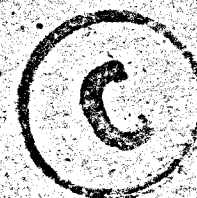


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Report of the  
Laccadive Islands

1874



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REPORT

OF  
THE LACCADIVE ISLANDS,

6  
DATED 19TH MAY 1848.

BY W. ROBINSON, ESQ.,

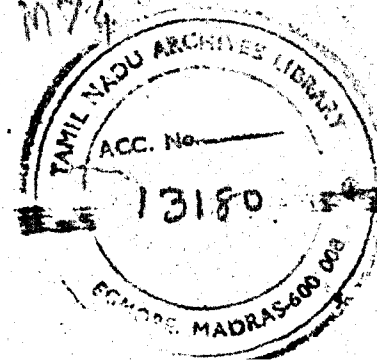
HEAD ASSISTANT COLLECTOR, MALABAR.

MADRAS:  
PRINTED BY E. KEYS, AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1874.

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 செப்பருப்பவர் பெயர்  
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 சரிபார்க்கும் கிராமசுதி  
 மு. க. க. உதவியாளர்  
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No. 19  
1848.

CALICUT 23rd June 1848.

From

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
Collector of Malabar,

To

J. F. THOMAS, Esq.,  
Chief Secretary to Government,  
Public Department,  
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit a report from my Head Assistant, Mr. Robinson, on the general condition and prospects of such of the Laccadive Islands as are under the rule of the Beebee of Cannanore.

2. Mr. Robinson, in treating on a subject of which little is known, and which he has had peculiar opportunities, from local investigation, of mastering, has entered into considerable and varied detail. But the matter of which he treats is one affecting the interests and happiness of a large body of people who have never before enjoyed such a means of making their grievances known; and the labor of studying what Mr. Robinson has drawn up with anxious and self-denying solicitude will, I am sure, be cheerfully accorded by his superiors, who will know how to value the remarkable zeal and diligence which have distinguished that gentleman in the prosecution of a very arduous duty.

3. The immediate cause of this general report is as follows:—An address was presented to me in 1846 by certain of the inhabitants of Ancutta, one of the Beebee's islands, complaining of various oppressions under which, as they asserted, they, in common with their fellow islanders, labored. The subject appeared to me to be beyond my jurisdiction, and I gave an endorsement to that effect. The address (herewith returned) was then forwarded by the islanders to the Government, who, under date the 21st August 1847, transmitted it to the Collector of Canara and myself, with instructions to inquire into its allegations. This order was received about the time when

Mr. Robinson was preparing to visit the Laccadives in order to ascertain the amount of injury which they had received from the storm of April 1847. The opportunity was too seasonable to be lost,

and Mr. Robinson, in making the researches for which he was particularly designed, took advantage of his visit to acquire such information as would enable us to answer the Government call on the general question.

4. Mr. Robinson commences with the history and description of the Laccadive Islands, and especially of those still under the Beebee's sway. Formerly the whole group was so, but four of the islands—Chetlat, Kiltan, Kadamut, and Ameny—were taken away from her by Tippoo, and, since his fall, have remained attached to the Collectorate of Canara.

The inhabited islands still remaining to the Beebee are five in number—Androt, Kalpenni, Kowraty, Ancutta, and Menakay. She has also three islands—Suhely, Bingaram, and Tingaram—which, though not fixedly inhabited, are more or less cultivated, and are valuable besides for their fisheries.

5. The state of Androt and Kalpenni, which were almost utterly destroyed in the hurricane of last year, has already been dwelt on in Mr. Robinson's special report of the 7th February last. Attempts are being made by the Beebee to recover them, with what success remains to be seen. There are still about 900 persons out of 2,500 in the former, and 450 out of 1,600 in the latter island; but almost all of them poor and struggling.

In Kowraty and Ancutta, which were little injured by the storm, there is a population of 2,000 and 1,500, respectively.

Menakay Mr. Robinson was unable to visit, but his information leads him to believe that it has a flourishing population of some 2,000.

6. The whole of these islands are of coral formation, and partake of the usual characteristics of islands of that nature. They are thickly planted with a superior description of cocoanut, the husk of which yields a cable of a fine quality. They have generally extensive fisheries and cowry banks. Holothuria and tortoise shells can be collected to a considerable extent.

But the people, however favored by natural circumstances, are in any thing but a happy condition. The fiscal rules of the Beebee weigh on them most heavily. The whole of their products are monopolized by her at rates far below their market value. Her monopoly is kept up with as much rigor as possible, and the least infringement of it is punished with all the severity which her position as an uncontrolled sovereign can give her. In addition to this monopoly the islanders are saddled with all sorts of irregular cesses. Fees have to be paid for liberty to act as pilots to Arabian and other vessels, for the privilege of wearing personal ornaments, &c. All local appointments

*Vide* Mr. Robinson's report, paras. 176 to 182, and para. 200.

are paid for liberty to act as pilots to Arabian and other vessels, for the privilege of wearing personal ornaments, &c. All local appointments

are sold, and the buyer has to recover his purchase money and support himself (for the pay is almost nominal) in the best way he can. Other grievances, one of the greatest of which is the mode by which the people are made the bond-creditors of the Beebee in her double capacity of merchant and sovereign, are detailed by Mr. Robinson, who shows, as I believe, with all truth, that all the evils of unchecked native mismanagement with regard to fiscal arrangements are seen in these islands in full play. But still worse remains. The judicial system is equally bad with the fiscal, with which indeed it is closely allied. Justice is administered by parties of little weight or character, whose chief aim seems to be to turn their power and the people's faults to profit. Almost every sort of crime has to be liquidated by the payment of a fine, which goes into the coffers of the Beebee or the local officers, according to its greater or smaller amount.

The Beebee, on being called on by me some time ago to report how serious crimes were dealt with in her islands, insisted that none such had ever been committed, an assertion which, as relating to a population of many thousands of people who, however primitive, have yet sufficient intercourse with the world to know its vices, was evidently very improbable, and one that at all events could not be relied on as security for the future.

The Beebee's attempt to repress inquiry was natural enough, whatever may be said of its wisdom.

|                              |             |              |       |  |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|--|
| From Joint Magistrate, dated | 6th October | 1847.        |       |  |
| To do.                       | do.         | 9th do.      | do.   |  |
| To Hd. Asst. Magistrate, do. | 12th do.    | do.          | do.   |  |
| From do.                     | do.         | 26th January | 1848. |  |
| To Joint Magistrate, do.     | 27th do.    | do.          | do.   |  |
| From do.                     | do.         | 1st February | do.   |  |
| To do.                       | do.         | 5th do.      | do.   |  |
| From do.                     | do.         | 9th do.      | do.   |  |

Her proceedings in her judicial capacity cannot always bear examination. I enclose some English papers which will show that her punishments are at times of an

outrageously arbitrary nature. It will be seen that in a case where some parties were found guilty of having stolen some rice in a time of scarcity from her island stores, the ministers of justice were sent to confiscate the whole of the property belonging to the delinquents' house, a process which was carried out with such force and brutality as to render it doubtful whether one or more unoffending parties, who happened to be in the devoted house, had not had their lives shortened by the indignity and violence to which they were subjected. This

instance, it will be observed from Mr. Robinson's report, is not a singular one. This peculiarly eastern mode of confiscation has a local and fixed designation in the islands (Cowrachy).

The whole system, both fiscal and judicial, is no doubt utterly faulty, and calls loudly for Government interference. Matters indeed have

They have been strongly urged by Mr. Robinson and myself to remain quiet and submissive, pending the consideration of their case by Government.

come to such a pass that some interference is inevitable. The islanders in general have become thoroughly discontented with the Beebee's rule, and nothing but the mixed feeling of hope and fear which they bear towards the British Government prevents them from at once openly throwing off her yoke. As it is, her authority is evaded and her rights infringed in every way that cunning and obstinacy can invent. Much of the island products is sold surreptitiously, and much is kept by them in their homes, in place of being brought over to be delivered to the Beebee at her ruinously low monopoly prices.

The Beebee, who plumes herself greatly on her position as a sovereign of these petty isles, is extremely indignant with her contumacious subjects, and wishes the Government to aid her with the strong hand in recovering her power. This, as I have explained to her, is, I am convinced, a vain expectation. She had much better, I have ventured to hint, take into consideration the desirableness of offering to give up these islands in exchange for some fair equivalent. But this idea her pride will not allow her to entertain for a moment, and I have not pressed a matter which, of course, can only be determined by Government.

But my firm impression is that there is no other way in which the affair can be satisfactorily settled. The Beebee, whatever her promises and intentions may be at present, and, under a feeling of the insecurity of her position, she expresses, though in a very vague manner, her resolution to redress all grievances and make the people quite happy, cannot be trusted to give the islanders such liberal terms as are just and reasonable. She has not the means of furnishing them with a proper judicial executive. Her police system must, I think, be thoroughly changed, and the fiscal system can hardly exist without its aid.

7. The Government will see, by a reference to past records, that the anomalous and miserable condition of the Beebee's subjects attracted such notice 53 years ago that it was resolved by the Governor-General in Council and the Court of Directors that they should be set free from her oppressions. More important matters seem to have thrust the subject out of notice, and the liberal intentions of the Supreme Government and Court were in time lost sight of.

8. At the lapse of 53 years the need of Government interposition seems still more requisite than it was then, and I would respectfully suggest that it be now afforded.

The details of the measure can be settled afterwards. I see no

\* The Beebee's claim as a private landowner would not be affected by the change of system. She would stand in this respect on the same footing as she does with regard to her coast (Cannanore) estates, i.e., she would make her own arrangements for leasing her private grounds, and merely pay a share of her rent to Government as a tax.

† It is probable (and natural) that the Beebee will claim some diminution of this tribute in consideration of the heavy losses experienced in two of her finest islands—Andrott and Kalpenni—by last year's storm. In this case the money arrangement may be modified accordingly.

great difficulties at present. The Beebee, as Sovereign,\* pays us 10,000 rupees a year as the half of her net profits from the islands. All we should have to do then, so far as the money part is concerned, would be to relinquish this demand† and allow her 10,000 rupees more, we taking in exchange for this 20,000 rupees such revenue as the islands, under a fair

system, could produce. No better system could be introduced than that which at present is found to work so well in the sister islands attached to Canara, a summary memorandum regarding which will be found in one of Mr. Robinson's Appendices.

9. Mr. Robinson is of opinion that the loss in money to our Government from this arrangement would be inconsiderable, if any, even in the present depressed state of the islands, and eventually it is most probable we should be gainers. But his and my recommendations are based, and will no doubt be weighed, on higher considerations than those of mere revenue—on considerations which affect the welfare of a considerable body of industrious, timid, and suffering people.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. V. CONOLLY,

Collector.

HEAD ASSISTANT COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,  
PALGHAT, 19th May 1848.

From

W. ROBINSON, Esq.,

Head Assistant Collector of Malabar,

To

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,

Collector of Malabar.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you the result of the observations and inquiries into the state of the Laccadive group, which I was enabled to make during my late tour round these islands.

2. Having on a former occasion reported on that portion of the group which is attached to the district of Canara, I will confine myself generally to the description of the islands still under the Beebee of Cannanore.

3. My attention was particularly directed to the observation of the general features and characteristics of the group, and the appearance, formation, size, &c., of the islands which I propose to describe separately.

4. Their natural and vegetable productions of economical or commercial value were carefully inquired into, and accurate returns formed of the extent of their staple—the cocconut tree. I secured, also, carefully-formed returns of the population, &c., of the several islands. Up to this time no statistical information about them had been obtained.

5. I directed as much attention as the nature of my special duty would admit of, to an inquiry into the general history of the group, both prior and subsequent to their connexion with the Beebee of Cannanore; for it illustrates the origin of the fiscal system now obtaining, and the nature of the Rajah's claims on the people and soil. This sketch shows, with reference to their complaints, the cause of the hereditary and deep-rooted bitter feeling with which the islanders under the Beebee of Cannanore now contemplate their depressed and deteriorated condition, their past sacrifices, and, what they consider, the continued aggression of the Pandaram; and also the cause of their non-participation in the liberties of their ancestors, and the freedom enjoyed by other British subjects on the coast and on the adjacent islands of their own group.

6. To this head belongs the accident which separated politically the northern and southern divisions of the group—a separation which still continues.

7. I paid particular attention to the existing fiscal arrangements and their effect on the articles of commerce and industry of people; as well as to the details of their management, which are so important to the prosperity of the people, and form a prominent feature in the catalogue of grievances now urged by them. A very rough estimate only can be formed of the probable revenue realized from the islanders at different periods.

8. As all the resources of the islands are fettered by fiscal arrangements, trade scarcely exists as a separate head of inquiry. Smuggling of prohibited articles even has probably been limited. In the manufacture and export of a coarse jaggery only do these islands enjoy freedom. The effect of this will be noticed under that head.

9. The monopoly of the supply of salt and tobacco was introduced by the Rajah in imitation of fiscal arrangements on the coast. The latter, at least, is kept up to this day.

10. I ascertained the character of the general administration and local government in the separate islands, also the establishments maintained, and the steps taken and expense incurred to render the institution efficient. I was also enabled to form an opinion of the state of feeling throughout the group towards the Beebee's administration.

11. The coral formations constituting the Laccadive group occupy a space stretching from 10° to 12° North Latitude, and from 72° to 74° 30' East Longitude. The group is about 140 miles from north to south, and, between the most easterly and westerly islands, upwards of 100 miles broad; the most northerly formations being the open and dangerous reef of Belyapany, the most southerly the islands of Kalpenni and Suhely, lying nearly on the same line of latitude, but 90 or 100 miles apart. It is characteristic of this group that the shoals generally lie at considerable distances from each other—seldom indeed less than twenty to thirty miles apart—and thus the small number of reefs and islands shown in the margin covers a very large space.

- |                                   |                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Belyapany.                     | } Open reefs.                                               |
| 2. Cherinpany.                    |                                                             |
| 3. Betrapar.                      | } An extensive reef with an uninhabitable island; no water. |
| 4. Chetlat.                       |                                                             |
| 5. Kiltan.                        | } Inhabited islands attached to Canara.                     |
| 6. Kadamat.                       |                                                             |
| 7. Ameny.                         |                                                             |
| 8. Agaty with Bingaram, Tingaram. |                                                             |
| 9. Kowraty.                       | } Islands belonging to the Beebee of Cannanore.             |
| 10. Androt.                       |                                                             |
| 11. Kalpenni.                     |                                                             |
| 12. Suhely.                       |                                                             |
| 13. Punala Para and               | } An extensive reef with two small islands.                 |
| 14. Baray.                        |                                                             |
|                                   | } Open reefs.                                               |
|                                   |                                                             |

12. Several are open reefs, and of those formations on which islands are situated the actual island is but a very small portion of the whole shoal.

13. Between the reefs the sea is deep and clear. On the Barny even there are few spots where soundings fall short of 8 to 12 fathoms.

14. The peculiarity of these reefs, with one or two exceptions, is their abrupt rise quite to the surface, the formation of a natural breakwater, and enclosure of a lagoon of a greater or less size, within which the water is still in the most boisterous weather at sea. The currents are exceedingly treacherous, particularly to the southward.

15. The chief productions of the shoal water are fish, turtle, cowries, and holothuria. The supply of fish depends mainly on the extent of shoal water about each island. Their products. Fish. Its quality is indifferent, fitted only for local consumption. None is salted and dried for export on the Laccadive group proper. The larger kinds of fish are the kotar—a very large flat fish of a cetaceous genus—the porpoise, and the shark. The flesh of these is eaten, the blubber used in their boats, and the fins of the latter are exported in various quantities from all the islands. The shark is met more frequently to the northward; the smaller species are very numerous, but not fine.

16. The turtle frequents the shoals—the green turtle (murgan) in considerable numbers; but the tortoise (amah) is rarer. The former is valuable for its fat, the latter for its shell.

17. Cowries are gathered on all the shoals of the group. They are washed up and cling to the stones, from which they are gathered once a month during the neap tides. The islands remaining to the Beebee have by far the best cowry banks, and but for fiscal restrictions and unremunerative prices paid to the collectors would annually produce many candies.

18. Of the holothuria, from which the Biche-de-Mer of commerce is made, there are several species; one of which only, and that the rarest, is worth manufacturing for the Chinese market. In some of the islands it is more plentiful than in others, according to the extent of shoal water.

19. Ambergris is occasionally met with.

20. Coral is not an article of trade, and chanks do not engage much attention.

21. The islands generally lie round the east side of the shoal, and vary from one to three miles in length, but none exceeds one mile in breadth. Their level is low, no part exceeding a few feet above high-water mark; their appearance is that of a sand bank. The soil is light coral sand, and naturally barren.

22. A few feet beneath the surface is a substratum of coral which stretches over the whole island. It varies in thickness, but apparently averages about one foot and a half; within this crust is contained loose, wet sand and fresh water. Wells and tanks are formed by cutting through this coral covering and removing the sand, when the fresh water at once accumulates.

23. In most of the islands a greater or less extent of this substratum has been quarried out, and the damp subsoil of sand laid open—which is termed totam or garden. In the islands of Ameny, Androt, Kowraty, and Kalpenni the totam is of considerable extent, and must have cost great and continuous exertion. Tradition attributes the totam to the earliest settlers, who are believed by the people, judging from their work, to have been above the ordinary stature.

24. The least fertile are the northern and western islands, and the coastward islands are decidedly the dampest and finest; these are Kalpenni, Androt, and Kiltan.

25. The staple vegetable production of the islands is the cocoanut tree, which grows well in every part. The totam is generally reserved for coarse grain—such as ragghoe (a little paddy has been tried in Androt), pulse, banana, yam, and vegetables. The areka tree seems also to thrive therein. In most of the islands the bread-fruit tree grows luxuriantly, and in some the lime tree also.

26. Universal local tradition points to the times of anarchy and confusion on the coast which followed the area of Cheruman Permal, about 1,000\* years ago, as the time when the principal islands of this group began to be occupied. The earlier and partial occupation is attributed to accident, but considerable voluntary immigration has also taken place, especially of the lower classes from the coast.

27. The islands supposed to have been first peopled from the coast were Ameny, Kalpenni, and Androt, and probably Kowraty also. The principal inhabitants of

these four islands claim high caste Hindu ancestry—Nairs and even Melachery Islands. Namboodries. The lower classes, Teers and Muckwars—from whom the Melachery caste are descended—besides settling on the larger islands as servants of the better classes, further peopled exclusively the smaller islands of Chetlat, Kiltan, and Agaty, which are to this day Melachery Islands. The ancient inhabitants of these three islands probably recognized subjection to those of Ameny.

28. The early polity of the group seems to have been exceedingly simple. The islands were all independent of each other as to internal management. Ameny seems to have enjoyed some priority (without authority) over the whole group, but there never was, as now in the Maldivé group, a native prince.

29. The internal management was patriarchal, and conducted by a *Modaal* (chief inhabitant) and the heads of the principal families. In Ameny a kind of council of four families seems to have existed. These little communities appear to have been subject to no compulsory tax in those early times.

30. This kind of internal economy seems to have lasted until the commencement of their connexion with native princes on the coast, about 350 years ago.

31. The conversion of the inhabitants to the Islam took place about 600 years ago. Their manners, religion, rules of descent, &c., are now precisely those of the Coast Mopillah. There is no Hindu on the group.

32. The traditions of the islanders shows that even during the early centuries their ancestors carried on an active trade with the coast of India and the more distant harbours of Cutch and Arabia. The people believe that the seas were not then so infested by pirates as they subsequently became.

33. The commencement of the connexion of the Laccadives with the native princes of the coast is apparently involved in a good deal of obscurity and intrigue. But it certainly was contemporary with, and seems to have been in some manner connected with, the first appearance of the Portuguese on these coasts. The Portuguese found the group in a state of independence, and certainly made a settlement on the island of Ameny. How far they extended their power over the other islands I could not trace; but they were shortly exterminated through the intrigues of the

Rajah of Cherikul, on whom the group then became dependent, probably about 1545—50.

34. The Cherikul Rajah afterwards conferred the group in jaghire, with the title of Rajah, on the head of the Mopillah sect in Cannanore, the stipulated peshkush being 6,000 fanams a year. I could not fix the date of the grant. The Cannanore family is descended from a converted fisher race.

35. This tribute was paid, it is said, by six Rajahs of the house of Cannanore, or till the middle of the eighteenth century; when advantage was taken of the gradual dismemberment of the Cherikul principality to render themselves independent, and the former feudatory became the inveterate enemy of the Cherikul family, whose downfall was completed by the invasion of North Malabar by Hyder, M. S. 941 (1765-66), at the solicitation of the Rajah of Cannanore.

36. I could not trace the existence of any taxation on the islands while still independent and managed by their own *Modaal* (chief inhabitant). During the early period of their connexion with the Rajah of Cannanore, the headmen of the islands were made use of in the internal administration, but no fixed or settled revenue or land tax was exacted. An export duty (*Sunkum*) on coir, and subsequently a like duty on the rice imported for home consumption, was, however, soon fixed and formed the earliest subsidy levied on the people. These custom duties varied from six per cent. to ten per cent. of the article itself on which they were charged. The latter rate was at last fixed, and is that at which the *Sunkum* or transit duty now stands.

37. Arbitrary contributions for extraordinary exigencies were occasionally called for: and a considerable casual but constant revenue must have flowed in from the nazeranahs exacted on appointment of Kazees, and for granting audiences, conferring local titles, licenses to wear jewels and other local distinctions; also from fees on the launch of boats; from fines, confiscations and escheats; from wrecks and various other royalties which were gradually assumed in imitation of those enjoyed by the Rajahs of the coast. Cowries, tortoise-shell, ambergris, &c., were also claimed at a later period as royalties obtained from the sea, the people being paid coolly hire only for fishing them. These royalties still obtain.

38. Important profits must likewise have accrued from the trade of the prince and capitalist with his subjects on authoritative, though nominally equal, footing—

a relation in which they early stood towards each other; and possibly with mutual advantage, while the seas were infested by pirates. This trade paved the way for introducing exclusive trade in, and monopoly of, all the valuable production of the group. So late, however, as the middle of the last century trade was unfettered, and was carried on with Surat, Muscat and other harbours. The Laccadives seem then to have been visited by trading vessels from the coast. But this has long been prohibited.

39. No defensive establishment was maintained, and the people seem to have bent before, never resisted, the piratical incursions by which they were frequently visited.

40. The Rajah at first possessed no private property on the islands. The right over unoccupied land, which is now considered the *jenn* (see simple) property of the Rajah, was not assumed till 100 years at least after the islands first became connected with the Cannanore house. This assumption only extended to the waste on each of the actually inhabited islands. The uninhabited reefs of Suhely, Bingaram, &c., were assumed at a later period.

41. Bamaly Rajah succeeded his uncle in M.K. 913 (A.D. 1738), and ruled till M.K. 953 (A.D. 1777-78). His intrigue with Hyder Ali, and the success of his trade with his subjects and abroad, under the Vazeer Kunjee Packy, raised the power and wealth of the Cannanore family; and occasion was taken to enforce the monopoly of purchase of the principal products of the islands. The authoritative introduction of the coir monopoly took place between M.K. 937 (A.D. 1761-62) and 940 (1764-65), and appears to have met with a good deal of opposition on the part of the people.

42. Royalties, &c., were enhanced and preserved under severe penalties; and, if the traditions of the people may be relied on, Bamaly's rule was marked by oppression, of which they speak to this day with exceeding bitterness. It may be gathered that exclusive trade was introduced a few years prior to the reduction of prices.

43. The prices paid by the Rajah were eventually fixed at the low rate of 30 rupees per candy, paid in rice—less 20 per cent. for export and import duties on coir and rice, and some other deductions.

44. Bamaly's power was reduced by his being deprived of the management of Cherikul in 1766-67, but before his death his compulsory system was in full operation on all the islands.

45. It was not long before the introduction of the monopoly of coir and the violence with which it was enforced, gave rise to the rebellion of 1784, which ended in the loss, to the Cannanore family, of the Northern islands, Ameny and its dependencies. For the narrative of this, *vide* Note 13.

46. The exasperated people sought and gained the protection of Tippoo—who, after some unsuccessful attempts to induce them to return to their allegiance, granted an equivalent jaghire out of the territories of the Rajah of Cherikul under a sunnud dated A.H. 1 Ahmut 1217 (A.D. 1787.) Since that time the different portions of the group have been practically under very different administration.

47. The Southern islands, with the Beebee's other possessions, fell by the storm and conquest of Cannanore towards the latter end of 1791, into the possession of the Honorable Company, and were further ceded with Tippoo's entire dependencies in Malabar by the peace of Seringapatam in 1792. The island of Ameny and its dependencies continued in the undisturbed possession of Tippoo till the fall of Seringapatam in 1799. Under Tippoo an ameliorated form of the Cannanore administration was maintained. Since that time the Ameny Islands have been, in regard to their fiscal and judicial management, attached to the district of Canara. The internal management of the rest of the group is still in the hands of the Cannanore family.

48. I will now describe severally the extent, population, &c., of the different islands still under the of Cannanore family; reserving remarks on fiscal and internal arrangements, in regard to which they are all on the same footing, for a later part of this paper.

49. The principal and largest island of the group is Androt. It is situated within 100 miles of the coast, and is nearer the shore than any other. It is the only formation of the group which has no lagoon. The shoal is extensive, but the water is deep, and the coral reef only rises to the surface immediately round the island. Fish, cowries, tortoise, and holothuria, the presence of which depends on the extent of shoal water, are therefore scarce.

50. The length of the island is about three miles, by one at its greatest breadth. Its shape is oval and regular. The superficial area may thus be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, or about 1,500 acres. The general level of the island is higher

than that of any other island of the group, and the quality of its soil appears to be above the average.

51. The *totam* or artificial garden land, formed by quarrying out the substratum of lime stone, is considerable in this island; but its irregularity and the number of mounds into which the excavated rock has been piled, render it exceedingly difficult to ascertain its precise extent. It is believed to sow about 70 parabs of seed. sow from 60 to 80 parabs of ragghee and pulso, and may be nearly 100 acres of land. Some attempts have been made to cultivate a little paddy in it, but this requires a lower level than the general plain of this excavation. The soil of the *totam* is damp, but light and sandy, and the people do not reckon the subsistence produced therein at more than equal to 700 moodahs of grain.

52. The island is divided into four *Cheri* (or local divisions), and seems to have been very fully planted. Before the gale Androt was considered the most flourishing of the Beebee of Cannanore's islands. The employment by the Beebee of Cannanore of the members of several of the chief families of this island in the internal management of the others, had given these families exceptional affluence and influence.

53. The island is one of those which was laid waste by the gale of April 1847. It is now nearly a desert, but I was enabled to judge of what it had been and what it is capable of again becoming under good management.

