Inam and other lands, and disputes arising out of them, I have not had any great experience upon this point during my official charge of the Kurnool Country. The duty, however, on which I have lately been employed, of investigating and settling the claims against the Bunganpally family, whose district immediately adjoins this, and many of the claimants against whom were Kurnool people, enables me to speak with more confidence on this subject than I could otherwise have done. The claims of between three and four hundred persons, the aggregate amount of which has been upwards of twelve lacs of Rupees, have been investigated and settled during the course of this enquiry, but though there were ample opportunities arising out of the old standing of some of the debts, and the irregularity of the transactions, for a resort to such frauds, I can safely say that no instance of any attempt of the kind has come to my knowledge, either during this investigation or any cases which have come before me immediately connected with Kurnool. To any one who has had an opportunity of observing the extreme litigiousness of natives in the Company's country, the perseverance with which they will adhere to and appeal about points of small importance, and the chicanery and crimes they will resort to carry their object, the ease with which similar cases are adjusted in a native State is, I may say, truly delightful. I do not mean to say that much dishonesty is not practised, but it consists principally in usurious extortion, in evading or positively refusing the payment of just debts, and similar means of defrauding a creditor of his due, but such practices as forging bonds or receipts, or deliberately bribing and instructing witnesses to give false evidence on either side, I believe to be scarcely known. A person will deny a debt, or assert his claim to more than is due or what may not be due at all, but he will not easily get others to come forward and swear to the truth of his story, particularly amongst Mussulmans who have certainly a greater regard for truth than Hindoos. Their confidence in the veracity of each other when solemnly questioned, indeed appears so well established, that I have seldom seen an instance in which one party would absolutely deny the truth of accounts produced by his adversary, and nothing is more common in complicated and difficult cases than for one party to offer at once to concede the point at issue, if the opposite party will solemnly take his oath that the case is as he states. Claims of a civil nature also never appear to be made from

vi vindicative motives as they are in the Company's Country. The sole object of a suitor being to recover his rights it is generally easy by arguing with the litigants to induce them to make concessions to each other, and a claimant where he is satisfied that the other party cannot pay what is really due to him, will make an abatement, or allow sufficient time for doing so. It is not indeed always optional with him to do otherwise for an absolute decree to be enforced by the ruin or imprisonment of a man whose inability to pay has perhaps been the result of unavoidable misfortune would not be tolerated. In cases of debt therefore it is usually considered the part of the authority who investigates such a claim to ascertain not only the validity of the claim but the ability to satisfy it and the decision embraces both these questions.

14. However paradoxical it may appear I think it probable that the great difference between the prevalence of such crimes as Forgery and Perjury in the Company's territory and a native state may in a great measure be traced to the very defects of the system prevailing in the latter, the absence of regular tribunals in a native state and even where there are tribunals in a native state and even where there are tribunals of systematic rules for enforcing decrees has made good faith in all dealings more essential, and caused it to be respected and valued so much that every one wishes at least to appear to possess it and hence has arisen a system akin to that prevailing amongst ourselves in claims which there is no legal means of enforcing viz in debts of honor. On the other hand in the Company's country there being a means of compelling payment which every person can avail himself of, this feeling has become less essential, and very means, whether fair or unfair, which our judicial rules admit of, a resort to either for establishing or evading a claim, is considered admissible. There is also another cause which it appears to me must be very influential in checking a resort to such crimes as Forgery and Perjury. Every one under the Native system pleads his own case, and as great skill, and experience are required to forge successfully; or to set up a connecting chain of false evidence there are few suitors who would succeed even if they attempted a resort to such means, but about our Courts where professional pleaders are used there are always a set of men who have grown up in an atmosphere of Court intrigue and chicanery, and are skilful in all the means necessary to render Perjury and Forgery successful and whose livelihood depends upon the success with which they can practise them. Such men can always be found to prepare cases, even if the pleaders are not themselves directly engaged in them, and where one party to a suit has recourse to them the other finds himself however reluctantly compelled to resort to similar expedients.