54. The marginal statement shows the precise state of population, immediately before the storm,—in all about 2,600 inhabitants. During the season of 1845 severe cholera passed through the Lacca-dive group, and on this island 500 are believed to have died. Thus its full complement may be taken at somewhat short of 3,000 persons. Of these less than 900 now remain; and left

| Name of the Cheri or Division. | Population residing on the Island in April 1847, discriminating the Sexes and separating the Children under 12 years of age. |          |           |        | Boats.            |                    |                          |                                |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                | Males.                                                                                                                       | Females. | Children. | Total. | Number of Houses. | Number of Mosques. | Large Shore-going Craft. | Small Boats and Fishing Craft. |
| Machory ...                    | 220                                                                                                                          | 370      | 217       | 747    | 130               | 15                 | 10                       | 51                             |
| Kichery ...                    | 301                                                                                                                          | 353      | 174       | 828    | 106               | 8                  | 8                        | 36                             |
| Chamachery ...                 | 193                                                                                                                          | 198      | 101       | 492    | 92                | 7                  | 7                        | 39                             |
| Yeddut ...                     | 135                                                                                                                          | 176      | 197       | 509    | 80                | 4                  | 6                        | 26                             |
| Total ...                      | 850                                                                                                                          | 1,037    | 689       | 2,576  | 408               | 34                 | 31                       | 152                            |

to itself, the island will not support the half of this number for several years to come.

55. Although nineteen-twentieths of the plantation was lying prostrate when I visited the island, I was enabled, by counting the fallen as well as standing trees with great care, to form a sufficiently exact return of the cocoanut trees it contained. The body of the island, which is the private property of the people, was very fully planted. But, although considerable exertions had evidently been made to form plantations on the reserved Pandaram land (former waste assumed in right of *jenmom*) great waste of valuable land was apparent in the straggling slovenly plantations of the Rajah, which would have been saved under a better system. In forming returns from prostrate trees some arrangements were necessary with regard to classification, which are described elsewhere. But the return shows that the grown and bearing plantation of the island amounted to from 85,000 to 90,000 trees, of which 65,000 to 70,000 were the property of the islanders, and about 20,000 belonged to the Beebee.

| Total No. of full-sized Trees counted prostrate and standing. | Less about 15 per cent. allowed for Trees past bearing and mistakes. | Young Trees to be in bearing in 2 to 4 years. | Plants. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| 107,000                                                       | Bearing Trees. 90,950                                                | 7,554                                         | 13,769  |

56. The Pandaram property consists chiefly of trees planted apparently within the last fifty years on the resumed waste land at either end of the island. The private property of the people occupies the best part of the island. About 12,000 trees were situated at the west end and 6,000 or 7,000 to the east. Two or three thousand were scattered throughout the island, the result of confiscations and escheats. I propose going more into detail elsewhere on the system pursued in reference to the Pandaram property.

Statement of the Number of Trees on the Pandaram Property of Androt prior to 1847.

| Total No. of full-sized Trees counted prostrate and standing. | Less about 15 per cent. allowed for Trees past bearing and mistakes. | Young Trees to be in bearing in 2 to 4 years. | Plants. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| 34,000                                                        | Bearing Trees. 28,900                                                | 1,233                                         | 3,351   |

N.B.—I am inclined to believe there is much exaggeration in this return which I had no power to check. The plantations are young and comparatively indifferent. 20,000 probably exceeds the actual number of bearing trees.

Pandaram or Rajah's plantation. I propose going more into detail elsewhere on the system pursued in reference to the Pandaram property.

57. The recent and unwise reduction of the prices paid, has much influenced the coir trade of this island, as of the others. It is confidently affirmed that the exports of coir have greatly fallen off within the last ten years, and certainly the manufacture of jaggery has largely increased. The exports of coir from this island, on the most authentic information I could obtain, have varied during the last five years from 8,000 to 10,000 maunds, or 400 to 500 candies of coir, a rate which gives an average of about 3½ pounds of coir per tree supposed to be in bearing.

58. The export of cocoanuts from this island was large when free; but it has fallen off since the introduction of the monopoly of cocoanuts in 1825. Prior to that period they exported five to eight lakhs of nuts to the coast; since then the export has been abridged to the unwilling supply of one to three lakhs of nuts to the Beebee's monopoly. I reserve further remarks on this monopoly. Of all the Beebee's islands this one has hitherto been the one best in hand, and where least smuggling was carried on.

59. The supply of cowries is very limited from the physical causes noticed in paragraph 49; four or five robbins (half a candy) are fished per annum. Their value has been within about 65 rupees per candy of eight robbins, for which the people get 9 or 10 rupees paid in rice. Were the trade and collection free, the quantity might, it is believed, be doubled.

Tortoise. 60. The tortoise also is scarce.

61. This island is peculiarly adapted to the growth of the *Morinda citron*, which yields a scarlet dye much prized on the islands and coast. The quantity produced is not great, and its market price has declined; but while it was valuable, *Morinda citron* was monopolized by the Beebee of Cannanore at about one-fourth of its value.

62. Having reported fully on the state of this island as left by the hurricane of April 1847, I merely sum up by observing that the destruction of property and wreck of society is complete, and the shock is one which will not be recovered from for years. Of a population of 2,500, about 900 are left on the island. Disease and famine had destroyed between 200 and 300 persons, and the remainder, to the number of 1,000 to 1,200, have dispersed themselves over the coast and other islands, where they are living in penury and dependency. Some will return gradually, but many will, ere the island can support them, have formed connexions and commenced new courses of life, which will wean them from their homes. Those who remain are such proprietors as have much at stake. These did not belong to the working

classes; but they will now have to cultivate for themselves in consequence of the loss of the Melachery class, most of whom have been forced to emigrate.

63. The plantation has been swept away, and of 90,000 to 100,000 full-grown trees not above 7,000 to 8,000 will survive, and these are at present in an unpromising state. The houses and mosques must go to ruin for want of thatch, and the people are naturally disposing of their boats, for which there can be little employment for years. There is little or no capital among the islanders, and the recovery of the island must depend on the assistance which may be afforded.

64. The island of Kalpeni lies 45 miles due south from Androt, and is the most southerly inhabited island of the Laccadive group. The leeward position of this island diminishes its inter-communication with the others of the group, Androt excepted; but brings it, at the same time, more into contact with the people of Minacoy, whose boats generally sight the island on their way from the coast southward.

65. The Kalpeni coral shoal presents all the characteristic features of these formations very markedly. The shoal is of considerable extent—eight miles long by three or four broad. It rises abruptly to the surface round the whole outer edge, forming a well-defined and regular breakwater, and encloses a lagoon of great extent and several fathoms deep in parts. The entrance is good. The great extent of shoal water harbours abundance of fish and cowries; turtle and holothuria are plentiful.

66. The island of Kalpeni consists of a long straggling group of four islands. The main island of which only is inhabited, the other three being small rocky islands separated by narrow inlets. The greater part of its length (about five miles) consists of a narrow strip of land not 300 yards broad, but the south end of the main island bulges out into an oval shape, where only it is inhabited. The length of this part is about one mile by 1,200 feet at the greatest breadth; and I should reckon the superficial area of the inhabited part at 500 or 600 acres.

67. The excavations have been considerable in this island also, and the *Totam* land has been formed for sowing coarse grain to the extent, it is supposed, of forty parrabs seed-area.

68. The level of Kalpeni is very low; and the natural quality of the soil in the body of the island is decidedly of superior fertility. The fallen cocoanut tree trunks which I examined were finer and thicker than I met with anywhere, and

a rank vegetation is now springing up over the island which is not seen elsewhere. In every part of the island the bread-fruit tree thrives; and in the *totam*, besides the coarse grain, the banana and areca-nut tree grow admirably.

69. When I visited this island it was in a state of perfect desolation; but I made careful inquiries as to the state of its former population and plantation.

70. The marginal statement shows the population as it stood prior to April last. The cholera of 1845 did not reach this island, so that the population was then at its fullest complement. The principal inhabitant of Kalpeni claim good caste Hindu ancestry and proud thereof; but they are, with the population of this island generally, decidedly below the average of the Laccadive people

*Statement showing the Population Number, of Houses, &c., of Kalpeni prior to April 1847.*

| Name of the Cheri or Division. | Population residing on the Island in April 1847, discriminating the Children under 12 years of Age. |          |           |        | Number of Houses. | Number of Mosques. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                | Males.                                                                                              | Females. | Children. | Total. |                   |                    |
| Kicherry, ...                  | 59                                                                                                  | 106      | 73        | 238    | 65                | 4                  |
| Baddakachery...                | 136                                                                                                 | 188      | 153       | 477    | 116               | 10                 |
| Mechery ...                    | 168                                                                                                 | 219      | 166       | 553    | 85                | 5                  |
| Tekkachery ...                 | 92                                                                                                  | 162      | 120       | 374    | 82                | 10                 |
| Total ...                      | 455                                                                                                 | 675      | 512       | 1,642  | 348               | 29                 |

in point of industry, and are looked on by the inhabitant of the group as indifferent cultivators and bad sailors and boatwrights. Property is little diffused amongst the people, the weight of individual families is great, and probably on no island does the Pandaram influence sit heavier. The poorer classes were ill off, and many looked rather to occupations on the coast than to home resources for subsistence and accumulation of property, even before the cyclone.

71. The statement in the margin is a return of the coconut plantation of the main island as ascertained by counting the prostrate trees. No classification could be made of the withered trunks, but an approximation to the number of bearing trees is made by allowing fifteen per cent. for unproductive trees

*Statement showing the whole Plantation of Kalpeni as it stood prior to April 1847.*

| Total Number of Full-sized Trees, counting both prostrate and standing. | Probable Number of Bearing Trees, by making an allowance of 15 per cent. for Trees past bearing and mistakes. | Young Trees now standing. | Plants now standing. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 105,500                                                                 | 99,675                                                                                                        | 563                       | 9,844                |

*N.B.*—Some of those trees which, had they been seen in life, would have been reckoned "young trees," came no doubt into the 1st column; taken at 10,000 it will leave about 90,000 bearing trees for the 2nd column.

and mistakes in counting, which in so fertile an island is a large allowance. The productive plantation may safely be taken at 85,000 to 90,000 trees.

72. The Pandaram garden property on this island consists of the Pandaram or Rajah's outskirts of the main island and the small and property. jungly islands adjacent to it. In short, the leavings of a population which, at the time of the resumption, was not equal to the occupation of the less fertile and productive parts of the island. The broad and inhabited part of the island had been planted long prior to the enforcement of Pandaram right to waste lands. Before the cyclone, the Pandaram property consisted of a narrow slip of land to the northward, which had remained uncultivated; and a wall had been thrown across it, bounding the people's plantation as it formerly stood, beyond which all was reckoned Pandaram land; about 30,000 trees are supposed to have stood thereon. Other outskirts had been appropriated and planted, and some properties consisting both of trees and *totam* land have escheated to, or been confiscated by, the Rajah from time to time throughout the island.

73. Exports of coir from this island have varied from 5,000 to 8,000 maunds, or 250 to 300 candies (of 640 lbs.) per annum, and are said never to have exceeded this quantity. Indeed, though precisely on the footing of the other islands, and equally influenced by the reduction of prices paid for coir, the lazy islanders have not sought to evade the pressure of the monopoly, and the manufacture of jaggery has not gained the same footing as elsewhere. But they have evaded in some measure the coconut monopoly, and the smuggling was on the increase; for the people of Minacoy, over whom the Beebee has practically now little hold, anchor their boats off the island, and the whole surplus nuts are smuggled off with the connivance of the principal people and Beebee's servants by these active traders, who carry them to Ceylon and elsewhere. In consequence of the main traffic in nuts being clandestine, I found it impossible to fix an annual average export of this naturally very fluctuating commodity, but my belief is that several lakhs were shipped away in this manner annually before the cyclone.

74. The great extent of shoal water and the number of inlets and sheltered channels which exist about this island render its cowry fisheries peculiarly valuable. They have never been known to produce less than four candies per annum, and, even at the present remuneration, average six to eight candies of cowries. It is sup-

posed that, if properly fished, not less than twelve to fourteen candies might be obtained. The revenue from this head may fluctuate between 250 to 500 rupees per annum.

75. Twelve or fifteen tortoise are taken annually; the profits on the Tortoise shell. shell to the Beebee of Cannanore are large. The Valuable. tortoise shell revenue of this island may be safely taken at 200 to 300 rupees a year.

76. Such was the former state of this island; but it has been ruined by the hurricane more extensively than even Androt. The sea washed over the island, and the storm-wave carried away the very soil of the narrower parts. Of 1,600 inhabitants, 250 were washed away and drowned in that night, 100 to 150 have died of famine and disease, about 450 remain on the island, and the rest have dispersed themselves. Of a lakh of trees, about 700 sickly ones are standing: and the prospect is bad for years to come; for there are only 500 or 600 young trees on which reliance can be placed of their bearing within the next four years. Plantation must be re-commenced: the *totam* land will aid, but I fear a jungle may spring up. The people are evidently heart-broken, and I entertain some fears of the restoration of this island, unless the assistance and superintendence given for the next five years be substantial and energetic. Almost all the habitations, &c., are in ruins, and the greater number of the boats have been destroyed or disposed of.

77. The Beebee's property suffered most severely, and, being for the most part situate on the narrow neck of land, much of the soil has been washed away. I should question the advisableness of attempting to reclaim it now. The escheated and confiscated properties scattered throughout the body of the island may recover their value.

78. The island of Kowraty lies about 65 or 70 miles west of Kalpeni and Androt, and is easy of access. The reef on which the island is situate is not so extensive as those of Androt and Kalpeni; but, like that of the latter, it rises abruptly to the surface and encloses an ample and commodious lagoon, and one of the safest of the group, with from 1½ to 2½ fathoms of water. The island occupies the east part of the reef, and lies nearly north-east to south-west; its length is upwards of 2½ miles, and greatest breadth about 1,400 yards—narrowing towards the south, where

it joins what apparently was a small and separate island: there the neck is 50 yards broad. The average breadth of the island may be assumed at 1,000 yards, giving a superficial area of 1¼ to 1½ square miles, or about 900 acres. The soil of the western islands is doubtless inferior to that of Androt and Kalpeni; but still that of Kowraty is fine, especially down the centre of the island and along the eastern exposures.

79. Some extent of artificial garden land exists; but not being very productive or suited to the banana, it has of late years been generally planted out with cocoanut trees. The people of Kowraty have thus cast their all on their cocoanut plantation. And, excepting the comparatively insignificant products of bread-fruit and lime trees, the cocoanut is the only product of economical worth grown on the island; the return thereof is therefore a complete measure of the condition of the people. The island is more or less thickly planted from end to end, and there is less waste ground on it than on any of the larger inhabited islands of the group.

80. The island is divided into four *Oheris* (divisions), and the population and number of houses, &c., is shown in the following statement. The houses are of average goodness, and are numerous; those entered as sheds are the cadjan-leaf dwellings of the poorer classes:—

Statement showing the State of Population, &c., in Kowraty in November 1847.

| Name of Cheri or Division. | Dwellings. |        | Population. |          |           |        | Places of Worship. |         | Boats.                   |            |                |
|----------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
|                            | Houses.    | Sheds. | Males.      | Females. | Children. | Total. | Mosques.           | Makans. | Large Shore-going Boats. | 2nd Class. | Fishing Boats. |
| Melachery ...              | 88         | 65     | 177         | 159      | 123       | 459    | 2                  | 2       | ...                      | ...        | 25             |
| Tollachery ...             | 135        | 12     | 208         | 208      | 139       | 555    | 12                 | 11      | 12                       | 4          | 32             |
| Pallichery ...             | 136        | 23     | 264         | 270      | 164       | 698    | 11                 | 2       | 6                        | 1          | 44             |
| Purakery ...               | 75         | 5      | 115         | 132      | 101       | 348    | 8                  | 3       | 1                        | ...        | 3              |
| Total ...                  | 434        | 105    | 764         | 769      | 527       | 2,060  | 33                 | 18      | 19                       | 5          | 194            |

81. The population amounted, in November 1847, to 2,060 inhabitants, but it is said that upwards of 500\* fell victims to cholera in 1845, and the full complement of the population of this island may be taken at 2,500. An accurate statement showing the classification of the population with reference to their occupations is appended in a note.\*

\* Number 16.

Statement showing the State of the Plantation in Kowraty in November 1847.

| Total Full-grown Trees. | Bearing Trees, being less 12½ per cent. allowed for unproductive. | Young Trees. | Plants. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 86,550                  | 75,738                                                            | 19,674       | 40,249  |

N.B.—Under the head "plants" have come some nurseries of plants; not half the number probably live after being transplanted.

Vide Note 14.

83. In this island, as elsewhere, the body of the island is the fee simple property of the people. Over a part, however, the Pandaram asserts a landlord's claims, on the ground that, though planted by the inhabitants, it was formerly waste land, and therefore the property of the Rajah. The trees are held by the people; but as the Rajah has for many years exacted equal division of the produce, this claim for rent is exceedingly heavy. It is somewhat evaded in practice, and the means resorted to for the protection of the Rajah's rights are so injudicious that right or wrong the people evidently wish to combat the whole claim.

84. This piece of land, locally termed Pandaram Pak (forbidden ground), consists of the southern end, and is fully one-fourth of the superficial area of the island; but by far the greater portion of the land is indifferent soil. It is cut off from the body of the people's plantation by an old wall which was probably thrown up when the plantations were first resumed.

85. Within the wall stands grown plantation as shown marginally, amounting probably to 1,500 bearing trees. The Beebee has five other small plantations containing about 3,500 good trees, which seem to have been planted by her Karyakars whose names they bear. They are now managed exclusively by the Beebee's servants. But the remainder of the trees claimed by the Pandaram were planted and

| Name of Garden.              | Full-grown Trees. | Chowk | Total Trees. |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------|
| Kalvalip ... ..              | 832               | 1,060 | 4,551        |
| Bellya Valip ... ..          | 918               |       |              |
| Ally Mussa Valip ... ..      | 907               |       |              |
| Hussan Karyakar Valip ... .. | 624               |       |              |
| Pavalip ... ..               | 68                |       |              |
| Total ...                    | 3,499             | 1,060 | 4,559        |

82. The marginal return shows the state of the standing plantation. The two latter heads, "young trees and plants," show an exceedingly active state of cultivation; the very high average of the young trees is to be attributed to the somewhat recent planting out the *totam* with cocoanut trees. The first column shows the number of full-grown trees; the second column the probable number of productive trees—12½ per cent. (a reasonable average as compared with the ascertained data, of the Company's islands) being allowed for trees past bearing.

reared, and are still enjoyed by different families of the people. As regards other islanders these plantations are as well defined and distinct as the fee simple properties which they hold on the body of the island, but the Rajah claims to be the landlord and takes rent.

86. The novel system of division of the gross produce requires the total exclusion of the people from this portion of the island, and the breach of the prohibition is usually visited with very heavy penalties. Once a month the owners and public servants proceed to the plantation and divide the ripe fruit. This minute interference is vexatious and apt to be oppressive; and the exclusion of the people from inhabiting a large portion of the island, and from constantly superintending their plantations, is incompatible with any sound system of cocoanut cultivation. The people seemed to me much inclined to set the prohibition at defiance.

87. These plantations were probably formed by the people while the system of imposing a certain sum, chargeable on the head inhabitants of each island, on account of all Pandaram property on the island prevailed. The system of dividing produce was introduced, it is believed, by Hussan Karyakar, about 40 years ago, and is most unpopular on account of its novelty and severity.

88. Some attempted aggression and encroachments by the Pandaram on what the people believe to be their rights in regard to this land have lately been resisted, and seem to cause much ill-will. The profits to the Beebee of Cannanore are very small, and embezzlement and mismanagement reduce the returns from this source so much that a better system of administration would benefit all parties.

89. The escheated properties and confiscations on this island amount to about 2,000 trees. They are generally in the hands of the families from whom they were confiscated, and Karama\* (a compulsory rent) of 4½ lbs. of coir per tree is raised.

90. The cocoanut tree of Kowraty is peculiarly rich in juice as compared with other islands, especially Ameny and Agaty, and the manufacture of jaggery has been very extensively resorted to of late years in order to evade the pressure of the monopolies of coir and cocoanuts.

91. Jaggery cannot be manufactured on islands where cocoanut trade is free and the coir is paid for at reasonable rates, except at a serious loss to the producer of those

more valuable articles of commerce. But it is supposed that not less than one-fifth of the trees of this island are used for the production of this coarse article of local consumption. The effect of such misdirection of the industry and enterprise of this island from the coir and cocoanut trade to jaggery, has been serious since the reduction of the prices in 1826. The annual exports of coir are said to have been upwards of 400 candies, but for years, the Beebee's Karyastan assures me, they have been below 300 candies—collections on account of old debts, Karama, custom duty, &c., inclusive—and his statement is corroborated by the people. But to cover all inaccuracies we may assume 350 candies as the annual export.

92. Assuming even this higher rate, it may be remarked that, comparing the supplies of coir to the Company's monopoly from the northern islands, where the former prices are still retained, with the exports from this island, it will be found that the average delivery of coir from the Company's islands is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of coir per productive tree, while from Kowraty it is little more than 3 lbs., and that, while the whole bearing plantation of the four Company's islands taken together scarcely exceeds that of Kowraty, those islands supply annually to the Company's monopoly 42 per cent. more coir than the whole annual export from Kowraty amounts to; in other words, 100 to 150 candies of this valuable article are lost to the public and sacrificed to an article of inferior commercial value, the manufacture of which is detrimental to the producer. The fiscal system is at fault.

93. The cocoanut trade also has fallen off since the monopoly of purchase at low prices was introduced on the island. The Beebee's agent assures me that for some years the Beebee had not received above 10,000 nuts per annum; and the people admit that they have not supplied of late years any great number. I ascertained that last year the deliveries to the Pandaram amounted to 20,000 nuts, and for some years prior to little above 10,000. There has been doubtless a considerable smuggling trade, of which the Company's islanders have been the carriers. It were vain to attempt to reconcile the conflicting statements of the Beebee's Karyastan and the people; for the latter are afraid to admit the smuggling, and the former is anxious to show the smallest possible profits to the Beebee from this novel monopoly, the propriety of introducing which seems very doubtful. This year the people of this island have openly resisted this monopoly, and to my certain knowledge exported several lakhs of nuts: and, comparing the number of trees with the population, an average annual export of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 lakhs may, no doubt, be assumed.

94. The cowry banks of this island are estimated to produce about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 candies of cowries annually, and, as far as I could judge, the fisheries are not overvalued. But in consequence of the strict monopoly and unremunerative prices now paid, not more than one candy a year has been recovered by the Pandaram. Considerable smuggling of this article takes place, but there is much truth in the statement of the people that the prices allowed are such as to preclude their taking advantage of this valuable produce of their shoals.

95. The turtle is not regularly fished on this island, and probably not more than four or five are annually taken about Kowraty. From Suhely Par more are brought.

96. The soil of Kowraty is peculiarly adapted to the lime trees, which are very fine, and if free, would be cultivated largely. As it is, there are a considerable number of trees scattered over the island. It is difficult to understand the precise claim of the Pandaram over this product; but as soon as the fruit appears, the Pandaram Pak (a leaf tied with ceremonies) is put on the tree, and any breach of this prohibition is very severely punished. The fruit is gathered by the Karyakar and a portion taken on account of the Rajah,

Part of the produce is taken by the Rajah. and either sent fresh to Cannanore or pickled on this island. The Karyakar stated that his orders are to take and send half the produce of the trees to Cannanore for domestic use. This had been done for years, but the Karyastan, (apparently ashamed) refused to claim as of right, though he had always exacted one-half, any portion of this produce. No remuneration is paid, and the people are giving up the cultivation.

97. About 45 miles south-west from Kowraty lies the Suhely Par shoal. I was unable myself to visit it, but with reference to the proposition to settle people from Androt and Kalpeni there, it was carefully examined by my subordinates, and I made all the requisite inquiries about it.

98. The shoal is extensive, rises abruptly to the surface and encloses a very fine lagoon. On the shoal are situated two small low islands—Belyakera and Cheryakera. Like Betra, Bingaram and Tingaram, these islands are deficient in the substratum of coral stone, and no fresh water can be obtained on the larger island; on the other island there are one or two wells, but the water is indifferent. The islands are six or eight miles apart.

99. Suhely Par has never been permanently unoccupied. The valuable fisheries and cowry banks on the shoal were owned by the people of Kowraty; but were confiscated in M.K.

Statement of Coconut Plantation  
in Suhely Par.

| Name of Islands.  | Number of Bearing Trees. |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Belyakera ... ..  | 409                      |
| Cheryukera ... .. | 2,805                    |
| Total ...         | 3,214                    |

100. The soil of both islands is low, damp, and fertile. Coarse grain, as well as cocoanut plantation, would grow well there; and some endeavours have been made during the last two years to clear and cultivate the lesser island where water is to be got. This island may become valuable property if the attempt to establish there emigrants from Androt and Kalpeni (200 were sent) succeed. At present 250 to 300 rupees worth of nuts per annum are got from the two islands.

101. The Suhely shoals abound in cowries, but the distance from the inhabited island of Kowraty precludes women and children from going there; and the prices paid are insufficient to induce able-bodied men to engage in this industry under circumstances so disadvantageous. The returns of cowries have been exceedingly limited. It is believed that about 10 candies will annually be collected by the colony now established there.

102. Twenty to thirty pounds of tortoise shell at least are annually collected from this shoal.

103. Existing restriction against visiting Suhely, the fishing ground and cowry banks of their forefathers, is a sore grievance with the people of Kowraty; but while the Pandaram attempts to preserve the few trees and the exclusive right of fishing, some such rule may be requisite.

104. The island of Agaty lies about 35 miles to the north-west of Kowraty. The shoal water about this island, as may be seen from the map, is very extensive; but although shown as one continuous coral-reef, the island of Agaty and the sister islands of Bingaram and Tingaram are enclosed within separate breakwaters, the connecting shoal having deep soundings between the two. The Agaty shoal is large, the outer ridge well defined, and the lagoon enclosed by it is large, deep, and clear of obstruction—so much so that in rough weather the ripple is too strong to admit of soaking the cocoanut husk on the west and lagoon-side of the island. Fish is abundant, and the population are known as particularly expert fishers and sailors.

940 (A.D. 1765) in punishment of a suspected conspiracy and the murder of Hussan Karyakar, the Rajah's Agent. It is now Pandaram property. The islands are now covered by almost impenetrable wild pine-apple jungle, amongst which some plantation is interspersed on both islands. Fishermen from Kowraty stay there during the season for fishing.

105. The island of Agaty, the most westerly of the group, is long and narrow; the main island measuring 6,400 yards, or about three and-a-half miles in length, and at its greatest breadth 800 yards. The average breadth may be 600 yards, giving a superficial area of nearly 800 acres. To the south lies the detached island of Kalpaty, which is claimed as Pandaram property; a few cocoanut plants are interspersed in the jungle that covers it.

106. The climate of Agaty is drier, and the soil more sterile than that of the eastward islands of the group.

107. Some attempts have been made to form *totam* (artificial garden land), but the extent is too small to merit much attention, and, as in Kowraty, it is almost entirely under cocoanut plantation.

108. The island is sub-divided into three *Cheris* or divisions, and contained a population, in December 1847, as shown in the statement below. Ninety-six males and some females were lost in two boats which were wrecked in the hurricane of April 1847, and about 200 are said to have been carried off by cholera in 1845. The fullest complement of population of this island may be taken at 1,700 inhabitants:—

Statement showing the State of Population, &c., in Agaty in December 1847.

| Name of Cheri or Division. | DWELLINGS. |        | POPULATION. |          |           |        | PLACES OF WORSHIP. |         | BOATS.                   |            |                |
|----------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
|                            | Houses.    | Sheds. | Males.      | Females. | Children. | Total. | Mosques.           | Makans. | Large Shore-going Boats. | 2nd Class. | Fishing Boats. |
| Tekkachery ...             | 86         | 35     | 124         | 169      | 149       | 442    | 7                  | 1       | 1                        | ...        | 18             |
| Yeddachery ...             | 96         | 12     | 128         | 166      | 166       | 460    | 8                  | 8       | 3                        | 3          | 21             |
| Baddakachery .             | 96         | 37     | 229         | 230      | 184       | 643    | 9                  | 2       | 1                        | 5          | 16             |
| Total ...                  | 278        | 84     | 481         | 565      | 499       | 1,545  | 24                 | 11      | 5                        | 8          | 55             |

A return showing the classification of the people according to their occupations is appended in a note.

109. The island is a Melachery or inferior-caste island, but its people are more active and enterprising—those of Kiltan excepted—than any met with on the islands. They are withal the least amenable to the rule of the Beebee of Cannanore.

110. A very considerable portion of this island still remains unplanted. And the whole is imperfectly planted out when compared with Kowraty and the Company's islands.

Plantation deficient.  
State of plantation.

Statement showing the State of the Plantation in Agaty in December 1847.

| Total Full-grown Trees. | Bearing Trees, being less 12½ per cent. allowed for unproductive. | Young Trees. | Plants. | Bread-fruit Trees |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| 44,600                  | 39,025                                                            | 14,512       | 25,611  | 17                |

111. The marginal return shows the state of the cocoanut plantation; allowing 12½ per cent. for unproductive trees, the probable number of bearing trees may be about 39,000.

Pandaram property.

Abstract Statement showing the Number of Trees in the actual enjoyment of the Beebee of Cannanore in December 1847.

| Name of Cheri or Division. | Number of grown Trees bearing. | Young Trees. | Plants. |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1. Yeddachery ... ..       | 286                            | 22           | 216     |
| 2. Badakachery ... ..      | 154                            | 153          | 751     |
| 3. Tekkachery ... ..       | 413                            | 444          | 677     |
| Total ...                  | 853                            | 619          | 1,644   |
| 4. Garden in Teke Pak ...  | 778                            | 120          | 28      |
| 5. Garden in Vaddake Pak.  | 847                            | 263          | ...     |
| Total ...                  | 2,478                          | 1,002        | 1,672   |

N.B.—The first three items have accrued by confiscations and escheats. The fourth and fifth are plantations formed by the Rajah's servants.

113. As in Kowraty so also in this island, the differences between people and the Pandaram in regard to waste land forms a very ripe subject of jealousy and ill-feeling, which has retarded progressive plantation. The Pandaram have long claimed the right to all unoccupied land, but no wall has been kept up in this island to separate the plantation of the people from the waste. Frauds of former servants, and encroachments by natives employed as such, have enabled some of the chief families to plant out, and possess themselves of plantations situated on land which is alleged to have been waste when the right was assumed. Of these plantations, their descendants are now in enjoyment, and

112. Nearly the whole of the plantation of the island is in the hands of the people. But the Pandaram claims *jennum* (landlord's) rights over a considerable portion. These claims, however, are not acquiesced in by the immemorial occupants; and the number of trees actually in the enjoyment of the Beebee is only that shown in the marginal abstract, particulars of which will be found appended.

somewhat unreasonable and unscrupulous attempts of the Pandaram to resume these plantations—without power to enforce the claim against the feelings and influence of the whole island—have miscarried. The matter is still an open question, the result of which is watched with anxiety.

114. The annual coir produce of this island is differently stated, but it apparently averages about 250 candies per annum. The trees of this island yield so small a quantity of juice that the manufacture of jaggery is not so extensively carried on as it is in Kowraty: and this channel of evasion being cut off, the monopolies of coir and cocoanuts press the heavier on the people. Still a considerable quantity of jaggery is annually made, though at a comparatively greater sacrifice by the producer.

Coir produce.  
Vide Note 23.  
Jaggery.  
Vide Note 31.

115. Of late years there has been a good deal of smuggling of coir from this island. While the trade in nuts has been chiefly clandestine and it is difficult to ascertain the quantity exported. The Beebee's monopoly is now but scantily supplied with nuts; and much oil is made on the spot, whereby the nut monopoly is evaded.

Oil.

116. The Agaty reefs are exceedingly productive in cowries; and, if properly fished, would produce not less than three and-a-half to four candies. In former years the Pandaram obtained two to three candies of cowries from Agaty, but latterly the supply has fallen off. One candy or one and-a-half candy is the recent rate of supply.

Cowries.

117. The tortoise shell of Agaty cannot be separated from that of the neighbouring islands of Bingaram and Tingaram, and it is occasionally brought from Permal Par to this island. I am told that 10 to 15 lbs. per annum has been of late the average quantity received by the Pandaram. The number of turtle caught no doubt produce more, for Agaty has the best fisheries of the group, but tortoise shell is an article which is easily smuggled, and it is a matter of notoriety that the people of Kiltan are in league with the people of Agaty and aid in smuggling tortoise shell.

Considerable smuggling.

118. There are but few lime and bread-fruit trees in Agaty. The cocoanut is the only product of commercial or economical value.

Other produce.

119. Attached to Agaty, and at a distance of about seven miles, lies the shoal which contains the three small islands of Bingaram, Tingaram, and Baba Karyakar's Parly. The islands are small, but the shoal water is extensive and in parts deep. It abounds in fish, cowries, and turtle,

Islands of Bingaram, Tingaram.  
Note 19.

120. The islands lack the substratum of coral which underlies soil of other islands, and are consequently deficient in good water. But from the same cause their soil is damp and fertile, and in their present deserted state they are all three covered with an almost impervious jungle of wild pine-apple and brushwood—interspersed, however, with a few cocoanut trees.

121. The marginal return shows the state of plantation on each of the islands. The trees are fine, and the soil good; but neglect, vermin, and jungle detract greatly from their value. They are pillaged by fishermen, and probably not more than half a lakh of nuts a year are recovered by the Beebee of Cannanore. Under good management the islands would be valuable.

Statement of the Plantation in Bingaram, &c., in December 1817.

| Name of Island. | Full-grown Trees. | Young Trees. | Plants. |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|
| Bingaram ...    | 2,928             | 1,452        | 2,306   |
| Tingaram ...    | 2,605             | 1,798        | 746     |
| Parly ...       | 81                | 200          | 4       |
| Total ...       | 5,614             | 3,450        | 3,056   |

122. These islands, with their valuable cowry and tortoise banks and fisheries, were originally the property of the people of Agaty. They were confiscated about M.K. 937 (A.D. 1764) as a punishment for the murder of an obnoxious Accountant, to whom the carrying out of the restrictions on trade then introduced had been entrusted. Free use of the shoals, &c., was, however, at first left to the people, a sum of 400 rupees paid in coir being chargeable against the inhabitants of Agaty on account of the Beebee of Cannanore's property\* thereon. Their direct management has since been resumed. They are now under the Karyakar of Agaty, and are strictly preserved. Proceeding thither even to fish without orders, and unaccompanied by Nadpaul (village messenger), is severely punished. A watcher occasionally resides on the islands to protect the trees from theft; and once in a month or six weeks the Karyakar goes thither to gather the fruit of the trees. Once or twice a year the whole population of Agaty is required to collect on the islands to gather cowries for the Pandaram. On these occasions two or three candies of cowries are collected, and the people paid a small cooly-hire.

123. The system now obtaining with regard to these islands is peculiarly bad. The want of fresh water throughout the year precludes their permanent occupation, but these islands are the Agaty fishing grounds; and for the sake of a very small profit the fishing is restricted and the comfort of the people of Agaty much diminished. Both the islands are quite habitable during

the monsoon, and the people would, were the liberty conceded, gladly burn the jungle and sow coarse grain as is done by the people of Ameny in Kadamut. They are anxious to plant these islands, but they are strictly forbidden. The trees now standing were chiefly planted by the islanders before confiscation, and during the period when they rented the islands. Two or three Karyakars have made some desultory efforts to reclaim these islands on account of the Pandaram, but they are still in the wildest state.

124. Again the cowry banks are by far the best of the whole group, and are believed to be capable of producing annually 12 to 15 candies of cowries of the value of 700 or 800 rupees. Doubtless were they free they would yield six or eight candies of cowries a year. The present restrictions prevent development, and the unremunerative rates of payment hold out no allurements to fishers; while the custom of requiring the whole population of Agaty to go there, with their women and children at certain seasons is oppressive and open to great abuse.

Tortoise. 125. The number of tortoise annually taken does not exceed 20 or 25.

126. The prohibitions against going to Bingaram and Tingaram are dwelt on by the people of Agaty as a grievance of peculiar gravity; and their breach is one of the forms in which their present defection has manifested itself.

#### Part Second.

127. Having described the islands severally, their internal state and the fiscal system and general administration of the island. Cannanore family remain to be noticed. The early submission of the people of the Laccadives to powers on the coast was probably voluntary; and the feudatory tribute payable by the Beebee of Cannanore to the Rajah of Cherikul was exceedingly light (6,000 fs., or 1,200 rupees). The early revenues raised from the island consisted in duties (*Sunkam*) and royalties, of the same character as those of princes on the coast. No claim on the land occupied by the people has ever been raised; for ere the principle of a land assessment was introduced in Malabar in 1784, a more lucrative exclusive trade and monopoly of produce had been enforced on these islands. Thus no basis of rent or of a land revenue was ever laid in the Laccadives.

128. Right over unoccupied land was, however, assumed at a later period, and *jennum* rights of the Rajah over it have (unwilling perhaps) been acquiesced in by the people. But such land as had been occupied up to the time of resumption is, and always has been, the exclusive fee-simple property of the people, over which the Rajah has no *jennum* claims.

129. Proprietary right is very clearly defined, and well understood amongst the people. Sales are rare; the transfers are generally on mortgage or service-tenure.

130. Fee-simple property on the Laccadives seems to have been confined to a few principal families and their branches, from whom it is held on service-tenure by their *kudyans* or dependants. A service-tenure has a tendency to become hereditary and form prescriptive property, and such is its condition on the islands. The tenants maintain and extend their plantations, and are rarely, if ever, ousted at discretion. Money rents are unknown; and the only produce rent known is that paid by the *meera* (unfermented toddy) drawer, viz., a moiety of the juice drawn. The services usually required are the manning boats, tilling *totam* land, &c. And, according to the custom of the islands, these dependants must export their coir and surplus produce in the boats of their landlord, who is generally a boat-owner, and charges freight in kind. The landlords thus become the agents of their dependants, and as the protection of the monopolies requires the restriction of all export trade to these licensed and responsible boat-owners, a monopoly of the internal trade is practically established in the hands of a few families. This condition greatly enhances the burden of the fiscal system obtaining on these islands.

State of landed property, and great influence of a few families.  
Rent service.  
Right to freight.

Landlords are also the merchants of their dependants.

Tendency of the arrangement to throw the monopoly of the internal trade into the hands of a few, and the effect.

Wages.

132. The staple vegetable production of the Laccadives is the cocoanut; and of its products, coir is by far the most important. The earliest source of regular revenue seems to have been a tithe thereof levied as duty (*Sunkam*) on exportation from the islands, to which was added a tithe of the rice brought in exchange, amounting in all to a tax of 20 per cent. on the staple surplus produce of the island. For two centuries at least this duty, with royalties, constituted the revenue of the group. These exactions are still maintained; but much has been superadded.

133. Trading relations were no doubt early established between the Rajah and people of these islands, but the right of purchase of coir, to the exclusion of all others, was first introduced by Bamaly Rajah about M.K. 940 (A.D. 1765). The market value of coir was then between 60 and 70 rupees per candy, and the price paid to the producer was fixed at 30 to 35 rupees per candy imported into Cannanore: it

Monopoly of purchase of coir at 30 rupees per candy (nominally) instituted; the actual price paid being about 23½ rupees worth of rice at Rupees 2½ per moodah, or about 10 moodahs.

was paid in rice at a commutation price of Rupees 2½ per robbin. The duties on coir, &c., exported from the islands and on rice, &c., imported were transferred to Cannanore, where they were charged as import and export duties, and deducted from the payments made for coir. The actual payment to the people thus became reduced (20 per cent.) to about 24 rupees per candy. There were some further miscellaneous deductions, amounting to about one per cent. on the whole, on account of expenses, *nazeranah*, &c., and the people received about 23½ rupees worth of rice, at 2½ rupees per moodah for each candy of coir, which left a profit—on a market value of 65 rupees per candy of coir—of about Rupees 40 to 50 per candy.

134. Judging from the present state of these islands, and the early receipts of coir by the Company's monopoly, and from the information obtained by Lieutenant Bently and Mr. Murdoch Brown in 1795, the quantity of coir delivered annually, when the monopoly was first instituted, must have considerably exceeded 1,500 candies, and produced a revenue of 65,000 to 75,000 rupees from this single source, while rice was at the then prevailing high rates. As these prices fell after the conquest the revenue improved.

Probable supply and profits derived while rice was at 2½ rupees per moodah.

Vide Note 22.

135. Further profits on trade accrued from the export of coir from the coast to Bengal and other places, and the family was rich.

136. By the rebellion of the Ameny Islands in 1784 the Beebee of Cannanore lost about one-fifth of her revenues from this source, and the jaghire of 7,380 rupees granted from the Cherikul territories was no doubt an inadequate equivalent, but the loss was more than compensated by the further jaghire of Rupees 12,000, also granted from the same territories about the same time. In 1792, when both were resumed by the Rajah of Cherikul, the loss became important.

Loss by rebellion of Ameny.

Equivalent.

137. After the reduction of Cannanore in the war of 1791-92, and the cession thereof with Tippoo's other territories in Malabar, the Beebee of Cannanore was allowed to retain her Laccadive possessions provisionally, paying to the Honorable Company a provisional contribution of 10,000 rupees as a moiety of what she represented to be the profits of her trade with the islands. The existing fiscal system, with regard to coir monopoly, was maintained until M.K. 1001 (A.D. 1826).

Same system continued after the conquest and cession in 1792.

138. When the collection of sea customs duties on merchandise at

An exemption from payment of import duty on coir was made in 1793 in favor of the Beebee of Cannanore, who, however, keeps up the exorbitant import duty to Cannanore of 10 per cent. of all coir and charges 10 per cent. on all rice imported into the island.

*Vide Note 23.*

charged to this day by the Beebee of Cannanore on all coir imported into Cannanore by the people of the Laccadives, to supply her own monopoly. The island import duty of 10 per cent. of the rice paid in exchange for coir is also retained.

139. The commutation price of rice had been fixed about A.D. 1770

The value of rice fell and enhanced the profits by the difference between the commutation price at which the people were paid and the actual value.

of monopoly have been enhanced to the Cannanore family, by the whole of this difference.

140. As early as 1784 Tippoo's officers were able, it is believed, to

Prior to 1800 the price had fallen, and from 1800 to 1826 averaged below Rs. 1-12-0 per moodah. Actual payment below Rupees 18-8-0 per candy, and profits of the monopoly above 350 per cent.

Supply 1,400 to 1,500 candies.

Revenue 65,060 to 70,000 rupees.

been, after the beginning of the century, 1,400 to 1,500 candies of coir which must have produced a largely enhanced revenue.

141. During the Rajah Kárnúr's life, M.K. 991 (A.D. 1815) to M.K.

Exceeded this rate much.

Ex. gr. the Canara Islands.

was 20,408 rupees per annum during these 20 years.

Cannanore was assumed on account of the Company in M.K. 969 (A.D. 1793), coir imported from the Laccadive Island was exempted under the provisional arrangement; the total abolition of the monopoly of trade enjoyed by the Beebee of Cannanore having been ordered by the Governor-General, approved of by the Honorable the Court of Directors, and being at the time under immediate contemplation. Notwithstanding this indulgence, an import duty of 10 per cent. continues to be

at 2½ rupees per moodah of rice. And this rate was maintained in payment to the people till as late as M.K. 1001 (A.D. 1826). The islanders did not participate in the fall in the price of this commodity, which was consequent on general peace and prosperity of the country, but the profits

of monopoly have been enhanced to the Cannanore family, by the

whole of this difference. 140. As early as 1784 Tippoo's officers were able, it is believed, to reduce it to 2 rupees per moodah in settling with the people of the Ameny Island; and such has been the fall since, that for 26 years—1800 to 1826—the average price of rice in Canara was Rupees 1-10-0 per moodah. Assumed at Rupees 1-12-0, the difference reduced the actual payment (22 per cent.) to Rupees 18-8-0 per candy, and greatly enhanced the profits of the monopoly. If the Beebee's islands kept pace with the Company's islands during that time—and there is reason to believe they did—the supply of coir must have

been, after the beginning of the century, 1,400 to 1,500 candies of coir which must have produced a largely enhanced revenue.

141. During the Rajah Kárnúr's life, M.K. 991 (A.D. 1815) to M.K.

1000 (A.D. 1824), the profits of this trade probably

exceeded the sum named by Lieutenant Bentley in

1795; for the average revenue derived from the

small section of the group attached to Canara

was 20,408 rupees per annum during these 20 years.

Abstract Statement showing in 5 years average from 1214 (1805) to 1253 (1844) the Market Value of Coir per candy, and giving in detail the prices of the 5 years, 1239 to 1243, in which they were lowest.

|                                                  |         | Candies. | Mds. | Lbs. |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|------|------|
| Average of 5 years from                          | 1214-18 | 61       | 10   | 5½   |
|                                                  | 1219-23 | 63       | 2    | 6    |
|                                                  | 1221-28 | 65       | 3    | 7½   |
|                                                  | 1229-33 | 65       | 0    | 0    |
|                                                  | 1234-38 | 45       | 1    | 6    |
| Details of 5 years while the prices were lowest. | 1239    | 19       | 10   | 10½  |
|                                                  | 1240    | 20       | 6    | 3½   |
|                                                  | 1241    | 19       | 5    | 9½   |
|                                                  | 1242    | 14       | 13   | 1½   |
|                                                  | 1243    | 14       | 5    | 4    |
| Total                                            |         | 80       | 8    | 1    |

|                         |         |    |    |    |
|-------------------------|---------|----|----|----|
| Average of 5 years from | 1239-43 | 17 | 11 | 2½ |
|                         | 1244-48 | 21 | 4  | 0  |
|                         | 1249-53 | 24 | 15 | 1½ |
| Average of 3 years from | 1254-56 | 24 | 14 | 2* |

N.B.—No statement of what the Cannanore coir might have realised can be got. The above is an abstract of the Canara returns, and will serve as an approximation.

Sudden fall in value. chain cable, &c.), but the real cause is probably to be found in circumstances affecting the supply, which is now derived from other sources.

143. The fall in value has equally affected the coir of the Canara and Cannanore Islands. But in the former the Government having enjoyed "all the advantages of high prices for many years" (a revenue averaging upwards of 20,000 rupees per annum from 1805 to 1826), it was considered that they could not "now fairly call on the islanders to share in the loss by low prices," and no change whatever took place in the Government islands.

144. On the Cannanore Islands, on the contrary, as soon as the prices began to waver in M.K. 1002 (A.D. 1826), the nominal price was reduced from 30 to 22 rupees per candy, subject to the same deductions, (about 21 per cent. on account of duties and expenses). The value continued to be paid in rice at the same commutation price—Rupees 2½ per moodah—although the market price fell to 1½ rupees per moodah. The actual payment to the people became about 10½ rupees per candy. Still, as the prices of coir fluctuated as low as 14 rupees per candy, the profits of the Cannanore monopoly must have been small. During some years the

Statement of the Prices of Canara Island Coir from A.D. 1825 (M.K. 1000) to A.D. 1829 (M.K. 1004).

|                | Per Candy. | Rs. | A. | P.  |
|----------------|------------|-----|----|-----|
| 1825 (1001)... | 65         | 0   | 0  |     |
| 1826 (1002)... | 65         | 0   | 0  |     |
| 1827 (1003)... | 52         | 1   | 5  | 1/2 |
| 1828 (1004)... | 23         | 11  | 2  | 1/2 |
| 1829 (1005)... | 19         | 10  | 2  | 1/2 |

In Cannanore Islands reduced to about 10½ rupees worth of rice. Profits small. Loss to Government in Canara Islands.

payment for coir to the Company's islanders were in excess of the sale receipts.

145. Between M.K. 1002 (A.D. 1826) and M.K. 1008 (A.D. 1832), during the managership of Hussan Cootty Vellyah, guardian to the young Rajah, the above rates were nominally kept up, but there is reason to

believe that much coir was received and not paid for, or paid for in promissory notes, which are not yet all redeemed.

146. In M.K. 1008 (A.D. 1832) further reductions were made, and those changes of system were commenced, which still obtain. Cash rates and commutation prices are abolished, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  moodahs of rice per candy of coir was fixed as the price, subject to the same deductions of 21 per cent., which left the actual payment about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  moodahs of rice (at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rupee per moodah), or Rupees 6-6-0 per candy of coir. This rate scarcely

Statement showing the Difference in the Quantity of Rice an Islander might import for a Candy of Coir on the Cannanore Islands.

| UNDER THE FORMER RATES.                                                                             |                     | UNDER THE PRESENT RATES.                                                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|                                                                                                     | M. S.               |                                                                                            | M. S. |
| Number of moodahs of rice received at 30 rupees per candy, commuted at 24 rupees per moodah of rice | 13 16               | Number of moodahs of rice per average at $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of coir per moodah of rice. | 5 15  |
| Less deduction of 21 per cent.                                                                      | 2 43 $\frac{1}{2}$  | Less deduction of 21 per cent.                                                             | 1 3   |
|                                                                                                     |                     | Total moodahs                                                                              | 4 12  |
| Received number of moodahs                                                                          | 10 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ |                                                                                            |       |
| Difference 146 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.                                                              | 6 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  |                                                                                            |       |

Statement of the Probable Quantity of Rice imported.

| UNDER FORMER RATES.                                                              | UNDER PRESENT RATES.                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| For 1,400 candies of coir at 10 maunds 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers of rice per candy. | For 1,400 candies of coir at 4 maunds 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers of rice per candy. |
| Number of moodahs 14,600                                                         | Number of moodahs 5,950                                                         |
|                                                                                  | Difference ... 8,650                                                            |

able exports prior to 1826 at 1,400 candies of coir, the supply of rice was at once reduced by 8,650 moodahs. But the quantity of coir has since much decreased—for want of accurate data the deficiency cannot be shown in figures—and the distress has been by so much enhanced.

147. For internal retail trade rice is imported into the island (no freight is paid) by the Pandaram and issued to the people in exchange for coir. Under the former rates (at 4 maunds of coir per moodah of

Rates retailed till 1832, but payment irregular.

believe that much coir was received and not paid for, or paid for in promissory notes, which are not yet all redeemed.

146. In M.K. 1008 (A.D. 1832) further reductions were made, and those changes of system were commenced, which still obtain. Cash rates and commutation prices are abolished, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  moodahs of rice per candy of coir was fixed as the price, subject to the same deductions of 21 per cent., which left the actual payment about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  moodahs of rice (at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rupee per moodah), or Rupees 6-6-0 per candy of coir. This rate scarcely

Statement showing the Difference in the Quantity of Rice an Islander might import for a Candy of Coir on the Cannanore Islands.

| UNDER THE FORMER RATES.                                                                             |                     | UNDER THE PRESENT RATES.                                                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|                                                                                                     | M. S.               |                                                                                            | M. S. |
| Number of moodahs of rice received at 30 rupees per candy, commuted at 24 rupees per moodah of rice | 13 16               | Number of moodahs of rice per average at $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of coir per moodah of rice. | 5 15  |
| Less deduction of 21 per cent.                                                                      | 2 43 $\frac{1}{2}$  | Less deduction of 21 per cent.                                                             | 1 3   |
|                                                                                                     |                     | Total moodahs                                                                              | 4 12  |
| Received number of moodahs                                                                          | 10 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ |                                                                                            |       |
| Difference 146 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.                                                              | 6 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  |                                                                                            |       |

Statement of the Probable Quantity of Rice imported.

| UNDER FORMER RATES.                                                              | UNDER PRESENT RATES.                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| For 1,400 candies of coir at 10 maunds 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers of rice per candy. | For 1,400 candies of coir at 4 maunds 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers of rice per candy. |
| Number of moodahs 14,600                                                         | Number of moodahs 5,950                                                         |
|                                                                                  | Difference ... 8,650                                                            |

able exports prior to 1826 at 1,400 candies of coir, the supply of rice was at once reduced by 8,650 moodahs. But the quantity of coir has since much decreased—for want of accurate data the deficiency cannot be shown in figures—and the distress has been by so much enhanced.

147. For internal retail trade rice is imported into the island (no freight is paid) by the Pandaram and issued to the people in exchange for coir. Under the former rates (at 4 maunds of coir per moodah of

rice) they received about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 rupees per candy; but since 1826 (at 6 maunds of coir per moodah of rice) about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  moodahs of rice are given for a candy of coir, or about 5 rupees per candy. The poor, who live from hand to mouth, avail themselves of these rates; the richer prefer exporting to Cannanore, by which they save about half a rupee on the candy. None other may trade with the people.

148. When coir is received, it is dried, beaten, and weighed, not by the candy, but each maund is separately made up so as to turn the scale; a considerable excess is thus secured on the candy.

149. I have assumed throughout that the candy of 640 lbs. is used; but it is admitted that, for some years at least, a candy of 680 lbs. has been exacted, which places the monopolist in a better position by  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., and the people, by the same amount, in a worse one. It is probable the candy of 640 lbs. was the original one in use.

150. The natural consequences of unremunerative prices and a system of monopoly, in paralysing industry and emulation, has taken place in the fullest measure on these islands; and deterioration in the quality of the coir has been serious. The effect of the monopoly system even in the Government islands was such that in

1820 a classification of the coir according to its quality was found necessary, with a view to check this carelessness. For some years this arrangement has produced the desired effect; but the effectual hold over these people consists in the fear of a powerful Government and of any change of the system by which they now pay their revenue in an easy manner and receive fair prices with the benefit of a certain market. On the Cannanore Islands, on the contrary, the prices are at the lowest, and the power of the

Rajah being in a great measure effete, the people would not probably submit to any classification which should reduce their rates further; they have nothing to lose, and no inducement to exertion. Hence the quality of the coir exported from these islands is such as would probably be rejected in the Govern-

ment godown as third-class coir. The difference of quality must be seen to be appreciated, and was estimated by the Beebe's agent, who accompanied me, at not less than 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. The people can make, and actually use, good coir for their own purposes, but they cannot afford to make it at the Beebe's prices; thus, from their inability and unwillingness to do justice to their fine raw material, the public consumer is a serious loser.