15. I shall not trespass on the attention of Government with any further observations upon this subject. What has been already said above will I trust be sufficient to shew that notwithstanding other contingent disadvantages, the state of crime in the Kurnool country is small in comparison with what it is in our own neighbouring Districts. The inference which I have drawn from this fact is certainly in favor of the opinion I ventured to express on a previous occasion that, our institutions are ill adapted to the present state of the country, and to the habits and feelings of the people, but I trust I need scarcely say that no fact has been perverted, or misrepresented with a view of supporting my own views on the subject. Such as these views are, whether well founded or otherwise Government is well aware that they are not now urged for the first time and I would rather be considered as adding my single testimony in support of opinions, with the truth of which I am deeply impressed, which have been previously recorded by the most eminent men in India, than as presuming to intrude any new and crude ideas of my own. The two following passages which I shall in conclusion take the liberty of quoting from the works of Sir John Malcolm and Sir T. Munro, will I think be sufficient to illustrate what I have above stated.

16. The most serious part of this question (that of the administration of justice) and one which lies at the very threshold is whether we are in the shape and substance of our Administration of Justice,

Sir J. Malcolm's Central India.

to pay most attention to our own rules, principles and prejudices, or to those of the nation, or rather nations we have to govern. We may lay it down as a first principle, that no system can be good that is not thoroughly understood and appreciated by those for whose benefit it is intended. If our system is in advance of the community, if it is founded on principles they do not comprehend and has forms and usages adverse to their habits and feelings we shall experience no adequate return of confidence and allegiance. Great and beneficial alterations in society to be complete must be produced within itself. They cannot be the mere fabrications of its superiors or of the few, who deem themselves enlightened. Every chord of the instrument must be in time or there will be no good harmony. This compels men who desire real reforms in large communities to dread what is often termed reason because the masses whom it is wished to benefit are not rational in the abstract and refined association of the word and because no projected benefit can be operative till it is understood and recognized as such by those for whose good it is intended.

17. The separation of power has certainly however the European character. It has already perhaps in some degree created and will continue to spread gradually amongst the natives, a spirit of independence,

Memorandum by Sir T. Munro.

but springing less from confidence in themselves, than, from an abated respect for the British Government. If we wish in order to remove their prejudices to communicate to them more of the European character in their habits and opinions.—If we are desirous of raising in their minds that proper independence which results from living under a well regulated Government and of rendering them fit to take a share in it, and even at some future period to govern themselves we have not I fear taken the steps most likely to conduct us to this object. The independence which our institutions create is more likely to lead to discontent and disturbances than to a just estimate of the advantages which may be enjoyed under them, or to any anxiety for their preservation or improvement. While we are endeavouring to diffuse European knowledge among the Hindoos, and just notions of the benefit of good Government, we must be cautious that we do not, by too great division of power weaken their reverence for our authority and encourage them to resist it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. L. BLANE,
Commissioner.

Kurnool Commissioner's Office,
16th October 1840.

No. 29.

To,

The Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of an extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 15th January 1841 (No. 16 in the Secret Department) forwarding an extract from a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India dated 11th January 1841 and desiring me to state my sentiments respecting the suggestion therein contained for the survey and assessment of the Jagheer of Kurnool.

2. I have not experienced any difficulty in ascertaining the value of this Jagheer, if by that is to be understood the amount of revenue derived from it within the last few years, but without a survey it is impossible to form any correct estimate of what its capabilities or resources would be under a better management than has hitherto prevailed or of the equality of the assessment upon the lands and which the more lightly or more heavily taxed fields in a village. An attempt at a survey was made by the Nawab about 9 years ago, that is to say a record was made of the nominal quantity of land in each age, the quantities of each kind of land and the proportions of cultivated or waste land, and of the value, and other particulars and the accounts, for want of better are not without their utility; but as they appear to have been principally made out from the information furnished by the eamums they cannot be relied on and the quantity of land comprised in the nominal measurements used, differs in every village, nay, frequently in the same village to so great a degree that these accounts furnish only a ground for ascertaining the real extent of land upon which any given amount of revenue is levied. The settlements though nominally ryotwar have in fact been made principally upon the villages and the heads of villages have been in the habit of altering the assessment of fields according to their own discretion and as often with reference to the means of the ryot as to the quality of land, so that it is difficult or impossible to ascertain what the assessment nearly ought to be. I consider therefore a Revenue Survey of some sort would on many accounts be most beneficial.