151. The waste, too, of this valuable article on the Cannanore Island—either from the husks not being made up into yarn, or from coir being sacrificed to the manufacture of jaggery, in which trade is free—is of

Mode of weighing. Considerable excesses. Vide Note 25.

Candy assumed of 640 lbs. Vide Note 26.

Remarkable deterioration in the manufacture of coir in Government Island was perceived.

Vide Note 27.

On Cannanore Island no hold on the people.

The coir very different.

A large quantity of raw material is lost. Vide Note 28.

such importance that a note on the subject is appended, from which it will appear that I estimate this loss at not less than 33 per cent. of what the manufacture might be, if the same inducement were held out as in the Company's islands

152. So sudden, extraordinary, and permanent a change in the price of a great staple as took place about 1826 in the price of Laccadive coir, would necessarily have affected the condition of any people even under free institutions; but trammelled as is their industry and every resource by oppressive restraints, it could not be met with that elasticity which finds compensation in increased energy and industry in production, and the case of these islanders has been lamentable.

153. The realization of a revenue was, of course, requisite; but where circumstances had occurred which tended to alter the condition of those confided to the care of the Cannanore family so materially, deliberate and careful inquiry, in communication with the Government, was called for before acting. And the Rajah certainly erred in judgment, and probably mistook his position when he introduced, without notice to the Government, changes which have affected so seriously the prosperity of 8,000 or 9,000 Company's subjects.

154. The Laccadives have always exported a considerable number of cocoanuts annually. This trade, however, was not subjected to restrictions till after the death of Kárnúr Rajah, in M.K. 1006 (A.D. 1825).

155. The Rajahs, as well as the islanders, had long found their account in trading in this article. The Rajah gave 4 to 8 annas per 1,000 in advance of the coast market prices, and, however dangerous the principle, the trade appears to have continued for many years on a liberal and, as the islanders admit, decidedly advantageous footing to themselves. The death of Kárnúr Rajah and the fall in the commercial value of coir were precisely contemporaneous in M.K. 1001 (A.D. 1826), and Hussan Cootty Yellyah, who then became guardian of the minor Rajah, took advantage of existing commercial relations to make delivery of all nuts compulsory; and trade in this article also became exclusive. The price paid for the nuts was reduced to 5 rupees per 1,000 delivered in Cannanore, and was paid in rice, on the import of which into the islands a duty of 10 per cent. is further charged, which reduces the actual price to about Rupees 4-8-0 per 1,000. The value of nuts on the coast during this time has averaged 7 to 9 rupees per 1,000 (occasionally more), and the direct profits have ranged from 2 to 4 rupees, and averaged not less than Rupees 2-8-0 per 1,000 nuts.

156. The monopoly, however doubtful may be the right to introduce new restrictions, has been strictly enforced up to this year.

157. A ripe subject of recrimination is that the Rajah monopolist requires, in receiving by tale, larger allowances (deductions for bad nuts, &c.,) than is customary in the free market; while on the other hand the Pandaram state that the nuts supplied by the people are below the average quality brought into market. Both facts are probably true, and are the natural consequences of the system.

158. During Kárnúr Rajah's life the cocoanut trade was very active. And when first made exclusive, the supply certainly was not less than 10 to 15 lakhs of nuts, yielding 2,000 to 2,500 rupees profit. The people state that they were then buoyed up by promises that the trade should be relieved again as soon as the coir market righted itself, and the immediate difficulties of the Rajah had disappeared. As the monopoly, however, has continued without prospect of relief, new channels have been found, and for the last five years it appears, as admitted on all hands, that the revenue derived from this source has been comparatively small. Probably the annual supply has fallen of late to a few lakhs of nuts, 50 per cent. of which came from the single island of Androt. The year before last it fell short of 200,000 nuts; the profits from which would amount to from 300 to 500 rupees.

159. In Androt and Kowraty the manufacture of jaggery has rapidly increased of late years, to the detriment of the coir and nut trade. In Agaty, besides the manufacture of jaggery, much cocoanut is converted into oil, halwa, &c. And in all the islands, especially Kalpenni, considerable smuggling has gone on; of which the Company's subjects and the Minacoy islanders are the chief carriers. The Rajah's servants probably connive.

160. Thus, as a financial measure, this monopoly has become unproductive; but from a moral and economical point of view all its vices continue. And I found the people's feelings much opposed to this novel and unauthorized impost, and greatly exasperated by the levy, last year, of some fines (2 rupees per 1,000) for breaches of this restriction.

161. The jaggery trade is still free and increasing; but the *meera* (unfermented toddy) drawers, who are the manufacturers, have to contribute largely to the support of the public servants, and cesses are levied on them under the name of *nazeranah*.

Other products have occasionally been monopolized.

File Note 32.

163. Cowries and tortoise shell taken on the shoals are, as before described, strictly monopolized as sources of revenue. They were assumed as royalties at an early period. In the Maldives, where large quantities are fished, they constitute an important part of the native Rajah's revenue.

164. The cowry has long been an important article of Indian commerce, and is found in considerable quantities on the Laccadive shoals. The best fisheries are in the Cannanore Islands. They are strictly preserved, and permission must be obtained to fish them; and when fished, the whole find must be delivered under heavy penalties to the Pandaram.

Received by measure in exchange for rice. Formerly 2 seers of rice per seer of cowries. Profits varied with value of rice.

Statement showing Profits on 1 Candy of Cowries, while the Price of Rice averaged 2 Rupees per Moodah.

| RS. A. P.                                                | RS. A. P.                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To value of 1 candy of cowries of 312 seers... .. 50 0 0 | By rice paid for 312 seers of cowries, at 2 seers of rice per seer of cowry. Number of moodahs (of 50 seers each) 12 maunds 24, seers value at rupees per moodah .. 25 0 0 |
|                                                          | Beebee's profits 100 per cent. .. 25 0 0                                                                                                                                   |
| Total .. 50 0 0                                          | Total .. 50 0 0                                                                                                                                                            |

While price of Rice averaged 1½ rupees per Moodah.

| RS. A. P.                                                | RS. A. P.                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To value of 1 candy of cowries of 312 seers... .. 50 0 0 | By rice paid for 312 seers of cowries, at 2 seers of rice per seer of cowry. Number of moodahs of 12 maunds 24 seers, value at 1½ rupees per moodah. 18 12 0 |
|                                                          | Beebee's profits 166⅔ per cent. .. 31 4 0                                                                                                                    |
| Total .. 50 0 0                                          | Total .. 50 0 0                                                                                                                                              |

162. The other vegetable productions of the islands are insignificant, but they too have from time to time been monopolized, e.g., the *Morinda citrina* of Androt and the lime of Kowraty.

165. They are received by measure in exchange for rice. At the earliest fixed rates, two seers of rice were paid per seer of cowries, and at this rate payment was continued till the death of Kárnur Rajah 1001 (1825-26). While the rate

paid to the people continued unchanged, the profits of the monopoly increased as the price of rice fell. The value of cowries now ranges at from 65 to 80 rupees per candy, but the moderate rate of 50 rupees per candy is assumed in the two marginal statements which are prepared to show the probable profits at different periods, according to the price of rice, viz., when it cost 2 rupees per moodah, and when it cost Rupees 1½ per moodah, as it subsequently has.

166. When the market value of coir fell about 1826, the payment for

| RS. A. P.                                             | RS. A. P.                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To value of 1 candy of 312 seers of cowries .. 50 0 0 | By rice paid for 312 seers of cowries, at 1 seer of rice for 1 candy of cowries. Number of moodahs 6 maunds 12 seers, value thereof at 1½ rupees per moodah. 9 6 0 |
|                                                       | Beebee's profits 133⅓ per cent. .. 40 10 0                                                                                                                         |
| Total .. 50 0 0                                       | Total .. 50 0 0                                                                                                                                                    |

cowries was reduced to 1 seer of rice per seer of cowry—one-half the former rates. No change, however, in the market value of cowries took place, and the profits became upwards of 400 per cent.

Forced to raise it again by 50 per cent.

167. Discontent and decreasing supply under this change, however, soon forced the Rajah to

| RS. A. P.                                           | RS. A. P.                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To value of 1 candy of 312 seers of cowry .. 50 0 0 | By rice paid for 312 seers of cowries, at 1½ seers of rice per seer of cowries. Number of moodahs 9 maunds 18 seers, value thereof at 1½ rupees per moodah. 14 10 0 |
|                                                     | Beebee's profits 241⅓ per cent. .. 35 6 0                                                                                                                           |
| Total .. 50 0 0                                     | Total .. 50 0 0                                                                                                                                                     |

increase the payment to 1½ seer of rice for one seer of cowries, and this rate continues till the present time. The marginal statement shows the profits to be about 250 per cent.

Fixed rates must be unequal. File Note 30.

168. The circumstances of the several islands, distance travelled, &c., vary so greatly, however that any fixed rate must work exceedingly unequally. And distant shoals cannot be fished at the present rates at all.

169. The revenue derived from this source has, from its nature, been fluctuating; for it is influenced by the price of rice and various local circumstances. Nor are the existing supplies to a monopoly paid for at the lowest rates, any measure of the capabilities of the shoals. From the best information I could obtain 10 to 12 candies of cowries may be assumed as the present annual supply from the Laccadives proper, which may yield, at the present market rate, a profit of 300 to 400 rupees.

170. Relieved from restrictions, industry would increase, and the trade would be double.

171. When the monopoly or royalty of tortoise shell was first assumed, 10 to 15 seers of rice only were given for each tortoise, according to its size and circumstances; this seems to have been the rate till the

death of Rajah Layoma, M.K. 991 (A.D. 1815-16). The commercial

| RS. A. P.                                                                                   | RS. A. P.                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To value of 1 tortoise yielding at average 1½ lbs. of shell, at 10 rupees per pound. 15 0 0 | By value of 15 seers of rice paid in exchange for 1 tortoise, at 2½ rupees per moodah .. 0 10 9 |
|                                                                                             | Beebee's profits 2,132 per cent. .. 14 5 3                                                      |
| Total .. 15 0 0                                                                             | Total .. 15 0 0                                                                                 |

N.B.—Ten rupees per pound only are taken. The average was nearly double.

Beebees and the islanders must have stood as per margin, allowing the highest price for rice and the lowest market value for the shell.

172. The natural consequence of low prices followed; the supply fell off and the Rajah Kárnúr, appears to have raised the rates to those shown in the margin, about 1825; and these rates still obtain. The payment

Rates fixed in Rajah Kárnúr's time and since obtaining.  
1st Class.—For a tortoise yielding 7 pollums shell, or 2½ lbs. of shell, rice 1 moodah 25 seers.  
2nd Class.—For a tortoise yielding 5 pollums (1½ lbs.) of shell and upwards, rice 1 moodah.  
3rd Class.—For a tortoise yielding 4 pollums (1¼ lbs.) of shell and upwards, rice 37½ seers.

| RS. A. P.                                                           | RS. A. P.                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To value of 1½ lbs. of tortoise shell, at 7 rupees per pound 10 8 0 | By value of 1 moodah of rice paid in exchange for 1 tortoise as per second class, at 1½ rupees per moodah .. 1 8 0 |
|                                                                     | Beebee's profits 600 per cent., at 6 rupees per pound. 9 0 0                                                       |
| Total .. 10 8 0                                                     | Total .. 10 8 0                                                                                                    |

173. The amount of revenue now derived from this source varies; but the average supply may be taken at 1½ to 2 maunds of shell per annum, and the profits at 6 rupees per pound, may average 300 to 350 rupees a year.

174. The protection of this lucrative branch of revenue is difficult, and the penalties for its breach have been very severe. The monopolies of both cowries and tortoise shell were abandoned from the first in the Company's islands, where the people have become industrious and successful fishers.

175. The protection of these petty monopolies, in the face of temptation so great, and where the whole body of the people is directly interested in their overthrow, would be impossible under a less arbitrary

system than that which prevails, or under a system of justice which forbids superstitious ordeals and the administration of oaths to the suspected parties.

Nazeranas.  
Fide Note 35.

176. In addition to the more general heads of revenue, *nazeranah* of various description are exacted.

177. On the succession of the heir to the Kazeeship—which is a hereditary office—a *nazeranah* of 300 to 500 rupees is required before confirmation. The Kazees on the Beebee's island levies, in virtue of this *nazeranah*, considerable contributions from the people. His fees and claims are said to be heavy, and are rigorously exacted. In Ameny, of course, no official *nazeranah* is required, and the Kazees's fees cannot be summarily levied.

178. A further head of casual revenue of this nature are the *nazeranah* taken from the chief people on whom titles as Bandor, Patlor, Mulanje Ror, Cheye Anje Ror, &c., with small local dignities, are conferred. The origin of these titles is generally attributed to the Cherikul Rajah, who, on the early submission of the people to his power, conferred them in order to conciliate the headmen, and established his influence. These dignities have been kept up on the Beebee's islands. A *nazeranah* of from 100 to 300 rupees is paid, and the title carries a few local privileges and a right to levy certain contribution on the people, such as the pick of fish, &c. The precise nature of these exactions was kept from my knowledge, but their weight is one of the grievances, reasonable or unreasonable, which is urged by the people. A small *inam* was sometimes granted.

179. *Nazeranah*, varying in amount according to circumstances, but not less than 8 rupees (4 to the Rajah, 2 to the Beebee, and 2 to the Head Kariastan) is exacted on all interviews or audiences granted by the Rajah. Other expenses, it is said, attend them. A piece of cloth or moodah of rice is the return present.

180. The people of the group are skilful pilots, and were formerly employed as pilots to the Arabian Coast; and they still frequently pilot Arab craft from the coast till they have cleared the group. The pilot fees, formerly high, are now reduced, and 35 to 40 rupees for the longer voyage, and 5 to 10 rupees for the latter are usually received. The *malimi maryadi* (pilot custom) is a regular head of collection on the Beebees.

islands. It consists in a *nazeranah* which is now fixed at 4 rupees

| Pilotage to Arabia. |           |                    | Rs. A. P. |       |  |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-------|--|
| To Nazeranahs—      | Rs. A. P. | By remission of    | Rs. A. P. |       |  |
| To Arrakel ..       | 4 0 0     | import duty of     |           |       |  |
| „ Karyakar ..       | 2 0 0     | 10 per cent. on 8  |           |       |  |
| „ Accountant ..     | 1 0 0     | moodahs of rice,   |           |       |  |
|                     |           | being seers 40,    |           |       |  |
|                     |           | value of which at  |           |       |  |
|                     |           | Rs. 1½ per moodah  | 1 3 2     |       |  |
|                     |           | By excess of naze- |           |       |  |
|                     |           | ranah over value   |           |       |  |
|                     |           | of remission ..    | 5 12 10   |       |  |
| Total ..            | 7 0 0     |                    | Total ..  | 7 0 0 |  |

| Pilotage past the Group. |           |                     | Rs. A. P. |       |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-------|--|
| To Nazeranahs—           | Rs. A. P. | By remission of     | Rs. A. P. |       |  |
| To Arrakel ..            | 2 0 0     | import duty of 10   |           |       |  |
| „ Karyakar ..            | 1 0 0     | per cent. on 4      |           |       |  |
| „ Accountant ..          | 0 8 0     | moodahs of rice,    |           |       |  |
|                          |           | being seers 20,     |           |       |  |
|                          |           | value of which at   |           |       |  |
|                          |           | Rs. 1½ per moodah   | 0 9 7     |       |  |
|                          |           | By excess of naze-  |           |       |  |
|                          |           | ranah over value of |           |       |  |
|                          |           | remission ..        | 2 14 5    |       |  |
| Total ..                 | 3 8 0     |                     | Total ..  | 3 8 0 |  |

181. The very nature of this exaction requires a constant and vexatious espionage; and as it is claimed from all islanders, whether resident the coast or the island, who may engage as pilots, it is one of the most prominently urged of their grievances, for it tends to prevent their entering a field where competition is free.

182. *Nazeranahs* are exacted for permission to wear ornaments, &c., and besides the payment of the servants, contributions of vinegar, limes, the fine sort of coconuts, &c., are levied for use in Cannanore by the family or the local agents. They are said to be levied by the servants by sequestration of the trees, &c. Originally voluntary, these presents have become compulsory, and are considered vexatious. A door is opened to obvious abuses.

183. The manufacture of Biche-de-Mer was introduced somewhat recently, but very successful speculations therein having been made, there has been a good deal of competition. The Rajah claims and strictly preserves the royalty of holothuria; and either manufactures the Biche-de-Mer on his own account or rents the fishing to coast merchants and manufacturers. For these the people fish and receive merely coolly hire. The rates paid by these contractors to the Cannanore islanders, during 1846, amounted

to the Beebee, 2 to the local Karyakar, and 1 to the Accountant for the Arabian trip; and for the shorter trip at rupees 2 to the Beebee, 1 to the Karyakar, and ½ to the Accountant. On the other hand inland import duties of 10 per cent. are remitted, viz., on eight moodahs of rice in the first case and on four in the second. The account would thus stand as per margin. The local officers being interested therein, its levy is carefully watched.

to about 4 or 5 rupees worth of rice per candy of Biche-de-Mer, while the coast merchants were advancing 35 and 40 rupees per candy to the Company's islanders. The profits are exceedingly trifling, the quantity being small, and cannot compensate for the general discontent which this additional restriction has excited.

184. On the introduction of the salt and tobacco monopolies on the Tobacco and salt coast, they also were imitated on the Cannanore Islands.

185. For many years salt was imported by the Rajah from Goa, and considerable profits were made; but the import has of late fallen into disuse, and the people now supply themselves. My information on this head, however, was not very satisfactory.

186. Tobacco is still imported direct from Bengal in the Rajah's ships, or supplied to the islanders from Mahé on account of the Rajah. It is imported in bundles of three to three and-a-quarter maunds, the prime cost of which is from 8 to 10 rupees per bundle in Calcutta, and is procurable in Mahé for 12 rupees per bundle.

187. Coir is received in exchange for the tobacco, and the profits are enormous. On the first introduction of the monopoly and while the higher rates for coir prevailed, 40 maunds (two candies) of coir were required per bundle of three maunds of tobacco. The statement in the margin shows the profits to have been nearly 1,000 per cent., or 35 to 40 rupees per maund.

Statement showing the Probable Profits on Tobacco while at 2 Candies of Coir per Bundle of 3 Maunds.

| Rs. A. P.                                                                                                                |         | Rs. A. P.                                                                                                                               |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| To value of two candies (40 mds.) of coir taken in exchange of one bundle of 3 maunds of tobacco, at 65 Rs. per candy .. | 130 0 0 | By cost of one chip-pom of Bengal tobacco, freight and expense inclusive. Beebee's profits being 983 per cent., or 37 Rs. per maund. .. | 118 0 0 |
| Total ..                                                                                                                 | 130 0 0 | Total ..                                                                                                                                | 130 0 0 |

Rates since 1829-30, and profits thereon. 188. When in M.K. 1005 (A.D. 1829-30) the lower payments for coir were introduced, the price was fixed at 75 maunds (3 candies 15 maunds) of coir per bundle of tobacco, at which it still stands. The profits are about 500 per cent., or upwards of 20 rupees per maund, the value of coir being 20 rupees per candy.

Statement showing the Probable Profits on Tobacco while at 3 Candies 15 Maunds of Coir per Bundle of 3 Maunds of Tobacco.

| Rs. A. P.                                                                                                                                        |        | Rs. A. P.                                                                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| To value of 75 maunds (three candies 15 maunds) of coir taken in exchange for one bundle of tobacco of 3 maunds, at 20 Rs. per candy of coir. .. | 75 0 0 | By cost of one bundle of Bengal tobacco, freight and expenses inclusive. Beebee's profits 525 per cent., about 20 Rs. per maund .. | 63 0 0 |
| Total ..                                                                                                                                         | 75 0 0 | Total ..                                                                                                                           | 75 0 0 |

Statement of the Probable Annual Revenue derived on an Average Supply of 25 Bundles (of 3 Maunds each) of Tobacco.

Prior to 1829-30 while 2 candies of coir per bundle of tobacco were required, and profits were at the rate of 118 rupees per bundle ... 2,950 0 0  
 Since 3 candies 15 maunds of coir were required, and profits were at 63 rupees per bundle ... 1,575 0 0

189. The annual supply to the four islands is supposed to be about 25 to 30 bundles of three maunds each, and the probable profits are shown in the margin.

190. The use of tobacco is universal, but such is the facility of smuggling that no revenue could be realized without an inconveniently expensive establishment if the option were left to the consumer to receive the Rajah's tobacco or not. In the Canara Islands, where the consumption is at least optional, the maintenance of the monopoly has proved to be impossible, and all attempts to enforce it have been abandoned. The same must have been the case in the Cannanore Islands had not the receiving a share of the Rajah's imports been made compulsory. When tobacco arrives, the chief people of each *Cheri* (division) are assembled, and to them is made over the share to be distributed in their respective *Cheri*. These, then, with the help of the Karyakars, make the further distribution to the people. No option of receiving it whatever is admitted. As soon as the accounts are prepared coir is loved in lieu, or the value is set down as a debt for subsequent realization against the family of its recipient or his landlord (*Kevy*).

Vide Note 4<sup>o</sup>.

192. Probably nothing has contributed so much to plunge these people into debt to the Rajah as this monopoly—under which 1½ lbs. of tobacco is charged a maund of coir, worth upwards of 1 rupee. In the first instance payment for tobacco become book debts, and the exorbitance of the price charged and indiscriminate and compulsory distribution render their recovery in many instances tardy and difficult.

Probably a good deal of bad debts on this account.

193. Among the most pernicious results of existing commercial and fiscal relations between the Rajah to the people, and of the monopolies of tobacco, &c., is the heavy arrears of balances of account on the books of the Rajah against almost every individual of his subjects. Exercising the exclusive right of trade on the islands, he dictates his own terms. Monopolizing the whole available produce of the islands, he alone can make advances thereon, and he effectually bars outside traders from competition by giving them

Great prevalence of debts to the Pandaram arising from necessity of seeking credit from Rajah.

Those, therefore, who are anxious to avail themselves of credit must seek advances from the Rajah; they can get none elsewhere. Advances of rice and other articles are made for coir at the retail monopoly prices which obtain on the Island—formerly at four maunds of coir, latterly at six per moodah of rice. The accounts are kept in bundles of coir (of one maund each), but when exhibited as a cash debt, this coir is entered at its market value. The compulsory monopolies of salt and tobacco have been rich sources of these balances of account. Judicial fines and penalties for breaches of fiscal rules have likewise been carried to book debt; and embezzlement and malversation of public servants seem to be commuted into debt, for which their families have been made responsible. Arrears of rent of the Rajah's gardens and *karama* in Kowraty, fees leviable on pilots, import duties, and *nazeranah* (those for Kazeeships, local titles, &c., are so large that they can seldom be paid in ready cash), have also been carried to account against the various families. Nothing is written off as irrecoverable balance.

194. Much that is reasonable and true may no doubt be stated of the indulgent feeling with which advances are made; and in urging their grievances on this account, the people, no doubt, exaggerate facts and forget the benefit, but a system of open unbalanced account is very dangerous between the ruler and his subjects, and there is reason to believe that many of its pernicious effects have been realized on the islands. The outcry is loud against them. It would seem that these debts are rendered more complicated by the double set of accounts in which they are kept at present. All recent advances, current accounts for tobacco, rent (*karama*), fines and penalties, advances to the lower classes (who have no coast-going boats) are carried to account on the islands, and are kept by the local Karyakars and Accountants, who collect them and in cases of difficulty make summary attachments by sequestration of property, &c., or make arrangements for monthly instalments. A second set of accounts is kept in Cannanore. This Book debt consists of the old outstanding balances, on account of advances made at Cannanore to the owners of boats, of *nazeranahs* to the Rajah, trade accounts and the like. Some debts are of 20 and 30 years' standing. On account of the balance due on this Book debt, 10 per cent. of all coir imported to Cannanore is now deducted in making payments. Many people

Rate of advances.

Vide para. 147.

Account kept in coir.

at its market value.

Tobacco, &c., monopoly.

Fines carried to account.

Embezzlement, &c.

Arrears of rents, *nazeranahs*, &c.

The effect.

Vide Note 43.

Accounts complicated and kept in double sets.

Accounts of current debts kept on the island.

Second set consisting of ancient balances kept in Cannanore.

Ten per cent. of all coir deducted on this account.

Explanation of the Kariastan: stand indebted on both accounts. In conversation the Kariastan who accompanied me, stated that these arrears were balances of trade accounts &c., but he added that the system of advances had been abandoned in a great measure for 20 years; for since the fall in the price of coir the means of the family had so diminished as to preclude their making of large advances recoverable at a distance of time, and at some risk of their becoming bad debts; and because they found that the mode of their collection was likely to bring disrepute on their administration. He attributed the ill-will now manifested against the administration in some measure to this change of policy, and such I think may be the case. The circumstances of the family have been reduced by fall in the value of coir, family discord and other difficulties, and the advances which they were enabled to make to the people on their produce have

Effect on the people. been greatly straitened. Further, a system which, however bad in itself, had become thoroughly a part of the administration, has been changed, perhaps with too little discretion, at a time when the circumstances of the people have been likewise materially reduced by the change in the rates paid for coir and other produce, and the institution of a fresh monopoly of cocoanuts. Balances of old debts have been levied with comparatively greater rigor under these reduced circumstances. A fair proportion of irrecoverable debt stands no doubt in both these accounts, but very few good ones must suffice to indemnify the loss by the bad. There is probably no violence or great abuse in the collection of the debts at present, but matters are in an unwholesome state, and call for scrutiny.

195. The Cannanore family became vested with the rule of the Laccadive Islands, hitherto independent, probably in the sixteenth century, and ruled them at first as a feudatory of the Cherikul Rajah, and subsequently in dependence on the Mysore Durbar. Since the conquest in 1792 they have continued to rule that part of the group which remained to them after the rebellion of Ameny in 1784, in much the same spirit as obtained at the close of last century. The powerful despotism which was established about the middle of last century, was evidently of slow growth, and was not fully confirmed until the family became a feudatory of the Mussulman dynasty in Mysore. Immemorial customs and liberties were then abrogated, and severe restrictions were imposed on trade; and the internal management of the islands by the Cannanore family became as despotic, arbitrary, mercenary, and oppressive as that of any of the petty rulers who governed Malabar during the last century. Unchecked by prescribed legal restraints on the exercise of power, the pretension of the ruler and the right of the people became alike uncertain and undefined; and that irregularity in the administration

of justice, cruelty of punishment, and arbitrariness of confiscation which are so apt to exist under petty native powers, appear to have found place on the islands in an exceptional degree.

196. At the time of the conquest the people complained bitterly of the oppressive administration, and but seven years before a part of the group had revolted to Tippoo.

Since the conquest. The circumstances at the time, however, did not favor the fulfilment of the avowed determination to relieve the monopoly-oppressed people, and introduce a responsible and efficiently controlled British administration on these islands; and they are still managed by the Cannanore family. The despotic principles of their rule remain unchanged; no pretension has been relinquished, no claim has been defined, or relief given. The interests of the people continue exposed to the same dangers and aggression; fresh restrictions have been introduced, and the pressure of old ones has been doubled; sovereign authority is exercised, and judicial arrangements are in the hands of a petty Mopillah Chief who continues practically unguided and uncontrolled; who stands to the people in the relation of sovereign, sole monopolist of, and exclusive trader in, the produce of the group. He is further the all-powerful creditor of most of his subjects individually. Some measure of moderation in the exercise of power and some abandonment of harsh and violent punishments has been indirectly wrought by the influence of the British rule, but they are based on the discretion and fears of the rulers only. The rights of the people are wholly unprotected.

197. The general administration of the islands has been and is managed from Cannanore, and, as usual with General government. By whom managed. Native rulers, the power has been wielded according to the individuality of the head of the family; sometimes by the Rajah; sometimes by a Yellyah (or Beebee's husband); and sometimes, under a nominal Local servants. control, it is really conducted entirely by the Kariastans on the spot. The rule seems to have been most despotic and powerful when wielded by an able chief like Bamaly and Kárnúr; and most oppressive and unscrupulous when in the hands of a Yellyah or some agent acting for a Beebee—as from 1777 to 1784, and again under Hussen Cootty Yellyah. Nor has it remained uninfluenced by the domestic discord which has occasionally disturbed the family. From this want of uniformity and the studied mystery which is maintained about these things, it is impossible to gather any fixed principle of conduct. At present, the administration is entirely conducted by the Kariastans of the female head of the family.

198. The local administration of the islands has been uniformly entrusted to Karyakars (or agents on the spot). Local administration. Neither the Rajah nor any of his immediate attendants or head agents ever visit them personally. A Karyakar is placed

Karyakars, &c. on each island, and is under immediate orders from Cannanore. An Accountant and three or four *Nadpals* (village runners) complete the paid establishment of each island. These servants are aided and checked by a committee of the principal inhabitants, and conduct the local business of each island—such as the administration of the criminal and civil justice, the maintenance and protection of the monopolies, and the management of the Rajah's private properties and trade.

199. The appointment of the local officers has been made a source of revenue. The Karyakar and Accountant pay fine (nazeranah) on appointment, and the salary being small, their remuneration consists of cesses levied on the people. Formerly these nazeranahs were considerable, and the local cesses double their present rates, but the changed feeling of the people and circumstances of the Cannanore family have reduced the rates of nazeranah and competition for these offices. The nazeranah or fine now consists of a cash payment to the Rajah, on receipt of the Perwana of appointment, of 30 rupees (there are further Kariastan's or Vazeer's fees); and the pay of the office consists of 24 moodahs of rice to the Karyakar and 15 moodahs to the Accountant per annum (value 36 and 22 rupees respectively). The Perwana must be renewed on every occasion of leaving the island under the same fine, and this I learnt occurs almost annually.

200. The expenses attending these appointments notoriously exceed the salaries paid, and various authorized and unauthorized exactions are made and fees levied on the people by the servants. These consist in articles of consumption or commerce, such as daily supplies of nuts, coir, oil, jaggery, *meera* (unfermented toddy), fish, ghee, milk, a quarter of every bullock killed, &c., according to the circumstances of each island and of the people. The authorized cesses are fixed and may be enumerated, but the people complain bitterly of the further arbitrary exactions made by the Karyakars and Accountants. Further, fees are levied on judicial cases (apparently discretionary) on all imprisonments, on pilots, launches of new boats, marriages, circumcisions, &c.

201. The Accountant receives in every case a fee or contribution equal to one-half of that exacted by Karyakars; and the *Nadpals* (village runners), whose pay is from 1 to 4 moodahs of rice each per annum, have certain claims on the people of the same nature.

202. In the collection of these cesses and contributions the *Nadpals* or village messengers are employed. And they are secured by attachments and confiscations, and their evasions is punished by fine and imprisonment. These servants have further the management, under distant and but slight control, of the Rajah's private properties and trade, &c., and probably draw therefrom considerable perquisites.

203. The system is thoroughly bad and dangerous even under the most vigilant, disinterested and vigorous control; but when, as in this case, superintendence is necessarily greatly weakened by distance and a naturally tardy communication which is entirely closed for five months in the year, its abuse is certain.

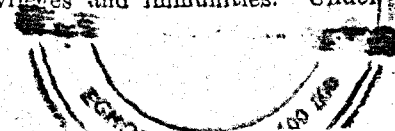
204. Situations on these distant islands are by no means coveted by respectable persons on the coast, and while reasonable terms alone could induce such persons to proceed thither, it is unnecessary to point out that no sacrifice is made or expense incurred by the Cannanore family to secure ordinary ability, integrity, or efficiency.

A few islanders alone find their account in taking appointments under this wretched system. The very first duties of a ruling power are neglected, and the rights and affections of the people, as well as the private interests of the ruler, are sacrificed to short-sighted parsimony.

205. I had ample opportunity of becoming acquainted with both the system and the individuals: and I consider the whole administration unworthy and inadequate, and the system of remuneration unequal, burdensome and unjust, and in practice an engine of abuse and oppression.

206. You are aware that one of the manifestations on the part of the people of their determination to resist the Cannanore rule, has been evinced by withholding their cesses. The people of Agaty have contributed none for more than two years. Those of Kowraty have, I believe, followed the example; and the desolation of Androt and Kalpenni render their levy no longer possible. It is obvious even to the Rajah that the system is no longer tenable or advisable. Endeavours are, I believe, being made to place the administration on a better footing; but I doubt success.

207. On each of the Laccadives there is a small body of hereditary Mookyastans (principal people) whose local influence is considerable. They are the proprietors of the shore-going boats; and are the chief land-owners, on whom the bulk of the people are dependent. Some of them bear petty titles, and claim privileges and immunities. Under the



immemorial and customary constitution of the islands, the Mookyastans ought to be assembled to constitute a Cutcherry for the transaction of local business, and they generally are so, but the dilatoriness, feuds, and individual interests of these parties frequently retard business. They require to be brought under effective control.

208. The police, civil, and fiscal administration of the islands seems to be exceedingly irregular, ill-defined, and uncertain. Ruled nominally by custom, it is dependent in a great measure on the will of the Rajah or his Kariastans, and on the discretion of the local servants and principal people. There seems to be no prescribed rule of procedure; no record of trials or proceedings. Matters of importance are referred for orders to Cannanore, and there settled by the Kariastans. All minor affairs are arranged on the islands.

At one time most arbitrary. At one time the administration was no doubt most arbitrary and severe; and stories of ordeals and capital executions for witchcraft, &c., of the most barbarous kind are preserved among the people, but it has probably been tempered for many years by a milder spirit, and its present fault is perhaps weakness and timidity.

209. The petty police delinquencies and lesser breaches of fiscal rules are adjudged by the Karyakars and principal people, and punished by fine, imprisonment and stocks. No case of a heinous nature, it is affirmed, has ever occurred since the commencement of the Company's rule in Malabar. Probability and analogy negative such a supposition, and I heard of one murder which is said to have taken place in Kowraty about 20 years ago, besides other cases which should have been brought forward judicially. On the Company's islands serious cases are by no means uncommon, though the population is less by one-half than that of the Cannanore Islands. But the Cannanore family,

Anxiety to hush up sensible of their very anomalous position and such. dreading interference, are most dangerously anxious to conceal what they fear may be considered a plea of introducing institutions which would deprive them of that police power which is deemed essential to the continuance of their fiscal system. This requires

Required immediate early remedy; and some rule for the future must attention. be laid down.

210. Punishments by death and mutilation were both practised formerly, but have fallen into disuse since the Company's rule was established. Heavy fines and forfeiture were and still are inflicted. Heinous crimes, gross breaches of fiscal restrictions, and offences against the

Rajah's property—such as embezzlement and theft—have been visited by that peculiar species of wholesale confiscation called *Kowrachy* (gang robbery—a term locally used to describe piratical incursions and these anomalous confiscations). *Kowrachy*, under peculiarly aggravating circumstances, drove Ameny and its dependencies into rebellion in 1784; and it has been frequently repeated since in individual cases. And so lately as last year it was put into practice in Androt. It is a remnant of the arbitrary barbarism of early times; and consists in suddenly surrounding the house of the delinquent by a mob of persons who violently carry away every thing it contains, stripping the females of their ornaments, &c., and confiscating the whole property for the Rajah's benefit.

211. The punishments now chiefly in use seem to be confiscation and fines in coir. These latter are frequently carried to account, and become book debts. Compared with the rates of the Company's islands, where the commutation price is one maund of coir per rupee, the fines of the Cannanore Islands are high. The form of punishment is, however, mild in its nature.

212. Petty civil matters are inquired into on the complaint of the parties by the Karyakars and principal people; and settled chiefly by oath or arbitration. Such matters as come within his cognizance, are adjudged by the Kazeer. The people complain much of the corruptness and inefficiency of the whole administration of civil justice.

213. Practically considerable fees or exactions are levied in these cases, but the rates seem discretionary; and in answer to my inquiries, the practice of various Karyakars was cited, and appeared to differ greatly. Some had required one maund of coir and from one party only; others had taken more and that from both parties; and some had required cash fees of considerable amount. Generally it seems clear that both Karyakars and Mookyastans require something, but how far the exactions are authorized I did not learn. None are, I believe, carried to the Rajah's account.

214. Matters of difference between the Rajah and the people—such as claims founded on the *jenmom* right of all waste land—appear to have been very summarily settled in the Rajah's interest. But the people have learnt to resist some of these claims; perhaps not without reason.

215. Oath and ordeal have been and are in use in the administration of civil and criminal justice, as well as in investigation of violations of fiscal prohibitions. Oath in the name of the Rajah was considered peculiarly solemn. Oaths on the Koran are also used, and once administered are seldom violated. Detection of delinquency and settlement of doubtful right is, therefore, com-

paratively easy. The barbarous ordeals commonly practised in Native States were formerly in use on these islands, but have been modified under British influence. Religious and superstitious ordeals are judicially practised to this day.

216. No distinction is drawn between criminal offences and those which commercial and fiscal arrangements have necessarily created, and multiplied. The same summary proceedings, the same oath and ordeal, the same means of detection and search, and the same pains and penalties are resorted to in all cases.

217. Smuggling of monopolized articles has hitherto been rare; for a powerful prestige was established from the first by severity of punishment, and many practical impediments conspire to aid the maintenance of such restrictions—so long as the bulk of the people are good subjects.

*Vide Note 55.* These are the insulated position of the islands, the difficulty of communication with the coast, export on licenced boats only, local search and the bulkiness of the principal article, coir.

*Difficulties.* The Company's sea customs cordon has also aided the Cannanore family in detecting breaches of their revenue rules. The same circumstances exist, but the feelings

The change in the feelings of the people makes them insecure. of the people have materially changed under the redoubled pressure of the coir monopoly and introduction of that of nuts. Virtually power no longer exists, and as the prestige thereof decreases, these monopolies are daily becoming more insecure. There is a strong inclination to burst the barrier; and clandestine smuggling of coir in the form of cable, is much suspected.

218. Minacoy is the most northerly and largest single island of the Maldive group, and is now under the Cannanore rule. I have intentionally avoided all allusion to it, as I was unable to visit the island myself. As there is no inter-communication of the Laccadive and Maldives, little relating to it is to be learnt among the people whom I met. The jealousy and pretended ignorance of the Beebee's servants prevented my obtaining much reliable information.

219. The people of Minacoy and Maldives are Mussalmen converts, supposed to be of Cingalese extraction. They retain that language and the customs of that people. Of the history of the Maldives I was unable to gather any facts, but the island of Minacoy, it is said, formerly formed a part of that group, and was either conquered from or ceded by the Sultan to the Cannanore family. I did not learn the date of the acquisition, but the

Rajah of Cannanore seems to have sent expeditions from time to time against the Maldives (the last, a successful one during the life of Bamaly, who died in A.D. 1777), and probably at one time levied a small tribute from the Sultan.

220. Minacoy, I am told, is a long, narrow island, about six miles in length by about half a mile broad; fairly peopled, but imperfectly planted. The coral reefs around the island are extensive, and abound with fish, cowries and tortoise. I could obtain no statistics of the population (probably 2,000 persons), trees, &c., but I understand that it is a fine island. The people are congregated in a village; and either do not, or are not allowed to live in the topes of the island as on the Laccadives. They are enterprising traders, and bold and skilful fishers.

221. If my information be correct, the fiscal system of the island is peculiar. The entire plantation of the island appears to have been confiscated and appropriated at an early period by the Cannanore family, possibly in right of conquest.

*Vide Note 57.* But according to another statement made to me, this confiscation was for rebellion and the massacre of the Cannanore public servants (an act said to have been perpetrated more than once). The Rajah of Cannanore claims a *jenmom* or landlord's rights over the entire island, and holds and preserves the whole plantation. The

*Rajah claims land-lord's rights.* habitations are restricted to one spot I believe, and the plantations are closed to the people except on certain days, when the public servants proceed with the whole population into the gardens and cut the ripe nuts. Each inhabitant then takes a certain number, probably ten nuts each; and the rest are taken to the Beebee's godown, and there sold to the people. I have heard that nuts occasionally fetch 15 to 20 rupees per 1,000 in Minacoy. The husks of the nuts are retailed for manufacture to the islanders by the Pandaram at a certain price in coir or cash. Some few trees are leased to the principal people; but even the *meerz*, it is said, is drawn and the jaggery manufactured on account of the Rajah of Cannanore—by whom it is retailed for home consumption and export trade. The plantation is renewed and kept up on the Rajah's account, and the people are not permitted to plant for themselves. The islanders have, therefore apparently, little or no interest in the soil, and their whole energy is turned to trade and fishing.

222. The whole surplus produce being in the Rajah's hands, the people must buy it from his godown. Coir is made up from the husks of their own allowance of nuts and of those bought from the Rajah. This coir—there is no monopoly of coir; but a small poll-tax of one-fourth of a maund per head, alone

seems to be exacted—and the nuts and jaggery, which they purchase from the Rajah, are exported to Maldives, Ceylon, and Bengal.

223. Cowries and tortoise shell are, it is said, monopolized, but I could not learn the quantities obtained. They are considerable.

224. The Coomblamass fish is taken in great quantities in the neighbourhood, and 2,000 to 3,000 rupees worth of this dried fish is annually exported.

225. Duties are said to be levied at the same rate as in the Laccadives, viz., at 10 per cent. on all exports and 10 per cent. on all rice, &c., imported.

226. These active merchants and sailors carry on a considerable carrier trade, from which their profits are good. Their boats, which are very superior to the Laccadive craft, leave the island about August each year with their cargoes of coir, nuts, jaggery, and dried fish, &c., and proceed to the Maldives and Ceylon, where the dried fish is exchanged for other articles fitted for the Calcutta market. Thither they proceed with coir, &c., and, disposing of them, supply themselves with rice in cheap markets of the Arracan Coast. They retain sufficient rice for home consumption, and dispose of the rest in Ceylon and Maldives. It appears that rice, though not indigenous, is the staple consumption on this island.

227. Not having witnessed the working of this system, I can merely state that the impression which I have formed, from what I heard and what was admitted by the Kariastan who accompanied me, is that it works badly. The Cannanore family has been anxious to change it—but probably without relieving the people—and substitute a high rate of rent. The people apparently prefer the present loose system; although under it the home sources of wealth are evidently much neglected. More perfect information is required on all points.

228. I can form no estimate of the Beebee's profits from this island, but it cannot be doubted that they were considerable, so long as the people of Minacoy were well "in hand." This, however, has not been the case for many years, and the revenue drawn from the island have fallen off. The system is, from its nature, one which can be profitable only under efficient and powerful control, and no doubt its direct weight is effectually evaded by fraud and dishonesty. The people have become rich through an enterprising trade. They visit many and distant ports, and are, it is said, very independent in feeling. The Cannanore influence is decreasing; for distance lessens control; and as the trade of the people takes the direction of Ceylon and Bengal, smuggling is not easily detected. The internal administration is said to be similar to that of the

Laccadives, but as the whole revenue accrues from the trade carried on in the island itself, the servants are probably of a somewhat better class.

229. From conversation had with the Beebee's Agent who accompanied me, I gather that the people are not now very manageable. Some attempts to introduce, what he designated, a "better system" have been resisted as encroachments on usage, and occasionally a zealous servant must be removed on account of his alleged "evil eye." My own observations are very unfavorable as to the state of feeling on the island.

230. In the Schedule of Cessions by Tippoo Sultan under the treaty of Seringapatam, dated 16th March 1792, the possessions of the Cannanore family are valued at 30,000 Canteroy Hoons of 3½ rupees each, or Rupees 93,750, of which about 4,285 Canteroy Hoons, or Rupees 13,390-10-0, only constituted the territorial possessions on the coast as per Arshed Beg's survey. The balance, Canteroy Hoons 25,715, or Rupees 80,359-6-0, appeared to the Joint Commissioners for settling the affairs of Malabar, to have been an annual mulct assessed on that family for Laccadive and Maldivian possessions and their trade. It is clear from the local information obtained by Ensign Bently on his survey tour in A.D. 1795 and from Mr. Murdoch Brown's calculations made at the time, together with the information obtained by Mr. Lafrenais, that this revenue was by no means exaggerated; for Ensign Bently calculated the revenue at Rupees 1,17,669 and Mr. Brown estimated the profits of the coir and cowry trade alone at 70,000 rupees. From what I now know of these islands I doubt not that, exclusive of Minacoy,

it was not less than 90,000 to 1,00,000 rupees at the cession. The statement made by the Beebee of Cannanore in A.D. 1793, that her profits did not exceed 20,000

rupees, a moiety of which was tendered as a jumabundy in arrears for the two years M.K. 966 (A.D. 1791) and M.K. 967 (A.D. 1792), was beyond all question a gross misrepresentation. The Commissioners, however, in the absence of all means of testing the truth of this statement, agreed to accept Rupees 10,000 provisionally, in satisfaction of arrears due for each of those years; and as no further information had been obtained in A.D. 1794, the same jumma was continued. Circumstances have perpetuated that rate as a moiety of the Cannanore profits, though certainly not more than one-tenth of the actual gain, while the coir trade continued good.

\* Gross misrepresentation of the Beebee of Cannanore, in consequence of which it has been assumed since at Rupees 20,000.

Acceded to temporarily, pending the local inquiry into the resources.

231. Subsequent to A.D. 1800 the profits of trade increased, and between that year and 1826 the revenue must have considerably exceeded a lakh of rupees.

The revenue derived from the coir monopoly alone on the Company's islands—which do not probably equal one-fourth of the Cannanore possessions—averaged during those years, upwards of 20,000 rupees per annum, after paying high rates for the article.

232. The great fall in the value of coir which took place between 1826 and 1828, seriously affected the revenue of these islands, although the prices paid to the islanders were simultaneously reduced from Rupees 18-8-0 to Rupees 6-8-0 per candy; and it is believed that at the same time the supplies of coir fell off by not less than one-eighth. Local distress was further aggravated by a contemporary reduction in the prices paid for cowries, &c., by the introduction of the new monopoly of cocoanuts, and by the enhancement of the price of tobacco, without probably fully maintaining the revenue.

233. I have endeavoured to make a rough and very moderate estimate of the present revenues exclusive of Minacoy.

*A Rough Estimate of the Probable Annual Profits from the Laccadive proper from 1830 to 1847.*

|                                                                                                                    | Rs.    | A. | P. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| By 10 rupees profit on 1,200 candies of coir, paid for at Rs. 6-8-0 per candy and sold at an average of Rs. 16-8-0 | 12,000 | 0  | 0  |
| By profit of 40 Rs. per candy on 15 candies of cowries                                                             | 600    | 0  | 0  |
| By profit on 7½ lakhs of nuts, at 250 Rs. profit per lakh                                                          | 1,875  | 0  | 0  |
| By profit on 2 maunds of tortoise shell, at 200 Rs. per maund                                                      | 400    | 0  | 0  |
| By compulsory supply of tobacco                                                                                    | 1,500  | 0  | 0  |
|                                                                                                                    | 17,575 | 0  | 0  |
| Private properties on Laccadive proper about                                                                       | 2,500  | 0  | 0  |
| Total                                                                                                              | 20,075 | 0  | 0  |

*N.B.*—Exclusive of all nazeranas, fees, profits on salt, and such revenue as may be derived from Menkayat.

Care has been taken to understate rather than exceed in this estimate.

cocoanut monopoly has fallen off. Further, with the waning power of the ruler, other sources have become slightly less productive. I therefore consider that the profit therein shown fairly represents the probable present average. I have no data on which I would be willing to hazard any conjecture as to the annual value of Minacoy. As mentioned while treating of that island, I have heard it stated at 5,000 and 10,000 rupees annually, but the feelings of the people have, I conceive, exercised an adverse influence on the revenues of the island—if they ever were so high.

It is admitted that 10,000 rupees are below the moiety still.

234. The Kariastan who accompanied me admitted, however, that the Government has never received more than a moiety of the net profits.

235. I think generally that the present fiscal system is no less detrimental to the prosperity of the people than short-sighted as a financial measure. While the way in which it has been worked, has caused complete and universal antipathy of the people towards the rule of the Cannanore House.

Measures of relief such as will enable the people to develop and make full use of their resources are urgently called for. The effect of the system on the industry of the people, and the quality and quantity of the coir they manufacture—and possibly also on the population which is from 30 to

50 per cent. below that supported by a similar number of trees and extent of land on the Company's islands—has been bad. But I have little doubt that under a better system, and under the direct government of the Company, all that the people now seek might be granted to them, with but little

diminution in the revenue when their islands shall have recovered from the effects of fiscal and financial error and ignorance. The Company's

islands—which in extent and capabilities certainly do not exceed one-fourth of the Cannanore possessions—are now yielding an annual revenue of

8,000 rupees with ease; our subjects are well paid and satisfied; and are envied by their neighbours

under native management. If required I shall be prepared to submit my views more fully on this point.

236. An appendix to this Report will be found, in which I have thrown together and arranged all that appears on record relative to the Cannanore Laccadives, extending over a period of about six years—1792 to 1798.

237. It appears that the local officers early became aware that the principal revenues of the Cannanore family, which were estimated in the schedule appended to the treaty of Seringapatam at 30,000 Canteroy Hoon, were drawn from the Laccadives, and they considered that, in right of conquest, the Government should participate in the advantages if they did not take possession of their territories altogether. A plea in bar of the payment of revenue (which proved to be groundless and collusive) was set up, and though it was not allowed any weight by the Joint Commissioners in coming to a settlement with the Beebeo of Cannanore, still that settlement was delayed by the evasive conduct of the Beebees till 1793. It then became

necessary to settle for two years in arrear; for it had been determined that the Beebee of Cannanore should, in consideration of her being a conquered foe, be made to pay from the date of the conquest of Cannanore, although the other Rajahs of Malabar were called on to pay a revenue for 1794 only.

238. As early as January 1793 it was determined to procure accurate local information relative to the islands, but in the meantime an unsuccessful attempt was made to get some tangible facts as to the state and resources of the Laccadives through Chowackara Moossa, the *soi-disant* mortgagee of the group—but in vain.

239. The negotiations for the settlement of the revenue in arrear for 1791 and 1792 took place in April 1793—their record is of much importance. Although by no means satisfied with the conduct of the Beebee of Cannanore, or that the statement that the profits—viz., Rupees 20,000—derived from the Laccadives was *bonâ fide*, the Joint Commissioners agreed to accept 10,000 rupees a year, provisionally on account of the

two years which had elapsed since the conquest—making “her at the same time enter into a written agreement subjecting her entire possessions on the Laccadives to be sequestered by Government,” if on the report of the Commissioners the measure should be deemed advisable. This agreement was accordingly executed by the Beebee; but the season being far advanced, it was determined to defer the examination of the islands till after the rains of that year.

240. No further steps were taken during that year, and, pending the receipt of authentic information, the provisional settlement of the Joint Commissioners in respect to the Laccadive trade for two years in arrear, was continued for the year 1793. But the jumma on the coast properties was raised after a survey.

241. The Governor-General in Council, in his review of the report of the Joint Commissioners, dated 27th March 1794, urged thorough inquiry into the state and produce of the Cannanore Laccadives, prior to deciding as to their future management. And in January 1795 Ensign Bently of the Engineers;

was despatched to the islands. He visited them all, and submitted his surveys and report in April of that year, furnishing at the same time information as to the feelings

of the people. He expressed “in strong terms the miseries to which the oppression of the Beebee had reduced the inhabitants, who declared that from the surrender of Cannanore they had expected the arrival of the English at the islands, and that from such interference alone could they hope for a comfortable subsistence to themselves and families.” He stated further that he had

“very particularly inquired at every island into those circumstances” to which “attention had so forcibly been drawn,” and observed in conclusion that he “everywhere he found the same misery amongst the people and the same anxious confidence of relief from the interference of the English.” The local information obtained at the time showed that the revenue drawn from the islands had been grossly understated.

242. The Local Supervisor remarked, in submitting the report, “I am persuaded it will appear equally just as necessary to rescue from oppression an industrious and considerable portion of newly acquired subjects, a measure, considering their inclination and interests, of easy accomplishment, although, of course, the Beebee would expect some compensation for the loss of the most lucrative branch of her commerce.”

And, as recommended by the Governor in Council of Bombay, the immediate abolition of the monopoly of trade, and the correction of oppression and abuses of authority were

ordered by the Governor-General in Council, under date 27th July 1795. The Honorable the Court of Directors expressed their entire approval of this order under date 1st March 1797. The determination of the Supreme Government was communicated to the Beebee

of Cannanore in September 1795. And while Honorable J. Duncan, Governor of Bombay, was on the coast in the latter end of the same year steps were taken to bring about the consent of the Beebee of Cannanore to the introduction of the Company's Government. The negotiation was afterwards entrusted to Colonel Dow, who found her very unwilling to resign her authority and introduce free trade.

243. From the records in the Political Department it appears that so early as 1796 it had become clear that another collision with Tippoo Sultan was inevitable, and the fidelity of the Beebee of Cannanore was impugned by the Rajah of Coorg—on grounds which the local officers failed to substantiate.

244. During 1795-96 much difficulty occurred in the realization of the revenue assessed on the continental properties of the Cannanore family; on account of certain unfounded and indefinite claims urged by the Beebee of Cannanore. To put an end to these difficulties the local Commissioners determined to make the Beebee of Cannanore enter into a written agreement as to the amount of revenue she was annually to pay for the future. She was at the same time required definitely to

relinquish the claims in respect to *malikhanah*, &c., which she pretended had been doubtful. And the Commissioners carefully reserved the right to sequester the Laccadives for the sole use and benefit of the Company, in accordance with the agreement entered into with the Joint Commissioners in 1793, whenever it might be resolved on. An agreement to this effect was executed on the 28th October 1796. The negotiations of this period had reference mainly to the revenue to be paid on the territorial possessions on the coast, and as the affairs of the Laccadive were still under consideration the provisional amount payable as a moiety of the alleged profits from them continued unaltered, and 15,000 rupees per annum was settled as the rate to be paid in the meantime, subject to confirmation.