3. With respect to the assessment of the lands it would I think be advisable to defer it for some time except in one or two of the talooks the cultivation classes have been greatly depressed and impoverished and the villages fallen into decay, and under these circumstances it could not be expected that an advantageous settlement could be made with them; one which would if they were in moderately prosperous circumstances be considered light, it would be difficult for them in their present state to agree to.

4. What appears to me to be now required is some measure by which the energies and exertions of the ryots may be stimulated and which would enable them to recover from the effects of the mismanagement of the late Nawab and bring the lands which have fallen waste into cultivation. This would be best effected by granting such of the villages as have fallen into decay on a moderate fixed rent for a period of years, a measure which is well understood in this part of the country and appears to have been attended in most beneficial results in some of the Jagheer villages, particularly those belonging to the family of late Nawab Munwar Khan.

5. It may perhaps be worthy of the consideration of Government whether the present would not afford a good opportunity of trying the effects of a Village settlement similar to that which appears to be answered so well in the upper provinces of Bengal and which is referred to in a Minute of the Governor General circulated by orders of Government for the opinion of Collectors in a letter from the Board of Revenue dated 20th June 1839. There is nothing in this kind of settlement which might not I think advantageously be adopted here. The survey might be either that combination of a professional with a field survey which appears to have been used in Bengal or merely the field survey as made in the Ceded districts but the plan of village settlement viz., that of giving the villages on lease to the whole body of ryots on their joint responsibility for a fixed rent to be settled chiefly in reference to the average collection of former years and with such a deduction on the gross sum as would enable the Ryots to pay the rent in all seasons and enjoy a fair profit would I think be well adapted to the present state of this

64 21
country, only that the first settlement should I think be limited to 5 or 7 years and if then found to answer it might be extended on renewal to the usual period.

Kurnool Commissioner's Office,
Autecoor,
24th February 1841.

I have &c.,
(Signed) T. L. BLANE,
Commissioner.

No. 72.

To,

The Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

In forwarding the accompanying report drawn up by Captain Trower of the Nizam's Horse I have the honour to state that he arrived at Kurnool on the 15th Instant and has inspected all the horsemen belonging to the late Nawab's Establishment inclusive of the Mutafarakat with the exception of the 50 men who were directed by Government to be detached to Bellary. It was at first my intention to have detained these until they could be inspected by Captain Trower, but the Magistrate of Bellary having urged their being sent without delay I did not think it right any longer to defer doing so.

As Captain Trower's report appears to embrace all the points which it is necessary to advert to in considering this subject, and as he is necessarily far more competent to offer suggestions on the subject than myself it would be superfluous for me to submit any arrangement as directed in the Extract from Minutes of Consultation dated 13th April 1841. It will be sufficient for me to state generally that in my opinion the plan suggested by Captain Trower is in every respect well calculated for carrying into effect the object of Government in sanctioning the Kurnool Cavalry being retained and placing them on an efficient footing.

The point to which I would particularly wish to refer in Captain Trower's report is his plan of including the Mutafarakat in the arrangement, by which I think many important objects will be gained. In the first place it will obviate the necessity of making a separate provision for these persons except in a few cases where they are not qualified for the duty from age or other causes, and it will constitute a provision for the more respectable class of Musselmans in Kurnool which I stated in my letter of the 30th January last to be an object so much to be desired. In considering the plan proposed by Captain Trower therefore, it is not only the utility of such a corps for police and other duties if placed on a thoroughly efficient footing which should be taken into consideration but the further object so desirable in a political point of view which will be gained of providing in a manner congenial to their tastes and habits, for a large portion of the respectable inhabitants of Kurnool, and thus converting into attached and faithful servants persons who would in the usual course of events become impoverished and disaffected. As the service would, in the event of Captain Trower's plan being carried into effect become so respectable that none of the Mutafarakat need be ashamed of entering it if they declined to do so and preferred leading a life of idleness they would of course forfeit all claim to any maintenance from Government.

Captain Trower has expressed his intention of remaining at Kurnool until such time as he may receive the further instructions of Government which he would be glad to receive as early as convenient. In the event of the plan now submitted being approved of he has expressed to me his readiness to remain for some months and afford his assistance in reorganizing the Kurnool Horse and as from his experience

65 30
d temper he appears peculiarly well qualified for such a task it would be well to avail himself of his services for that object.

Kurnool Commissioner's Office
Sirwell, 31st May 1841.