245. The Governor of Bombay in Council having, in the meantime, written to the local officers to urge early measures to carry out the abolition of the monopoly of trade, &c., did not express an opinion on this intervening agreement when submitted to him. In a letter of 15th November 1796, however, that Government

recommends the Commissioners to avoid any measure likely to lessen the degree of attachment of the Beebee towards the Government. The further negotiation, with a view to inducing the Beebee of Cannanore to accede to the determination of the Governor-General and Honorable Court of Directors, was entrusted to the Northern Superintendent

Delay—the result of the negotiation. in December 1796, but he appears to have taken no steps in the matter before August 1797. He (the Northern Superintendent) then found every argument which he used to prevail on the Beebee of Cannanore to enter into the views of the Government and throw open the trade, fruitless. She even denied

Sabterfuge of the Beebee of Cannanore. he then reported, privily to the agreement with the Joint Commissioners in 1793 in reference to the sequestration of her Laccadive possessions. She was almost equally averse, he said, to the introduction of the administration of justice, but assented to the measure on condition that the Courts should not interfere with the monopolies. She was now willing,

Concessions. he added, that the Government should appoint whomsoever they thought proper to administer justice under whatever regulations might be deemed necessary; and assented to the residence of a person on the island for twelve months, in order that the resources might be fully ascertained.

246. The subterfuge of the Beebee of Cannanore relative to the agreement of 1793 was exposed by the Bombay Subterfuge exposed. Government in their letter of the 21st October 1797. But the original agreement was not forthcoming in the records of the Dewan Cutcherry of Malabar. A cruiser was, however, placed

Preparatory measures taken for carrying out the concessions.

Councils influenced by the political aspect of the world.

Deferred for want of a competent officer.

Political difficulty intervening the matter appears never to have been settled.

Attentive perusal of the appendix desirable.

249. I have also, with a view to bringing the entire matter under one view, prepared a separate summary of the arrangement under which the Beebee of Cannanore enjoys a compensation for the Canara Islands, to which I have attached extracts from all the official papers bearing thereon. A short summary of the fiscal and police system of those islands is also appended.

250. Political reflections may be out of place here. Suffice it, however, to say that the Cannanore house is virtually the independent, unwatched and uncontrolled ruler of these islands, and manage at discretion their fiscal, judicial and police administration.

Political consideration, disparity in comparison of the other Malabar Rajahs.

The family believe, or at least inculcate the idea, that they are, as regards these islands, the independent feudatory and ally of the Honorable Company. The dangerous relation of the ruler towards the people, as monopolist trader, sovereign, and creditor has been pointed out. As regards the early provisional settlement with the Cannanore family, it was much the same as those which were made with the Rajah of Malabar in general, during the first years of our rule. But those quinquennial settlements fell in; and the concessions (very similar to those now practically enjoyed by the Beebee) which Mr. Farmer had improperly made to the Northern Rajahs, "by which the right of the Company had been, with little limitation, given up,"

\* Governor-General to Government of Bombay, dated 28th May 1794.

at the disposal of the local officers to carry into execution the preparatory measures as far as the Beebee of Cannanore's consent had been obtained. It was hinted at the same time that it might be "perhaps most convenient to avoid taking formal and entire occupation of the Laccadives during the war with France, as our doing so would infallibly expose them, much more than now, to the insults and depredations of the enemies' ships and vessels of war."

It was found necessary also to defer fulfilment of the modified intention of Government, from the want of an European officer competent for the duty and lateness of the season.

247. The political difficulties of the next few years seems to have stood in the way of further measures for the regulation and amelioration of the affairs of the island; and the matter is in abeyance to this day. The same reasons for interference still present, themselves—but in a much aggravated form.

248. The whole correspondence merits attentive perusal.

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Company has been substituted for the irregular and weak or harsh and domineering rule of Native Princes throughout Malabar. It is curious to contrast the accidental position of our foe with that of our allies in the same war; and the position of these islanders under a grasping and ignorant rule with that of their fellow subjects on the coast.

251. I venture to think that the fiscal arrangements of these islands demand early attention, wasteful as they are of the resources of the islands, destructive of all motive to industry and exertion; fraught too they are with defection of the feelings of the people, and creative of moral degradation and artificial crime. My impression is that time being allowed for the recovery of the islands from their prostrate state, a very reasonable revenue might be derived from them; and that at the same time the people may be relieved from much that is evil in their present state.

252. Feeling of aversion on the part of the people towards the Cannanore rule, has from the first been most decided, as appears from Lieutenant Bently's report, and the declared unwillingness of the people of the Canara Islands to become again dependent on that family in 1799. This aversion has grown in bitterness under the increasing burdens of the fiscal rule; and the contrast which the equitable and liberal policy of the Government towards that portion of the group which had thrown off the rule, has aggravated the hatred. Defection of the people is unanimous. And of their determination to force a change, I have very little doubt.

253. I need scarcely add that the sympathy of the Canara Islanders and of the Moplas on the coast has tended to enhance the feeling.

254. The peculiar position of the islands and the influence of the Cannanore family have kept down these mutterings for many years; but the people have now made themselves heard, and they will push the matter till they obtain full redress. The position between the people and the Cannanore family is now that of plaintiff and defendant.

255. The family of Cannanore makes the retention of their rule over these islands a point of honor. But it is one to which the interests of the people have been too long sacrificed, considering the close and mercenary spirit which has characterized their administration.

256. Leaving the subject to your mature judgment, and claiming for it only that early and considerate attention which the condition of the people calls for, I close this paper with the assurance that I shall be happy at all times promptly to submit, if required, any further information on its subject which it may be in my power to afford.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,  
Head Assist. Collector.

## NOTES ALLUDED TO IN THE DIFFERENT PARAGRAPHS OF THE REPORT.

THE turtle is abundant on the Laccadives, but prefers the uninhabited islands and open shoals. The green turtle is by far

Note on para. 16. Turtle and tortoise. the more numerous, perhaps three or four to one more so than the tortoise. Both are destroyed whenever they can be taken by the islanders—the green turtle for his blubber (the flesh is unclean food to Mussalman), the tortoise for the shell. The

Haunts. favourite haunts seem to be the islands of Bingaram and Tingaram, where the water is deep and lagoon extensive and fine—while the small islands on which they lay their eggs are uninhabited. On these islands their traces are very numerous. Suhely also abounds in turtle. But both these islands are preserved, and fishermen must obtain leave to go. Kalpenni has several small uninhabited islands adjacent to it, which are frequented by this creature. They are occasionally taken on all the islands.

The people of the Cannanore Islands seldom make, as do the Company's Want of inducement islanders, regular expeditions to distant haunts to on Cannanore Islands. take the tortoise. A single tortoise which is worth 10 rupees in the market, remunerates these for several days' labor; but the people of the Cannanore Islands realize but Rupees 1-8-0, or about two days' hire of a boat's crew.

The labor of fishing is very great. When observed (the head of the tortoise is small) he is followed up, and, if possible, harpooned; if not, they are watched into holes in the rocks and dived for; the bite is severe. They are occasionally taken, though very wary, when on shore laying their eggs. The three last days of the moon are said to be those on which they generally come to land. The eggs are not much eaten by the people, though not forbidden by the rules of the Faith.

2. The Cowry is a little shell-fish which clings to the loose coral stones in shoal water, not exceeding three or four feet deep at low water. The fishing days are those of neap-tides when the water is very low. The stones are

turned over and the live cowries collected; they are then buried for some time in dry sand, washed clean, and picked. The fishing is laborious, and performed generally by women who wade up to their middle.

Cowry beds should be fished regularly once a month, as the collection of the cowry depends, in a great measure, on turning over and loosening the stones.

The shoals of the Canara Islands are inferior as cowry beds, but merchants from the coast go there and make advances for the cowries at the

current market rates. On the Beebee's islands cowries are monopolized. A candy contains eight robbins, of 39 seers each, or in all, 312 seers (50 to a robbin of rice). The poorest classes only engage in the fishery on the Beebee's island, and, at the price paid, the Suhely beds cannot be fished. The fishing of Bingaram, Tingaram beds is not quite voluntary. Cowries are got on all the islands; but the quantity varies according to the circumstance of the shoal.

3. Tripang, Biche-de-Mer, made from the holothuria, or sea-slug, was first manufactured about 16 years ago, when a French crew spent some weeks off the group making Tripang. They had Malays on board. The speculation proved successful. Some Mopillahs from the coast then engaged a Malay and made Tripang which sold well in Penang, and since then there has been a good deal of competition. Upwards of 80 rupees per candy have been got for Laccadive Tripang, which is said to be of superior quality. The sea-slug is fished, gutted, then parboiled, dried in the sun or over a wood fire, and allowed to be out in the dew for several nights. The loss of weight before it gets to the market is said to be 25 per cent.; 2,000 slugs average a candy. On the Company's islands the people have the necessary caldrons, &c., and manufacture Tripang for merchants who make advances. On the Cannanore Islands the sea-slug is strictly preserved by the Beebee.

Manufacture, &c.

Note on para. 19. 4. I have little knowledge about ambergris, but it is exceedingly valuable and rigorously monopolized.

5. The position of the islands under the lee of their respective shoals and the substratum of lime-stone lead to the conjecture that these islands are formed by the fuller development of the coral formation under the natural break-water which the shoal itself constitutes.

This lime-stone is the material generally used in making substantial dwellings, and is the cause of the dryness of the soil. Were this substratum wanting, as in Suhely, Bingaram, Tingaram, and Betra, the soil is low and damp and sweet water is wanting.

6. There is a marked difference in the climate and fall of rain on the different islands, the coastward island enjoying the cooler and damper climates.

7. According to the tradition preserved, the earliest settlers on the islands left Corangalore to follow and recall the last Permal from Mecca as the only person who would be able to restore Malabar to peace—disturbed as it became by petty wars, after his departure. And they believe that Namboodri (Malabar Brahmins) accompanied the expedition. The expedition was wrecked on the islands and gradually peopled the group and introduced the cocoanut from the coast. To the energy and enterprise of the first settlers they attribute those extensive excavations called *totam*.

8. Ameny and Kowraty are the principal islands of the group, and were occupied by the higher caste immigrants. They seem to have ruled all the Melachery or low-caste islands. It is remarkable that Hindu caste prejudice has lived through 600 years; for to this day it is

considered discreditable in any of the better classes from a Tarwat Island to Melachery Island and live on a Melachery Island. In distributing the surplus population of Androt and Kalpenni this prejudice was found an almost unsurmountable objection with some of the better classes to going to the second-rate island.

9. The people can still point out the high-caste families of their respective islands. Ameny has four such families still extant, called Nál Umyár, of whom the chief were the Pandambelly and Porkar family, the former the Kazee family, the latter the chief land-owner.

10. The total change which took place by the conversion of the entire population to the Islam has tended in a great measure to efface the recollection of matters relating to their history while Kafirs, but of their conversion they retain many traditions. Their conversion *en masse* took place about 600 years ago. Mumba Moolyaka, the first teacher, was a pure Arab, and is affirmed to have appeared miraculously in Ameny, where his doctrine met with much opposition. At length he secured one female convert, a member of the Pandambelly family, with whom he proceeded to Androt, where, he succeeded in converting the whole population. The conversion of the other islands followed very rapidly. Kowraty claims an Arab teacher of its own. Androt, the scene of the first success of the Islam, contains the grave and shrine of the early saint, and has always been looked on as a holy island. It is usual to this day to repeat the fatéah when it is sighted by boats passing to and fro.

The Kazeeship of the chief islands has been kept hereditary in this stock. In Androt in the direct line of descent from Mumba Moolyaka, and in Ameny and Kalpenni the Pandambelly family and branches furnish the Kazees. The present Kazee of Androt is supposed to be the twenty-second who has held the office in direct line from Mumba Moolyaka. By this test the date of the general conversion seems reasonably accurate.

11. There is a tradition that the Portuguese settled and built a fort in Ameny (the walls and ditch may still be traced), the central island of the group. How far they established their rule I could not ascertain; but the attempt to possess themselves of the group was early crushed, and all the settlers exterminated by poison (a mosque where the poison was prepared bears the name to this day, and is sacred to the event). The Rajah of Cherikul, one of the most powerful Native Princes on the coast at the time was, if not an instigator, the person who aided the people. He is said to have been solicited by the people of Ameny (who tendered him their allegiance) to rid them of the Portuguese, the hated rivals of the Moppilah Sect. A man was sent by the Rajah, whose name is preserved as Kadantavanjiraka (bored-car)—probably a Hindu, though afterwards converted—who carried out the design. The poison was administered and the Portuguese gradually exterminated. The old site of the fort is now the property of the Porkar family, and the right thereto was defended many years ago against the Cannanore Rajah's claim, on the ground of a grant by the Cherikul Rajah in consideration of the service

performed at that time. The precise date of this transaction cannot be ascertained, but that of the bloody retaliation of the Portuguese on the island of Ameny is preserved in an Arabic song in honor of Abu Biker, the Kazee of the day, who was a man of great sanctity, and still revered as a saint. He "with upwards of 400 others" were massacred by the Portuguese, A.H. 966 (A.D. 1549-50). The entire group seems to have come about the same time under the rule of the Cherikul Rajah, who governed the islands for many years. The islanders appear to have suffered severely from time to time at the hands of the Portuguese. On two occasions they massacred a great number of people in Chetlat. The southern islands suffered from other pirates.

12. The Joint Commissioners in 1793 understood that the tribute paid by the Cannanore family and the Cherikul Rajah was 12,000 fanams. From the islanders (some of whom have had good opportunities of knowing from their ancestors having acted as Vazeers, &c.,) I learnt that it was 6,000 fanams only. The mystery which they made of the matter, lest the Cherikul Rajah should revive the claim and cite them as witnesses, was very amusing.

13. At the opening of the season of A.D. 1783 (M.K. 958-59) four boats belonging to the principal inhabitants of Ameny left that island for Cannanore, which they found in a state of blockade by General McLeod. One boat fell into the hands of the English and one returned to the island; but the two others belonging to the families of Kolapen and Porkar proceeded to Mangalore, where Tippoo was then personally engaged in the siege of the fort. Under the impression

Narrative of the de. that all was lost to Cannanore, the cargoes of coir faction of Ameny. were disposed of to Tippoo, 55 rupees per candy (50 per cent. paid in kind and 50 per cent. in cash) being paid for it. With this price the islanders returned well satisfied to their islands, for it was much in advance of the prices paid by the Cannanore Rajah.

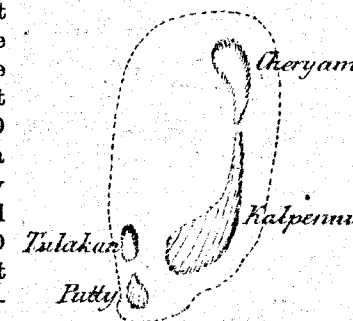
On the restoration of peace by the treaty of Mangalore (11th March 1784), all political relations on the West Coast were restored to their former footing and the treaty of General McLeod renounced; and the Beebee of Cannanore (the Yellyah was virtually ruler) immediately proceeded to punish summarily the offence above related. Immediately before the setting in of the monsoon of 1784 Abdul Kader Karyakar (brother of Abocker Karyakar, then a very influential person on the group, and Karyakar of Kowraty) landed in Ameny with a body of Cannanore servants, confiscated all the property and emptied the houses (*Cowrachy*) of some of the principal people, and confined their persons in chains. But the whole population rose, surprised and overpowered the guard, released the prisoners, and placed Abdul Kader in chains, and kept him in confinement till the season opened. The entire male population of the island then took to their boats and went to Mangalore in hopes of meeting Tippoo still there, taking the Karyakar with them in chains. Amicable relations had been in the meantime restored between Tippoo and Beebee of Cannanore. The Karyakar was released by Tippoo's officers, and endeavours were made to overcome the fears and aversion of the people to the Cannanore rule. They proved unsuccessful, and an equivalent was granted in jaghire from the Cherikul territories. In the Sannad the annual jumma of Ameny "transferred by

Ally Rajah to the Governor" is stated to be 6,500 rupees, and the equivalent at 7,380 rupees. The Sannad is dated A.H. 1 Ahamed 1217 (A.D. 1787).

The other islands appear about that time to have been also wavering in their allegiance. An unsuccessful attempt to throw off the Cannanore rule was probably made in Kowraty, but personal influence saved the rest.

14. This allowance is made, as I was unable with my means to classify and survey the plantation, distinguishing the productive trees from those past bearing. On the Company's grounds and calculation on which the allowance of 15 per cent. for trees past bearing is made. returns of the plantation are framed, the chouk (past bearing) trees of the four islands were in 1844 to the productive as 11½ to 100, but to leave a broad margin 15 per cent. is allowed.

15. The island of Kalpenni consists of a narrow strip of land round the east margin of that extensive shoal. The entire length may be five miles; but four-fifths thereof consist of a narrow strip of sand-ridge from 250 to 300 yards broad. About midway a narrow breach separates the portion now called Cheryam—jungly uninhabited strip of ground of 1½ miles long and 300 to 500 yards broad. And to the south-west lie other two small uninhabited islands—Tulakan and Putty.



Cheryam was relinquished to the islanders in M.K. 913 (A.D. 1738) by a Rajah of Cannanore who touched there, *en route* to Mecca, where he died. It is of no value, except as a free fishing ground. The very soil of this narrow strip was washed away in the hurricane.

Tulakan and Putty are small round rocky islands of little value. Some attempts had been made to plant them without, however, removing the jungle. They are both claimed as Pandaram property, and are valuable fisheries.

16. The state of the two islands precluded my obtaining an accurate return of the different classes in Androt and Kalpenni, but I did so in both Kowraty and Agaty. I did so in order to ascertain the proportion of meera-drawers with reference to the jaggery trade. The "Karano-mars" (Tarwat) are the principal land-owners and boat-owners. The Malimy or Pilot class is an important one, and possesses considerable private property. As their name implies, their ancestors were pilots. Third-class or urukars are the working classes of the islands and generally dependent on the other two.

The Melachery are the tree-climbers and toddy-drawers, and are universally dependants. In the Cannanore Islands they are fully employed and well off. They receive a moiety of the juice drawn and one cocoanut in ten of those they cut, or one or two in every bunch, according to the custom of the island. An able-bodied Melachery is able to keep on an average 20 to 25 trees cut for juice. He climbs twice a day, and the tree is exhausted within six months, and produces no fruit during the next six

months. The 300 able-bodied Melachery caste of this island probably keep from 12,000 to 15,000 trees of the better class bleeding throughout the year. These might produce upwards of 100 candies of coir, worth 2,000 to 2,500 rupees. But as the people would only receive 650 to 700 rupees, they manufacture jaggery to the value of about 1,200 to 1,600 rupees.

*Statement showing Particulars of the Distribution and Occupation of the Population of Kowraty as it was in 1847.*

| Name of Cheri or Local Division. | 1ST-CLASS KARANO-MAR. |        |        |          |           | 2ND-CLASS MALIMY. |        |        |          |           | 3RD-CLASS URUKARS. |        |        |          |           | 4TH-CLASS MELACHERY. |        |        |          |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|-------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
|                                  | Houses.               | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. | Houses.           | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. | Houses.            | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. | Houses.              | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. |
| Melachery                        | 38                    | 63     | 63     | 53       | 179       | 53                | 5      | 53     | 50       | 38        | 11                 | 2      | 11     | 87       | 15        | 166                  | 156    | 123    | 445      |           |
| Tellachery                       | 38                    | 63     | 63     | 53       | 179       | 53                | 5      | 53     | 50       | 38        | 11                 | 2      | 11     | 87       | 15        | 166                  | 156    | 123    | 445      |           |
| Pallychery                       | 9                     | 16     | 14     | 14       | 44        | 16                | 3      | 27     | 24       | 19        | 51                 | 44     | 17     | 112      | 85        | 13                   | 170    | 138    | 114      | 472       |
| Parakarah                        | 3                     | 2      | 4      | 2        | 8         | 27                | 1      | 28     | 36       | 28        | 74                 | 74     | 53     | 201      | 5         | 11                   | 18     | 18     | 18       | 47        |
| Total                            | 50                    | 81     | 81     | 69       | 231       | 100               | 9      | 108    | 116      | 85        | 309                | 96     | 11     | 478      | 188       | 85                   | 382    | 386    | 274      | 1,042     |

17. *Karama* is a kind of fixed rental on trees which have been confiscated

Note on para. 89.

Karama rent in the Island of Kowraty. but allowed to remain in the enjoyment of the family from whom taken. A karama of fifteen pollums, about 5 lbs. coir, per tree is levied without reference to the goodness or otherwise of the tree. The rate is much complained of by the people, who are not allowed to throw up the trees, and pay on many which are not in bearing. This fact was distinctly admitted by the public servants, who stated that they were not permitted to strike unproductive trees off the accounts. I inspected many such trees which were paying this rate. A good cocoanut tree yields about 5 lbs. of coir on the Company's islands, but the average rate at which the Cannanore monopolies are supplied is about 3 lbs.; the Karama is therefore a heavy rental. The average amount collected on this account was stated to me as 100 to 120 maunds of coir, and the number of trees held under this tenure is between 600 and 700 trees. A very arbitrary appropriation took place about 20 years ago, of 40 yards all round the island and all trees within that line were placed under karama. The people attributed this to the ill-will of a Karyakar, whose aggression on private property they had resisted. I could get no satisfactory explanation of the complaint from the Beebee's servants.

18. When I reached this island the Pandaram *Pak* or prohibition was on

Note on para 96.

Pandaram *Pak*. all the lime and gindaly (rose colored and delicate) cocoanut trees. The people brought this forward as a great grievance, and the Kariastan who accompanied me determined to relinquish the claim, and ordered the *Pak* to be taken off. But the people refused to accept this compromise, as they had, they said, been unjustly deprived of one-half the produce of such property for so long. They were at length induced to gather and take the whole crop.

19. Suhely Par and Bingaram, Tingaram, were both confiscated by the

Note on para. 99. Rajah about the same time and under similar circumstances. When the monopolies were first introduced

they were enforced with great rigour and a Karyakar (Hussan) of Kowraty and an Accountant of Agaty were found dead in tanks under circumstances

which led to the suspicion that they had met with foul play. The circumstances were considered sufficient to warrant the punishment of the entire population

by the confiscation of these valuable fishing and cowry beds.

During a detention of several days from stress of weather on the distant islands of Bingaram and Tingaram, I had an opportunity of observing the capabilities of these distant and not permanently occupied islands. The

General remarks on trees which overtop the jungle are fine, but often these islands. cannot be approached through the jungle—while

rats destroy the young nuts to such an extent that those gathered are but their leavings. I saw many thousands of nuts brought from Suhely, but not one of them had escaped the rats entirely.

The Pandaram is now making desultory endeavours to reclaim these islands which they have so long shut up against the enterprise of individuals, and it is hoped that the colony established there since the hurricane will change the face of matters rapidly. Had Suhely been open to the people it would long ere now have been occupied. Kadamut, which is in the neighbourhood of Ameny, was uninhabited in 1795 (see Lieutenant Bently's report), and within the recollection of many was an impervious jungle with four huts on it. It has now 200 inhabitants, 4,000 or 5,000 trees, and produces annually considerable crops of dry grain; and within a few years it will be come a very flourishing island. Were Bingaram, &c., which are in the neighbourhood of Agaty thrown open in the same manner, they would become valuable islands, particularly for growing coarse grain during the monsoon.

20. The statement given below shows the occupation of the inhabitants of

Agaty. The inhabitants were all originally Melachery. Many are now wealthy and respectable

owners of land and plantations in the island. The fourth class confine themselves to meera-drawing. There are 180 to 200 able-bodied meera-drawers, but the trees of Agaty bleed so indifferently from the dryness of the soil that the people cannot afford to make jaggery in such quantities as in Kowraty. Indeed the average export of coir is about 4 lbs. per tree, whereas that of Kowraty is only 3 lbs. per tree, showing that the sacrifice of coir and nuts to jaggery is not so great.

*Statement showing Particulars of the Distribution and Occupation of the Population of Agaty as it was in 1847.*

|            | MUPA MAR. |        |        |          |           | MALIM.  |        |        |          |           | GENERAL OCCUPATION. |        |        |          |           | MELACHERY. |        |        |          |           |
|------------|-----------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|---------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
|            | Houses.   | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. | Houses. | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. | Houses.             | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. | Houses.    | Sheds. | Males. | Females. | Children. |
| Tekkachery | 7         | 11     | 11     | 11       | 29        | 28      | 3      | 22     | 46       | 49        | 117                 | 9      | 210    | 15       | 12        | 37         | 42     | 30     | 61       | 97        |
| Yeddachery | 17        | 23     | 28     | 33       | 73        | 86      | 20     | 30     | 32       | 20        | 82                  | 20     | 225    | 32       | 31        | 88         | 39     | 9      | 48       | 74        |
| Badachery  | 9         | 1      | 28     | 15       | 14        | 57      | 20     | 41     | 36       | 32        | 109                 | 30     | 145    | 16       | 30        | 121        | 37     | 36     | 115      | 133       |
| Total      | 33        | 2      | 64     | 54       | 54        | 172     | 68     | 333    | 114      | 101       | 308                 | 59     | 580    | 93       | 73        | 246        | 118    | 75     | 244      | 314       |

21. Bingaram is the largest of the island on the shoal, and is of a horse-shoe shape, about half a mile in length and 200 yards in breadth. The lagoon is shallow, and there are good cowry banks.

Tingaram lies about two miles distant, and is generally of the same character. The lagoon around is, however, deep, and the west side is gradually being washed away with loss of cocoanut plantation, which happens to be thickest where the waves are encroaching fastest.

Separated from Tingaram by a narrow and fordable inlet of the sea is Parly, at the head of the Agaty and Bingaram, Tingaram coral shoal. It is a small narrow island covered with brushwood.

22. In writing of the coir monopoly I have blended the customs duties with the prices from which they are deducted. *Sunkam* or export duty was the early form of revenue, and is charged on coir only. Import duty, though now charged on all rice, was originally only charged on the rice paid in exchange for coir. The double duty becomes 20 per cent. of the price. The original charge of 1 fanam per candy for expenses at Cannanore has been commuted to one per cent. of the coir; and includes boat-hire for landing coir, for the island boats do not stand the surf. The labor of weighing, beating, and storing is performed by the islanders, for which they received batta. It is alleged apparently with truth, that batta was paid originally during the whole time of detention in Cannanore, but it was reduced in 1826 to 12 seers of rice to each boat (they are manned with 15 to 18 men) for the three first days, after which the allowance is made every second day till the coir is stored.

22. Another allowance is made to boats fully laden with coir under the name of batta for the passage to and from the coast; and varies according to the nazeranah which may have been paid on the launch of boat in which exports are made.

23. During the first two years after the British occupation of Malabar the Beebee of Cannanore was allowed to collect all customs duties at Cannanore: and when the customs collection was assumed in 1793 on account of the Company, the Beebee of Cannanore objected to pay duty on her merchandise, or claimed a reduction of her jumma on the plea that when the Settlement of that year was made she was collecting the customs. The local officers, however, considered that she was not entitled to any immunity by her

Exemption from payment of duty on coir.

\* Mr. Farmer, the Northern Superintendent, dated 25th January 1794.  
Sea Custom Manager at Cannanore, dated 27th January 1794.

Beebee of Cannanore to North Superintendent, dated 13th September 1796.

North Superintendent to Beebee of Cannanore, dated 16th September 1796.

Beebee of Cannanore to Commissioners, dated 4th October 1796, paragraph 2.

Commissioners to North Superintendent, dated 8th October 1796, paragraph 2.

Commissioners to Beebee of Cannanore, dated 12th October 1796.

North Superintendent to Commissioners, dated 16th October 1796, 2nd and 5th clauses.

Commissioners to Governor in Council, dated 18th October 1796.

North Superintendent to Commissioners, dated 30th October 1796, with Beebee of Cannanore's agreement, signed 28th October 1796 (15 Zoolam 372.)

Commissioners to Governor, dated 1st November 1796.

Governor in Council to Commissioners, dated 12th November 1796, paragraph 11.

Governor in Council to Commissioners, dated 15th November 1796.

North Superintendent to Commissioners, dated 15th September 1797, paragraph 11.

Government to Commissioners, dated 21st October 1797, paragraph 15.

agreement with the Joint Commissioners, and after much correspondence\* and difficulty the Beebee consented to pay general duties, with reservation on account of coir, in the profits of which the Company participated. This exemption was acquiesced in on the condition that 10,000 rupees constituted a *bonâ fide* moiety of her profits, which, however, was at the time strongly doubled. The Bee-

bee's coir has been imported free of duty even since.

24. The rice given to the people has always been of the most inferior sort.

Note on para. 146. This was one of the complaints made to Ensign Bently in 1795, and to me in 1847; and I had the most ample opportunity of testing its truth; for a large quantity of their rice passed through my hands during my late visit. This is a matter of great importance to the people. The average contents of the small moodah should be 50 seers of rice, but it seldom contains so much, and the rice itself of a decidedly inferior description. I bought such rice in Calicut

As compared with that supplied to the Canara Islands. This year at Rupees 1-4-0 to Rupees 1-5-0 per moodah; its average price is under Rupees 1-6-0.

The rice issued to the Canara islanders is carefully chosen, and the moodah passes among the people at 50 seers and seldom is less; while its price has averaged during the last ten years above Rupees 1½ per moodah. The rice is of superior quality. I have throughout this paper taken the moodah at 50 seers, which is the standard, and the price Rupees 1-8-0; both are in excess of what really obtains in respect to the Cannanore Islands.

Occasionally when the market price of rice is high the people have been

When prices of rice are high the people are occasionally paid in orders at a lower commutation price. paid in part by credit orders (at 7 fanams\* per moodah) and left to supply themselves. This they cannot do at the price, more especially towards the end of the season, when prices rise. It is stated

\* 5 to the rupee. that frequently one-half of the coir is paid for in this manner. The Beebee of Cannanore's servants admitted that this is occasionally done, and the people allege that they lose several annas per moodah of rice in effecting the purchase by discounting these orders.

24 (bis.) Coir is made from the husk of the cocoanut, which is cut before the nut is quite ripe, or about the 10th or 11th month. The husk is stripped off and thrown into soaking pits, where it lies for 9 to 12 months. The woody particles rot and leave the fibre easily separated. If used with great economy the husks of 1,000 nuts of good size should yield 2½ maunds of coir, but the average is about 500 nuts to a maund of coir.

The best soaking pits are formed in the sea sand just within low-water mark, exposed to the action of sea water and wet sand. In most of the islands the stillness of the

water in the lagoon admits of this arrangement; but in some, as Ameny, Agaty, &c., the ripple on the shore is too strong, and many of the soaking pits are fresh water tanks formed in the same manner as the wells of the island. Coir soaked in sea water bleaches well, and is stronger than the other, which is never so white.

When sufficiently soaked the husk is taken out and beaten with heavy mallets, washed and rinsed several times, and then twisted.

*Comparative Statement showing the Quantity of Coir, Number of Women, and the Average Annual Production per Head.*

| —           | Candies. | Females. | Average per Head. |
|-------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| Androt ..   | 450      | 1,000    | Mds. 9            |
| Kalpenni .. | 300      | 675      | 9                 |
| Kowraty ..  | 350      | 770      | 8                 |
| Agaty ..    | 250      | 650      | 9                 |

Women alone manufacture coir, and entirely by manual labour. An average twister takes about 15 days to make a maund of coir (a diligent work-woman would produce it in 10 days), or 2 maunds per mensem, and a candy a year. In the Company's islands the average is nearly a candy a head, but on the Cannanore island it scarcely exceeds half that quantity; for the price does not provide more than the merest subsistence wages.

25. Weighing by the maund instead of by the  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  a candy at a time must yield a considerable excess. The people urge this

Note on para. 148.

On weighing by the bundle of one maund each and the excess (kussor) which it must yield.

as one of their grievances. It is true that when a bundle is in excess of one maund they are not allowed to break it, but the bundle, under such a rule, will be oftener a little short of the maund than over it.

26. I found great difficulty in ascertaining with precision what weights

Note on paragraph 149.

N.B.—They were never produced, and my position prevented my examining them on each island.

and measures are used by the Pandaram in receiving coir, &c.; but on every one of the Cannanore Islands they were impugned and openly challenged as being false and excessive. The tulam used by the people throughout the group is the maund of 32 lbs., 640 lbs.

to the candy, and on both Company's as well as the Cannanore Islands the people mutually trade by this standard which is the immemorial and customary weight. The people complain that within the last 10 or 15 years an additional 2 lbs. and upwards have been added to the tulam. In

Weights and measures used in receiving coir equivocal.

conversation the Kariastan told me that the tulam or maund in use was of 32 lbs., but that an extra pound is now required to make up deficiencies.

I had an opportunity

of verifying the truth of this charge, for I was made a referee in a dispute between the people and the

Exposé.

Cannanore servants as to the weights, and took the opportunity of adjusting by rupees the whole of the weights currently used in one of the islands. I found them all false, and in excess in the proportion of 2 to 3 lbs. in the maund. The weights themselves were most discreditable,

Discreditable kind of weights.

and if used by shop-keepers on the coast would all have fallen within the Magistrate's reach. One stone

was hewn into shape, but represented no even weight; the rest were pieces of stone, &c., tied up with coir. To explain this exposé on my return to

the coast, the Kariastan told me that they required a candy of 680 lbs.; or 34 lbs. to the maund, and pleaded ignorance for not having mentioned it before. When asked how it was that the people were unanimous in stating that the customary maund of the island was of 32 lbs., he replied "what do they know?"

I must state my belief that the practice of taking coir, rents in kind, &c., by weights and measures which are larger than is just, prevails throughout the islands.

27. The difference between the coir supplied to the Company's godowns

Note on para. 150. in Canara (the most of which is sent on Government account to Bengal) and that which the Cannanore

Islands supply is shown by the fact that two years ago a gentleman who had invested considerable capital in the manufacture of coir rope in Calcutta wrote to Mr. Blane, the Collector of that district, to ascertain the cause of

Great deterioration the great difference between the Laccadive coir which in the manufacture of came into the general market and that which the

Collector of Canara supplied to the Bengal Government from the same islands, and expressed himself anxious to obtain some of the more valuable article.

28. Very significant deductions may be drawn by contrasting the quantity

Note on paragraph 151.

*Statement showing the Average Bearing Plantation in the Company's and Cannanore Islands, the Average Quantity of Coir produced and Rate per Tree.*

| Names of Islands.                                                                    | Years between which Average is struck. | Average Bearing Plantation. | Average Supply of Coir from each Island per Candy of 640 lbs. | Average Rate per Tree. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Company's Islands.</i>                                                            |                                        |                             |                                                               |                        |
| Ameny and Kadamat.                                                                   | 1839—47                                | 44,669                      | 357 1 6                                                       | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$        |
| Kiltan*                                                                              | 1839—44                                | 13,282                      | 113 17 20                                                     | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$        |
| Chetlat                                                                              | 1839—44                                | 7,464                       | 51 14 24                                                      | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$        |
| Total ..                                                                             | ..                                     | 65,415                      | 522 13 18                                                     | 5 lbs.                 |
| <i>Cannanore Islands.</i>                                                            |                                        |                             |                                                               |                        |
| Androt †                                                                             | 1846 say                               | 90,000                      | 450 0 0                                                       | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$        |
| Kalpenni                                                                             | 1846                                   | 80,000                      | 300 0 0                                                       | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$        |
| Kowraty                                                                              | 1847                                   | 7,500                       | 350 0 0                                                       | 3                      |
| Agaty                                                                                | 1847                                   | 39,000                      | 250 0 0                                                       | 4                      |
| Total ..                                                                             | ..                                     | 189,000                     | 1,350 0 0                                                     | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$        |
| Average difference of Company's and Cannanore Islands 60 per cent. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . |                                        |                             |                                                               |                        |

\* The census for 1847 of that island has not reached me.

† No prior statistic data exists.

The great waste of the raw material and the low average of coir as compared with the number of trees.

company's islanders, they might supply not less than one-third more coir.

of coir supplied from the Company's islands—with reference to the bearing plantation—with the same data on the Cannanore Islands. The marginal statement shows that while the manufactured coir averages 5 lbs. per tree on the former, it but slightly exceeds 3 lbs. on the latter—in other words, if had the inhabitants of the Cannanore Islands had the same inducement to make the best use of their materials as the Com-

It has already been pointed out, *vide* General Note No. 24, that the average quantity of coir in the Cannanore Islands is less than half a candy (10 maunds) per each female, while in the Company's Islands it is probably not less than 15 to 17 maunds a head.

Note on para. 152.

Statement showing the relative Population supported by a given Number of Trees in the Cannanore and Company's Islands.

| Name of Island.           | Population in the year when at fullest complement, 1844. | Productive Plantation as above noted. | Average Number of Trees per Head. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Company's Islands.</i> |                                                          |                                       |                                   |
| Ameny and Kadamut ..      | 2,448                                                    | 44,669                                | 18½                               |
| Chetlat ..                | 522                                                      | 7,464                                 | 14½                               |
| Kiltan ..                 | 639                                                      | 13,282                                | 21                                |
| Total ..                  | ..                                                       | ..                                    | 53½                               |
| Average about ..          | ..                                                       | ..                                    | 18                                |
| <i>Cannanore Islands.</i> |                                                          |                                       |                                   |
| Androt ..                 | 3,000                                                    | 90,000                                | 30                                |
| Kalpenni ..               | 1,600                                                    | 80,000                                | 50                                |
| Kowraty ..                | 2,500                                                    | 75,000                                | 30                                |
| Agaty ..                  | 1,700                                                    | 39,000                                | 23                                |
| Total ..                  | ..                                                       | ..                                    | 133                               |
| Average ..                | ..                                                       | ..                                    | 33½                               |

N.B.—These islands have totam land. Kowraty has totam, but it is under cocoanut, and the others depend exclusively on cocoanut and fishing, and are Melachery Islands.

30. This novel monopoly has been resisted, and probably it will be impossible to maintain it. It is admitted by the Cannanore people to have been a wrong and irregular impost. The prices on the coast were unusually tempting this year, viz., 10 to 12 rupees per 1,000 while they receive about 4½ to 5 rupees worth of rice per 1,000 at Cannanore—and the people have openly determined to break through this restriction. The Kariastan who accompanied me has recommended that this monopoly be given up formally, and I have endeavoured to induce the people to await permission; but they have, I believe, sold several lakhs of nuts in the open market at 13 rupees per 1,000. From what I observed of the Beebee and her people I doubt not that permission would have been withheld.

31. Jaggery is made from *meera* which is drawn twice a day. The yield varies materially on different islands. In the damp island of Kowraty, the daily average may be a seer of juice per tree; while in Agaty it is considerably less. A large quantity of *meera* is consumed in its raw state; and the remainder is made into

29. A further illustration of the relative condition of these islands is drawn from a comparison of the population with the means of subsistence. I take each island at its fullest complement, as it was before the group was visited by cholera in 1845. It will be seen from the marginal statement that the Canara Island plantations support more than one-third more people. The difference is no doubt exaggerated by the fact that the Cannanore family have reserved land of considerable extent, in the produce of which the people are not allowed to participate, while on the Company's islands every tree is nourishing a resident.

jaggery or vinegar—10 seers of the simple juice yield one seer of jaggery—which sells on the coast at 5 or 6 rupees per 100 seers. In Androt and Kowraty jaggery is an important article of manufacture; for it is more

profitable than coir at the monopoly rates. On the Company's islands owners of trees do not willingly let trees to jaggery-makers, and few are cut except for the *meera* required for domestic use. Jaggery is imported from the Cannanore Islands. Androt and Kowraty have probably exported from 1,500 to 2,000 rupees worth of jaggery annually of late; the other islands less.

For the relative value to the people of jaggery and coir, *vide* Note 16.

32. Morinda citron was once, I believe, worth 70 or 80 rupees per candy, and is now monopolized at 20 rupees per candy; its market value is now much reduced.

Note on para. 168. Inequality of fixed rates on cowries shown. 33. At Kalpenni 1½ to 2 seers of cowries may be collected by a woman in a day; at Androt not ½ a seer, while the more distant shoals cannot be fished at all at the price now paid for cowries. The uniform rate is bad.

34. Probably the average supply of tortoise shell is about 3 maunds a year. I have assumed 7 rupees per pound as the price, which is the lowest for unpicked tortoise shell. Good picked tortoise shell is worth 10 to 12 rupees in the market. Attempts were made by the Kariastan to mystify me as to the prices paid for tortoise shell, but I believe the information afforded in the text to be good.

35. The penalties for breaches of monopoly, however small, are fixed very high with a view to inspire fear. For smuggling cowries, 51 Pagodas is the stated fine—modified of course in practice. For tortoise shell the nominal fine is proportionably greater. An inhabitant of Agaty was recently fined 51 maunds of coir (worth at the lowest rate 51 rupees) for selling half a seer of cowries in Calicut; there were aggravating circumstances in this case. Another was fined 5 rupees, and another sentenced to eight days in confinement for petty breaches. Two others were fined 2 rupees each on suspicion, having been detected with cowries tied up in the shape of a pot of jaggery. Several persons came forward who had been fined from 12 to 25 rupees for not delivering the tortoise shell they had taken as soon as they landed. Smuggling of these lesser articles cannot be prevented now, and is on the increase. A case came accidentally before me which led me to believe that some inhabitants of Agaty had entered into a contract to supply cowries at 60 rupees per candy (two-thirds advanced) to a merchant resident in Ameny.

36. The hereditary Kaze of Androt died in 1846, and his heir, a lad of 15, was appointed to succeed (another acting during his minority) in 1847 just before the hurricane. The lad was mulcted 400 rupees, 300 rupees of which were set down in the account outstanding against the island. About 100 rupees were, I understood, borrowed from the Kariastans of Cannanore (30 from the one who was with me) and others. The family has been ruined by the effects of the hurricane, and while I was on the group his relations were taking the lad on a tour of the

Note on para. 177. Nazeranahs.

Instances of.

islands to raise charitable subscriptions to pay the fine. The Kazees of Androt the direct descendant of the first Missionary.

The Kazees's dues are large in consideration of the heavy nazeranah, and their losses were prominently urged on me by the old Kazees of Kalpenni in reference to the desolation which has overtaken that island.

37. By the less well affected these titles are attributed to the avarice of the Cannanore House. They are clearly Hindoo in their origin, and correspond with the title of the person sent by the Rajah of Cherikul to aid in the extermination of Portuguese. The individual name merges for life in the title. Under the changed feelings of the people these titles have been little sought of late at their price. A decrease in the liberality of the Beebees was alleged as the reason of this falling off, but a gradual failing of the respect formerly felt for the family is probably the proximate cause. A *Pallor* was created at Kalpenni in 1847 at an expense of 200 rupees to the individual.

38. An instance was urged on me in Agaty, in which it appeared that Aboker Malim left the island and resided with his family in Calicut, from whence he made several trips as pilot; but withheld the usual share from the Beebees. His sister's property was attached and administered by the Karyakar for two or three years till a portion of the arrears were liquidated. Other instances were mentioned.

39. This characteristic interference with the liberties of person is still kept up. The right to wear gold ornaments must be purchased by a nazeranah of 25 to 51 rupees; but once obtained, it is hereditary. In Agaty several instances were named in which the nazeranah had been paid within 20 years, and two or three within the last few years.

40. I regret to say that my information on the matter of salt was unsatisfactory, indeed the practice seems to be conflicting. At one time it was monopolized. It seems the islanders frequently import it from Mahé and Goa, and the Beebees supply them with salt from Arabia. One boat-owner had attempted to introduce salt and was charged 20 per cent. as a duty thereon.

The people still wish the indulgence granted to people of the Company's island to be extended to them, which shows they do not supply themselves so cheaply as we can supply them at prime cost from the Government godown.

41. The people stated that they are frequently obliged to take tobacco in part payment of the value of coir. They are supplied with an order on Mahé on the Beebees's agent there, and thence embark it and proceed to the islands.

42. It occurred about four years ago that about 20 bundles of tobacco were in so bad a state as to be unfit for use,—in part measured in a secret measure—were forced on the people. It is urged in the petitions, and I verified the fact fully.

43. There is every reason to believe that in true native spirit no claim is ever written off or relinquished, but their open and unbalanced accounts are kept up from uncle to nephew for generations. It is evident, however, that a good deal of difficulty and resistance has been met with for some years; for instance, I find that in some cases regular bonds for the amount had been exacted, a thing hitherto unheard of. The people on all the islands challenged the production of the books and the details of their debts; said that they frequently applied to see the account of debt against them unsuccessfully. The tale of a debtor is not always worthy of implicit credit; but a very serious grievance exists.

The double set of accounts complicate the matter much. The accounts kept on the islands may possibly in some degree be accessible, though the collection may be made an engine of oppression by the servants.

Those kept by the Kariastans at Cannanore are not so. And on account of them 10 per cent. from all coir is deducted on account of the hereditary debts of the owners of these boats, who, it is affirmed, are all indebted on the Cannanore Dufter. They on their part only distribute among the people who freight their boats rice in the proportion they receive it on the whole load; thus throwing the levy for debts due by them (the owners of the boats) on their dependants, with whom it is not optional to freight or not. All admitted this fact and said "that they themselves did not owe any thing, and they, therefore, distributed the exaction" equally on all. The Kariastan who accompanied me admitted it, and merely said that if the principal people who were charged with the distribution of justice of this nature did such injustice, they were helpless. There is no possible remedy for this gross piece of injustice.

N.B.—This virtually increases the deductions to 31 per cent. on all coir to the body of the people, being 21 per cent. for duties and expenses and 10 per cent. thrown by the principal inhabitants on the body of the people.

44. An audience nazeranah—*vide* paragraph 179—must be paid whatever the occasion of presentation. The Kariastan told me that of late very few audiences had been sought.

45. It appears that when Ensign Bently visited the island in 1795 he found the same species of administration in three of the islands—Androt, Kowraty, and Agaty; the Karyakars were servants sent from the coast, and on allowances of 48 moodahs of rice (four moodahs per mensem) and the Accountant's allowances in proportion. In Kalpenni, on the contrary, the Karyakar was a native of the island and on one-half the allowances. The Karyakars now employed are chiefly islanders, and all allowances have been reduced to that rate.

46. I believe the head and richest men on the island are exempted from these daily contributions, which fall heaviest on the Melachery or lowest class, it is said.

47. A man had been fined 2 rupees in Kowraty just before my arrival by the Karyakar for withholding a fish's head, the Karyakar's due. The Karyakar admitted it, and said it constituted his salary. The Karyakars also trade

and have balance of account against many. When Kalpenni was destroyed by the storm the public establishment, being without allowance, left the island, and the state of anarchy may be conceived when all the influential people pounced on the little all remaining to their creditors. It was brought to my notice, and I made them refund it. In Androt things were in much the same state; there was no protection of property. There is none of that stability in the system which is required to meet such exigencies.

Note on para. 204.  
Cost of establishment  
in Ameny Islands.

48. The Monegar of the Company's islands receives 17½ rupees per mensem, and the whole establishment costs upwards of 500 rupees per mensem.

Note on para. 206.  
Wish for proper establishment.

49. The anxiety of the people that an end be put to this and proper Government servants be introduced is very earnest.

50. The connexion of these with the administration of the internal affairs

Note on para. 207.  
Mookyastans.

is a relic of the immemorial and ancient form of polity. The existence of the body may become valuable still, but from what I have seen I doubt if at present, their influence is beneficial. It is too great, and it is said the bargains driven with their debtors are very hard. That efficient control so necessary as well to check as to render their assistance valuable is wanting. I have had opportunity of testing these assessors in the Canara Islands, and valuable as they are as assessors, and important as it is that they be so used, I must admit I have experienced considerable want of integrity. The native officials complain that the intrigues of these men complicate and retard business, and from what I saw I think that these remarks may be applicable to the same class of the Cannanore subjects. The people openly complained against them; and the expression "our Mookyastans and Karyakars are worse than our Rajah" was frequently used in open assembly. When I asked them what part they took in the administration of justice, they replied they sometimes were and sometimes were not present, and when the Karyakar fined a man, they begged off a portion. Instances were mentioned in Agaty where they had been the channel between the persons and the Karyakar. I should have heard more of these matters, but for the circumstance that principal people of Androt being charged with assault and murder in the Cowruchy case which frightened all, lest they should suffer for occurrences which might be considered irregular by me.

51. All release from confinement being accompanied by a fee to the Karyakar, the local judge, complaints are made that the power of punishment is put in practice for the sake of the customary fee (narsady).

The case of supposed murder was that of a child for her jewels. It took place in Kowraty, the victim was of the Chekyat Illat family, and the perpetrator of the Kalampelly family. The corpse was discovered, the perpetrator's house was "Cowrachied," and some jewels and a boat sold for or given to the victim's family, and the perpetrator's plantation of 8 to 10 trees was carried to the Pandaram account.

Note on para. 210.  
Instance of capital punishment.

52. The Belly Illat torture case, in which death and Cowruchy is said by the people of Agaty to have occurred, was for sorcery; and was committed many years ago.

It is difficult to say how frequently *Cowruchy* may have taken place on these islands, but it has been a species of punishment which is occasionally put in practice. While on the islands a case of the kind came judicially before me, which had created a great sensation. This I was unwilling to increase by formal inquiries; but I ascertained that a *Cowruchy* had really taken place; besides two or three others in Androt for offences against the Pandaram. In Kowraty, besides the *Cowruchy* in Chakyat Illat murder case, a Karyakar had, about eight days back, taken upon himself to *Cowruchy* a house, &c., for some fancied slight to himself. The property was restored, but the party stated that it cost him as much as it was worth.

53. The summary confiscation of 40 yards of land all round the shore of Kowraty is an instance. Others may admit of explanation. In Agaty the owner of a boat sold his boat to an inhabitant of Ameny for 80 rupees without leave; and I heard that he was called on to pay the whole sum to the Beebee of Cannanore, and eventually paid 10 or 15 rupees with fees to the Karyakar. The plea being that the sale of the boat to a Company's islander is an offence. The fact is certain; of the principle of the punishment I could not get an explanation. In Androt and Kalpenni the Pandaram land was assumed as Rajah's *jenmom* from the people. On the coast the value of improvements would have been allowed; not so here. I, however, intentionally avoided much enquiry into these circumstances. Last year some of the islanders of Agaty were supposed to have sold some coir to the captain of a Bagalah who had anchored off the island. One of them admitted having sold a small quantity, the other denied, but on proceeding with full freight of coir to Cannanore the coir of both was confiscated, and their persons placed in confinement, from which they escaped to Mangalore, and thence to the group by the boats of Amendevy. I induced the Karyakar to change this arbitrary proceeding into a fine, which has been done I believe. The fine was five candies of coir, value 120 to 125 rupees. I have little doubt some smuggling took place. The fine was, I think, excessive.

54. The confession on which the Androt *Cowruchy* was ordered was obtained by administering the test of bread, over which ceremonies had been performed by a member of a Sheik's family.

Note on para. 217.  
Support of monopolies.  
55. The prevention of smuggling will depend entirely on whether sanction be accorded by Government to the continuance of these restrictions or not.

Note on para. 219.  
Expedition to Maldives.  
56. This expedition was headed by Chak Karyakar and started from Kalpenni.

57. Gross misrepresentation took place from the beginning relative to the value of Minacoy. Its whole revenue is said to be included in the 2,400 rupees which the Beebee represented to be the value of all territorial possessions on the islands. But 2,000 rupees of this sum were admitted to be the rental of the Pandaram gardens on the four islands of the Laccadives proper, and probably the value of Minacoy was not disclosed at all at the conquest.

Meanwhile the whole plantation of the island ought probably to have been assessed against the Cannanore family, in addition to the profits of an exclusive trade; indeed the entire surplus produce of the island was probably in their hands at that time.

Note on para. 228. 58. I learnt, however, that the people have  
Falling off in revenues accounted for very little revenue for several years  
of Minacoy. past, and less than ever during the last year or two.

59. In the body of the paper I have given the amount of Pandaram pro-  
On Pandaram pro- perty on each island. The plantations are forfeited on  
perties. ancient waste. It appears that the Pandaram  
properties were formerly entrusted to the principal inhabitants of each  
island against a certain fixed sum chargeable on the islands and payable  
in coir. In this state Mr. Bentley seems to have found them in 1795, and  
from what I learned on the islands this system appears to have been main-  
tained till within a few years back. During this time the people improved  
these gardens under the hope of the lease being continued to them, or  
that, according to custom, improvements would be paid for.

60. In Androt the rent was at one time at 750 maunds of coir (37 candies  
at 65 rupees per candy), or 2,405 rupees; it was  
Androt. gradually raised to 1,200 and 1,500 maunds (60 to 75  
candies of coir); and still more lately to 2,000 maunds, when, as the people  
aver, they were thrown up as they were unable to pay the rate. The gardens  
have since (about five years ago) been under the management of the Kar-  
yakars, who pull and store the fruit. The nuts are sent to Cannanore, the  
husks are retailed for the manufacture of coir at 1½ maunds of coir per  
1,000 husks. I learnt that the sales are limited. What these gardens may  
have produced since this change it is impossible to say, but from the dis-  
satisfaction manifested by the Kariestan who accompanied me I conceive  
it must have been most unsatisfactory. It need only be said that no account  
of the number of the trees was in existence. These plantations thus seem  
to have been resumed by the Pandaram without remuneration for improve-  
ment according to the custom on the coast.

61. In Kalpeni the same conditions have prevailed; the rental of Pan-  
daram plantations was at one time 1,500 maunds (75  
Kalpeni. candies per annum), and was gradually raised. I did  
not learn whether the people voluntarily threw up the trees, or whether they  
were resumed, but for several years prior to the hurricane they were in  
the charge of the servants. The outturn, if what the Kariestan assured  
me be true, has proved unsatisfactory, being under a lakh of nuts per annum  
only.