(Signed)

190. 20

To,

The Acting Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

In consequence of the expected removal from the Station of the 16th Regiment, the occupation by the 47th Regiment some uncertainty has arisen regarding the tenure of the houses inhabited by Officers in the Fort are held, and the validity of their transfer.

When Kurnool was first occupied, the Officers of the 16th Regiment were permitted to occupy to their rank, such places in the Fort as might serve for their accommodation, but as the remaining at Kurnool was so very uncertain no new Bungalows were built as would have been the case had it been then known that the Regiment would have been located here 3 years.

In a short time many deserted and ruinous buildings were rendered habitable, though not very numerous; but still it was publicly notified by the Commissioners to the Officer Commanding that the houses were not to be considered as private property, but held liable to destruction or resumption should be required on Public grounds.

Such requisition was not however put in force. Gradual improvements, and continued occupation, have in some measure effaced any impression that the former notification may have made, and the question has been put to me whether these houses (on some of which from 20 Rupees to 1,000 have been expended) may be transferred to applicants from the 47th Regiment.

5. If this is permitted, the next Corps will of course consider they have a vested right in their houses, and it is to the consideration of this point that I beg to call the attention of His Lordship in Council.

6. The number of Officers residing here is 12 and there is not a habitable corner unoccupied. The Officers of the 47th about to march hither are 19 in number. Some will the more no doubt expect ground to be given them whereon to build, and if this is done at all, it would be better in my opinion (I speak with reference on these matters) to allot ground at once for the building of new Bungalows for all the Officers.

7. The places at present occupied are with a few exceptions not worth above a few Rupees, and perhaps it may be thought advisable to remove the Officers' lines to outside the Fort, where indeed the Sepoys lines are now built. In this event it is to be remembered that the Barracks, the European Artillery Barracks and sheds, the Hospital and Mess House will be abandoned, unless some of them are made available for a Catcherry Treasury and Jail. The Mess House of course has been built from the funds of the 16th Regiment at an expense of 1,400 Rupees; the other buildings have cost about 3,000 Rupees.

8. One objection to building outside the Fort is the very soft and unstable nature of the soil, to say nothing of the difficulty in procuring the wood or any materials except stones and mud.

require some definitive order on the subject which is much required
 out to be relieved. The opinion of a qualified officer in regard to the
 ungalows, should Government be disposed to grant ground, would be

propose as a temporary measure that it be notified to the officers of the 47th
 take the (so called) houses here by choice according to their rank, but if they
 remuneration to the former occupant for his making it into a habitable place the
 the option under the same circumstances, it being at the same time notified that
 entitle them to claim compensation should Government order lines to be built

Office
 er 1842.

I have &c.
 (Signed.) W. H. BAYLEY,
 Commissioner.

No. 231.

The Acting Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

1. With reference to extract from Minutes of Consultation under date the 11th October 1842 No. 4
 olitical Department, I have the honor to submit the enclosed reference made to me by the Officer Com-
 manding the 16th Regiment now stationed at Kurnool.

2. The house occupied by Captain Hodson is not like most others an old building converted into
 temporary residence, and any exception made in his favour would not affect the general question.

3. It has never yet been clearly understood whether the buildings of all descriptions in the Fort of
 Kurnool are considered Government property or not, I am inclined to believe not, as the Fort was never
 surrendered in Military sense, but merely occupied by us without any sort of resistance.

4. Most of the late Nawab's relations have houses and gardens in the Fort against the transfer or
 sale of which no notification has hitherto been made: and they are generally considered as private property.
 Zenanahs of the late Nawab and his Predecessors are also in the Fort, and the occupation of them by
 their former inhabitants has not been interfered with.

5. I understand that offers have been made to Captain Hodson for his house which he might then
 dispose of without loss, but I could not without referring the matter to Government consider such transfer
 legal.

6. I would however respectfully recommend the present application, and that whoever purchases
 the house should pay a perpetual quit-rent to Government.

7. With regard to the Mess House the only suggestion that I can offer is that it be bought by Go-
 vernment and set apart as a place of worship. Divine service is now performed there every sabbath, and
 there is no other place where the Christian inhabitants can congregate for that purpose.

Kurnool,
 Commissioner's Office
 23rd November 1842.

I have &c.
 (Signed.) W. H. BAYLEY,
 Commissioner.