In these two islands only has the Pandaram up to this time established  
clear possession and enjoyment of the trees claimed. In Kowraty a small  
portion only was actually in enjoyment; however great the desire of the  
Pandaram to obtain possession of the rest, it has not been possible to carry  
out the resumption. While in Agaty the waste is but imperfectly planted,  
and the Pandaram has not been able to establish itself in many of the  
gardens claimed, against the influence of their occupants, who also planted  
them out.

Suhely is said to produce about half a lakh of nuts per annum, and 30,000  
or 40,000 nuts are brought from Bingaram and Tingaram.

These gardens are closed to the people, and there can be no doubt that a  
better system would vastly benefit both parties.

62. The immemorial rates of freight are still current on the islands, and  
General Note. 10 per cent. of the article carried—whether coir  
&c., exported or rice imported in exchange for sur-  
Freight. plus produce—is levied as freight. The boat-owners  
are, therefore, materially affected by any change influencing the value of  
commodities. On the Company's Island, where general trade is free, the  
boat-owner secures 10 per cent. on the market value of all cargoes, coir  
excepted. On the Cannanore Islands 10 per cent. on the monopoly value

| Company's Island.                                                                                                 | RS. A. P. | Cannanore Island.                                                                                   | RS. A. P. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Freight of one candy<br>of coir, being 10<br>per cent. on net<br>receipts, about<br>Rs. 16-8-0 per<br>candy .. .. | 1 9 7     | Freight of one candy<br>of coir, being 10<br>per cent. on net<br>receipts, about Rs.<br>6-6-0 .. .. | 0 10 2    |
|                                                                                                                   |           | Difference being<br>about 150 per cent.<br>against Beebee's<br>subjects .. ..                       | 0 13 5    |
| Total ..                                                                                                          | 1 9 7     | Total ..                                                                                            | 1 9 7     |

only is obtained. A comparative marginal statement shows the relative position of the boat-owners on the Company's and Cannanore Islands in regard to freight on coir which is monopolised in both; the difference amounts to 150 per cent. Thus the carrying interest of the Cannanore Islands is very much behind that of the Company's Islands. Competition is strictly prohibited, otherwise it would ruin the Cannanore Island boat-owners.

63. The petty internal traffic of the Pandaram, the tobacco monopoly,  
Note on para. 133. collection of debts, fines, &c., lead to the accumulation  
Freight paid by Pan- of a considerable quantity of coir annually in the  
daram. Beebee's godowns on the islands, varying probably  
from 25 to 40 candies in each island. The portage of this coir to the coast  
is done by the people in their boats; but under conditions by which they  
consider themselves aggrieved. No boat starts without first freighting  
any quantity of the stored coir that may be ordered by the Karyakar; 5 to  
8 candies seem to be the usual quantity in each boat. Freight is allowed  
by the Pandaram at 6 per cent. of the coir itself. This coir is commuted  
into a rice payment at the monopoly rates, with all deductions for duty  
and expenses, which leaves the actual freight about  
From which more valu- 6½ seers of rice per candy. This amount is very  
able and return cargo 10 per cent. is taken. short of the freight paid on the same amount by an  
islander. The loss is, however, made up in part by the allowances described  
in Note 22.

The boat-owner is responsible for the full weight delivered by the Karyakar, and it is said that the loss by dryage on the passage is thrown on the boat-owner.

The Beebee pays no freight for any thing else. Her rice, generally  
amounting to a few hundred moodahs to each island,  
All other articles free of freight. must be delivered free of all charge. Thus on the  
more valuable and less bulky article the boat-owner gets no freight.

In the Company's Islands the Government does not interfere in any way with the freight of boats. No collections of coir whatever are made on the islands, and even judicial fines are paid by sureties on the coast.

On the Cannanore Islands all the coir, &c., is weighed on the island before export, in order that no smuggling may take place on the passage; and each bundle is made up to one maund. Having myself witnessed this process, I believe the delay ordinarily occasioned is fully two or three days besides the labor of double weighing and arranging, for it is again weighed at Cannanore. On the Company's Islands the coir is stowed in bulk and only weighed once for all at Mangalore.

R in Number 799-48.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,  
*Head Assistant Collector.*

## APPENDIX B.

## MEMORANDUM OF OFFICIAL RECORDS.

On the 11th April 1792 the Chief and Factors report the reduction of Beebee of Cannanore "by our arms," adding that "from motives of humanity she had been assured of the personal safety of herself and family, and that no part thereof shall ever be put under the authority of Tippoo, as she avers that the dread of his power and the influence of her husband were the causes of her conduct, which she has since severely repented. Her possessions about Cannanore are small, and it may be a matter of policy and conciliatory of the Mopillahs in general to permit her to retain these possessions. She has also several ships with which she trades to the Laccadives and to different parts in India. The customs at Cannanore have been likewise levied by her; your Lordship's orders on this point will be acceptable."

Beebee of Cannanore gave in a statement of the produce of her property on the coast, which was entered at 2nd May 1792. 30,000 pagodas in schedule appended to Treaty of Peace, 11th March 1792.

But the Commissioners added that the Beebee of Cannanore's "trade to the Laccadives is not taken into the account, which must produce a considerable annual income." They further reported that "the Beebee of Cannanore having deputed her Head Karyakar to compliment the Commissioners in her name, we took occasion to point out to him our superiors' expectation that the Beebee should, according to her ability, pay the Company a tribute for the possessions she enjoyed under their protection, representing to him, as had been done to the other Rajahs, their right of sovereignty acquired over her district, not by alliance but by conquest, and that it was no less reasonable that our superiors should participate of the advantages she acquired from the Maldive (*sic*) Islands, if Government should not think proper to take possession of them for the Company."

Chief to the Commissioners, dated 18th September 1792.

Extract from the Commissioners' Proceedings, September 24th, 1792.

Voucher 20.

On being called on relative to the above extract "to state what sum she was willing to pay as tribute for the possessions she held," the Beebee delivered a memorial in bar of payment of tribute, urging the smallness of her possessions on the coast and "few little islands," her friendship for the English, and the losses sustained by the storming of Cannanore in 1784 by General McLeod, and the

Joint Commissioners' Report, paragraph 21. In the early stages of the negotiation this plea attracted notice, and inquiry was held, but the result was most unsatisfactory; and although the plea was not considered "as constituting any obstacle to the Company's exercising their right and deriving every proper advantage from their acquired sovereignty over the islands," it was left to the decision of Governor-General to decide whether it should constitute any bar. On further inquiry, however, Mr. Handley reports, 15th February 1795, that the allegation was wholly groundless, and probably made with sinister views.

This episode is, therefore, of no importance, and as the records of the inquiry, &c., would swell this memorandum, all that relates exclusively to it is withdrawn, though allusions may be found which are hereby explained.

which showed "gardens on four islands, 600 Sultane Pagodas, at Rs. 4 each, 2,400." On this representation the Commissioners recorded a Minute, 19th October 1792, that Tippoo appears to have annually mulcted her on account of her personalities and gains of her trade, "and included these annual mulcts in the accounts of the talook Cannanore, which being rated at 30,000 pagodas, seems to warrant the supposition, as in the account delivered by Arsed Beg the territory of Cannanore is only valued at 15,000 rupees, which by the accounts received from the Beebee seems to be about the real value."

"Such, however, seems to have been the custom of Tippoo, and in this light of some annual mulcts she seems to have felt the proposal made to her of naming some specific sum to be paid to the Company as an equivalent for the landed property she held and for the exclusive trade she carried on to the Laccadive Islands; to lessen this as much as possible she endeavours to prove herself poor, and has for this purpose introduced in her memorial assertions to this effect." And it was agreed to refer to Governor in Council, with reference to General McLeod's proceedings, for decision on "the arguments founded thereon by the Beebee relative to the untaxed retention of the Laccadive Islands." They observed that "the benefit she derives from her islands, exclusive of the gardens valued at 2,400 rupees, are through the medium of trade; she supplies them with rice, cloths, &c., and receive in return the coir produced there at the low rate of Rupees 35

per candy; the annual quantity is estimated at about 600 candies, and the market price being about Rapees 65 to 70, leaves, after every deduction of charge, a handsome profit."

In a subsequent Minute the Commissioners observed that "the settlement of the tribute to be paid by the Beebee of Cannanore was chiefly delayed by the pretensions she put forward on mortgage of her islands."

And it was resolved to ascertain from the Governor (then at Calicut) whether the appeal had been determined on. And further to "recommend to the Governor as soon as practicable to enquire into the present state, not only of the four islands remaining with the Beebee, but also of the three islands said to have been formerly granted to Tippoo by the Beebee of Cannanore." It will be observed that all mention of the *fifth* island, Minacoy, is suppressed. And it is probable that it was not then known that one of the Maldives (Minacoy) was in the possession of the family.

It was further determined to call peremptorily on the Beebee "to treat for the future settlement of the country, as well as payment of all arrears since the date of the cession, in default of which the Commissioners will think it their duty to take such measures as may from her local resources secure the rights and dues of the Company."

On the above Minute the Governor intimated that "it was his intention on the return of the *Morning Star* to despatch Captain Pruem to make an accurate survey of those islands as recommended by the Commissioners."

According to the 3rd resolution of their Minute of 9th January, the Commissioners wrote to Beebee of Cannanore, 9th January 1793, peremptorily directing her to attend at Calicut, "in order that some settlement may be made, as well for what is past as for the future, or otherwise, if you continue to trifle with us any longer and withhold your payments (not 1 rupee having, since the cession of your town, country, and islands, been received in part of your revenue), we shall feel it incumbent on us, without further delay, to adopt the ready means which we have in our power to secure to the Honorable Company their undoubted rights under the cessions; but we hope that your conduct will not be such as to force us to any other measures than those of mildness, which we wish to observe towards you, so that you may be rendered happy under the equitable rule of the Honorable Company's Government. Your speedy answer is required."

In answer\* to the above the Beebee of Cannanore sent two Karyakars to treat, and expressed her hopes that "you will do me the favor to consider me as you do other Rajahs. I have entreated this favor of the General;" she further pleaded poverty.

\* The Beebee of Cannanore to the Commissioners, dated 18th January 1793.

In reply\* Commissioners direct her "forthwith to despatch the person best informed of the state of your revenues, and with whom you can entrust the arrangements to be made for the future settlement of the tribute you must pay to the Company, and for the liquidation of the heavy arrears now due, which we expect you will immediately prepare for."

All attempts to obtain any information about the islands proved abortive, and Mr. Duncan (Governor of Bombay) gave in an agreement, dated 26th February 1793, by the Beebee of Cannanore's two agents on her part, "to abide by the declaration on oath of Moossa (who is an inhabitant of Tellicherry, and a man of credit and to be depended on) as to the value of all the said Beebee's territories, as well as those on the continent as her islands; agreeing to pay whatever he shall deliver in, or whatever shall on inquiry be otherwise ascertained to be their value." But on being spoken to on the subject, Moossa "delivered himself as if he had only a coir account with the Beebee, and as if he had never been able to obtain possession of the Laccadive Islands so as to appropriate their full produce under his mortgage." And it appeared from the sequel that Moossa's statement could not be relied on, and it became impossible to use his accounts, &c., as a test of the probable annual value of the Laccadives. The whole representation turned out to be collusive.

This negotiation having failed, the interpreter was directed by the Commissioners to wait on the Beebee of Cannanore and "intimate to her that for the protection she might expect from the Honorable Company in future they must certainly look for an annual tribute suitable to the value of her possessions at Cannanore and at the Laccadives, and to recapitulate the grounds of these just and reasonable claims."

He reported having done so, and explained to her the difference of her position as a "conquered foe, whose possessions were all forfeited by right of conquest, whereas the other chiefs had entered into the war as allies," and reminded her that she had paid nothing since the termination of the war. And added that "the Beebee readily admitted the Company's title to a participation of what her possessions and trade yielded." She also tendered a moiety of what she was prepared to make oath, her territorial possessions yielded "together with 10,000 rupees as a similar share of the produce and commercial advantages accruing from the Laccadive Islands," which "tribute" was, she stated, the full extent she could afford.

The Commissioners were dissatisfied with this offer on the ground that—

Abstract of Voucher No. 63.

Negotiation with Beebee of Cannanore for adjustment of past and future revenue.

Proceedings, 11th April 1793.

1st.—Because the territorial produce was understated (afterwards cleared up satisfactorily); and

2ndly.—Because the value of her islands "and the number of candies of coir which they annually produced was now stated by her at only 700, whereas there is good reason to suppose they yielded some years ago nearly 2,000 annually."

They, therefore, directed Mr. Lafrenais to expostulate and inform the Beebee "that unless she made more reasonable offers, we should be obliged to sequester all her territories as well on the peninsula as in the Laccadives and Maldives, and that as she possesses no claims on the Company, but had, on the contrary shown her ill will and ingratitude towards them in more than one instance, so she could not flatter herself, and would not in fact find that we would be inclined to relinquish or to sacrifice any of the rights of conquest acquired over her and her estate by our Government, and that, therefore, her only resource was to conciliate its good will by fair and liberal concessions on her part."

Mr. Lafrenais reported, with reference to first point, a satisfactory explanation. And, with reference to second point, that the Beebee affirmed that "the produce of the islands, even before three of them were transferred to Tippoo, never exceeded 1,000 candies of coir, and defies the contrary to be proved," and that she abided by her then made statement.

Commissioners then proceeded to consider the assets.

Among the territorial possessions were enumerated—

N.B.—In the first schedule four islands only are mentioned, probably Minacoy was not contemplated. If Minacoy be included this statement must be wrong; the gardens on four islands alone Ensign Bentley found let for 2,000 rupees.

"Laccadive gardens, being on the five islands that now remain with the Beebee, producing 600 Sultanee Pagodas, at 4 rupees each, 2,400," this sum, together with other territorial possessions on the coast, made up an actual territorial income of 8,680 rupees, of which one-half represented the demand.

As to her trade they remarked that the Beebee asserts that her profits "do not exceed 20,000 rupees per annum. But of this last article she has delivered as yet no particular statement, though she has offered, as already observed, to Mr. Lafrenais to make oath to the truth of it, as well as to the accuracy of the above statement of her land revenues.

On consideration of all the difficulties of the case, the Commissioners came to determination on the 9th April 1793 "to cause the Beebee to pay up the half of the revenues she acknowledges as above to be in possession of for the two years, 966 and 967, that have passed since the last conquest of her fort, and to make her at the same time enter into a written engagement, subjecting her entire possessions in the Laccadives to be sequestered by Government, if on our report that shall be deemed an advisable measure by our superiors.

"The sum thus in immediate demand from the Beebee is as follows :—

"1st.—Half of her acknowledged land.

|                                                | RS.    | A. | P. |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| Income on the continent and islands ...        | 4,340  | 6  | 1½ |
| "2nd.—Ditto ditto from her commercial profits. | 10,000 | 0  | 0  |
|                                                | 14,340 | 6  | 1½ |
| which for 976 and 977 makes...                 | 28,680 | 12 | 3  |

"The Beebee is likewise to sign the following written engagement, which is also to be witnessed by her principal Agent or Minister, Coonjee Puckee :—

"I, Beebee Balea, the Princess of Cannanore and of the Laccadive Islands, &c., do acknowledge and give in writing that I will pay to the Government of the Honorable English East India Company the moiety of whatever is the produce of my country according to the funds thereof; and out of the 20,000 rupees annual profit which I reap from my trade with the Laccadives I am also to pay the half to Government, besides which I do stipulate to pay in like manner the half of whatever further income or profits from the said lands or trade shall be hereafter ascertained to accrue to me by the inquiries of the officers of Government.

"And as it has been signified to me that after the rains a gentleman is to proceed to the Laccadives to sequester them for the advantage of the Honorable Company's Government, and to appropriate to the use of the said Government all the produce thereof, I do, therefore, engage to submit also to this if it shall be ordered by the Governor-General in Council; neither shall I in any shape object thereto or otherwise; if it be so ordered I shall be ready to account for the true income and produce and to pay the same to Government, wherefore I have written these few lines as a mochulka for the revenue of Government."

Mr. Duncan informed the Commissioners that he "has sent his Interpreter Mahomed Hossin to the Beebee's house to see her execute the engagement as above recorded," and reported to the Commission "that the Beebee of Cannanore has duly executed the engagement, subjecting her islands to be sequestered by Government, and her other funds to further inquisition according to the translation thereof entered in the proceedings." And, further, that she had agreed in writing to pay

Rupees 28,680-12-3, the arrear of revenue due for the Malabar years 966 and 967.

The views of the Commissioners are stated at length in paragraph 243 of their report. After referring the decision on the alleged mortgage, the Joint Commissioners

notice the wide difference between the estimate of income from territorial possessions and profits of trade, as returned by the Beebee of Cannanore, and the information which the Joint Commissioners had

before them; from which it appeared that the islands supplied annually 2,000 candies of coir instead of 700 as now averred by the Beebee of Cannanore. They proceed: "Mean-

while we took an engagement from the Beebee, binding her to pay to the Honorable Company the moiety of what she had, as above noticed, stated to be her public income from the revenue in kind and in money, and the commercial products of her estates, both which, taken at her present estimates, amount in favor of Government to Rupees 14,340-6-1½, of which we also thought it fair, and did therefore insist (in view to the peculiarity of her situation as a conquered enemy) on her paying the arrears for the two years of 960 and 967 that had elapsed since the last reduction of her country by Sir Robert Bercromby, although none of the other Malabar Chiefs have been required to pay any thing to Government prior to the beginning of 968; as we still retained considerable doubts that the Beebee had not delivered a full account of her receipts and profits from the Laccadives, and thought it probable that your Lordship might wish, for several reasons, to have those islands explored, we caused to be inserted in the engagement from the Beebee a clause binding her generally to the payment of the moiety of whatever is, or shall be, ascertained to be the produce of her country, including the half proportion of the profit that she reaps from her trade with the Laccadives; and further reciting that, as we had, in consequence of the doubts above suggested, announced to her the determination of Government to send, after the rains, a proper person into those islands to sequester them for the advantage of the Honorable Company's Government, and to appropriate to the use of the said Government all the produce thereof, she doth also engage to submit and conform without objection to this disposition, if such shall be ordered by your Lordship in Council, or to be ready, if called upon for that purpose, to account for (what we caused to be termed) the true increase and full produce, and to pay the same to Government, to whom we have thus preserved the right of making every further scrutiny that may be deemed advisable, which may eventually compensate for the trifling amount of the Beebee's engagements; concerning which we shall in this place only further remark that, however inadequate they may appear when compared with the 30,000 pagodas of Tippoo's schedule, yet it was not without a considerable degree of perseverance and some show of determination on our part that we were able to conclude with her even as we have done; for, independent of the paucity of her apparent means, her situation, as a subdued and widowed princess at the head of a young family, and revered by all the Malabar Mopillahs as the chief of their tribe, render her at once an object of compassion and respect; and she had so well availed herself of these laudable grounds of general sympathy towards her (in which we confess that we participate) as, aided by the pleas

which in combination with Moossa she set up relative to the Laccadives, to have hitherto avoided paying any thing whatever to Government for the period of upwards of two years that had elapsed since the last reduction of her country by the British arms; which arrear we have, however (as already noticed), thought it our duty to cause her to account for at the same rate with the current year's revenue, so that up to September 1793 she will have paid about 43,000 rupees to the Company's Government."

The settlement of the Joint Commissioners above detailed was in arrear for 967 and 968. For the next year, the Supervisor to Northern Superintendent, 25th January 1794. Supervisor directed that a similar settlement be made "for the year 969; and that the sum of Rupees 10,000 be levied for our half of the exclusive trade to the islands and 1,200 for her gardens—this being half of 2,400, at which she values them."

And the Beebee of Cannanore expressed herself "very willing to pay immediately whatever that taluq may be assessed for the Malabar year 969, and also the 10,000 rupees for her exclusive trade to the Laccadives." The settlements for the first three years were provisional.

The Governor-General reviewed the Commissioners' report in 1794 and observed (paragraph 40) that "the next article that is left by the report to the consideration and orders of this Government relates to the estate of the Beebee of Cannanore on the peninsula and in the Laccadive Islands; and more especially to the exercise of the Company's rights in virtue of the Beebee's state of subjection during the late war, and of her engagement entered into with the Commissioners (as per the 246th paragraph of the general report) to take possession of such of these islands as still remain to her, being those that had not been, previously to the breaking out of the late war, occupied by Tippoo Sultan." Enough had been elicited, he observed, in reference "to the plea founded on the pledge deed, to destroy any important remaining degree of force and validity to a deed which from the first does not seem to have been acted on, or conformed to, by the parties themselves in respect even to the mode or price of the

Extracts and abstracts from the review of the Governor-General in Council of Joint Commissioners' report on Malabar, dated 27th March 1794, to Governor of Bombay.

This was furnished by Mr. Handley's report, 15th February 1795. Further mention unnecessary.

future receipts of the coir, which is the object of it." But he directed (paragraph 42) that further information be furnished relative to Chowakara Moossa's allegation. It was further ordered (paragraph 43) that "whilst these inquiries are proceeding—after advising the Beebee of our instructions, requiring her concurrence and co-operation in their execution—you will depute an intelligent and duly qualified person or persons in one of your

cruizers to proceed to and make as full an investigation as possible into the state and produce of such of the Laccadive Islands as remain still under the Beebee's government; the report of which investigation we request you to transmit to us, together with the result of the other two heads of inquiry above pointed out, whereupon we may ultimately decide relative to their future management, as well as concerning the annual revenue which the Beebee of Cannanore can on the whole be permanently assessed with to the Company."

The *Queen Ketch* was placed at the disposal of the Supervisor for employment on the survey of the Laccadives; and he applied for the services of Ensign Bentley of the Engineers "to examine into the present state thereof with respect to population, extent, natural produce, trade and manufactures." And the Beebee of Cannanore was requested to send persons acquainted with the navigation to conduct the ship to the islands, and to give orders for such assistance as the Commission might require.

Lieutenant Bentley was directed to report "as soon after your arrival as you shall be enabled to give the information, whether or not the service is likely to proceed without any material obstructions either on the part of the inhabitants or from the secret influence of the Beebee's Agents." And he was directed carefully to avoid landing on or interfering with the inhabitants of Tippoo's islands. His instructions proceeded: "you will perceive that a particular knowledge of the natural products of those sequestered isles, their quantity and value constitutes a primary object of the wishes of Government. Every information you can procure on this head, as well as in regard to their general state in point of population, government, trade, and manufactures, will prove of importance, and must, therefore, claim your occasional attention."

Lieutenant Bentley started on the 4th and made the islands on the 6th January 1795; and reported having "since been employed in examining the natural produce of the island, inquiring into its trade, government, and manufactures, and in surveying its circumference." He promised further report, and added that he had "every reason to expect the service will be carried forward with the utmost facility, and that it will secure every assistance in his (the Beebee's man's) power to afford."

Lieutenant Bentley made his report on his return from the island which he prefaced by a few remarks on Tippoo's islands. *Ameny*, he learnt, contained about 1,000 inhabitants and manufactured 350 to 400 candies

Supervisor's instructions to Ensign Bentley, dated 2nd January 1795.

From Ensign Bentley to Supervisor, dated Androt, 11th January 1795.

Ensign Bentley's report, submitted 12th April 1795.

of coir. *Kiltan* and *Chetlat* contained each about 100 souls, and manufactured 36 candies of coir each. *Kadamut* was uninhabited and unplanted.

Abstract thereof. Lieutenant Bentley reported more fully on the Beebee of Cannanore's Islands.

*Agaty*, he found, produced cocoanut, castor-oil plant and plantain, with popay. Population consisted of 180 families, supposed to number about 900 souls. The manufactures consisted of coir, oil, mats, chunam. The exports comprised of 250 candies of coir and few cowries, jaggery, &c. And the establishment consisted of a Karyakar and Writer, whose pay was respectively four maunds of rice to Karyakar and two to Writer, who also receive certain contributions from the people.

He inspected the uninhabited islands of *Bingaram* and *Tingaram*, for the produce of which a sum to the amount of 400 rupees (paid in coir) was charged against the people of *Agaty* on account of these islands and of Beebee of Cannanore's other property. No compensation is made for labor.

*Androt* (Anderoo) produced, he found, besides the above, also breadfruit trees, coarse grain, cuddapilas or *Morinda citron* tree. The population was 250 families, comprising about 1,250 souls. Beebee's private property was charged on the people at a rental of 400 rupees per annum. Exports were 350 candies of coir, jaggery, &c. Imports rice, &c. The establishment and its expenses were the same as in *Agaty*—with similar cesses.

*Kowraty* (Cabuty) is described as similar to the other islands in every respect. Vegetable products were cocoanut, breadfruit, and lime trees, coarse grain, &c. Population consisted of 200 families, or about 1,000 souls. He found the principal people of *Kowraty* charged with a sum of 400 rupees per annum for Beebee's property on the island. Exports consisted of 300 candies of coir, some cowries, jaggery, &c. Imports rice, salt, tobacco, &c. The establishment was the same as elsewhere—with similar allowances, and the same contributions from the people.

*Kalpenni* was peopled by 270 families, or about 1,350 inhabitants. He found the islanders charged in the sum of 400 rupees (paid in coir or cowries) on account of Beebee's property. Exports consisted of 350 candies of coir and cowries. He found that the same restrictions of trade and disadvantageous rates of payment obtained everywhere. The Karyakar of this island being an inhabitant was on half the usual allowances, but he was exacting the same cesses as the foreign officials on other islands.

Lieutenant Bentley visited *Minacoy* and found it physically similar to the other islands. Vegetable products were, however, more various. Breadfruit, lime, plantain, supary, and junglewood grew readily. The population consisted of 400 families of 2,000 persons. The internal management was on the same footing as on the other islands, the

Beebee's property being under the Karyakar, who manufactured the produce at the expense of the people, and remitted from 600 or 800 rupees annually. The exports amounted to about 400 candies of coir, cowries, dried fish. The islanders had twelve bouts in which they traded with Bengal.

Lieutenant Bentley reported that great care had been taken in getting the information which he collected and believed to be correct. He showed that the annual export of coir must at that time have been at least 1,560 candies. The information obtained relative to the cowry trade was deficient.

Lieutenant Bentley carefully ascertained the state of the people's feelings towards the Beebee's government and their expectation from the British; and reported:

"The general information I received respecting those islands I had at Underoo from one of the chief men of the island, named Cootiassa; with this I had every reason to be satisfied, as in all material points it perfectly agreed with the particular information I received at the different islands. This man, after expressing to me in strong terms the miseries to which the oppression of the Beebee had reduced the inhabitants, declared that from the surrender of Cannanore they had expected the arrival of the English at the islands, and that from such interference alone could they hope for a comfortable subsistence to themselves and families.

"I very particularly inquired at every island into those circumstances to which he had forcibly drawn my attention, and I everywhere found the same misery amongst the people, and the same anxious confidence of relief from the interference of the English."

In submitting Mr. Bentley's report to the Government, the Supervisor remarked: "It is scarcely necessary to mention that the inhabitants of the islands wish for and expect to be relieved from their sufferings in consequence of the monopoly of their coir manufactures by the Beebee of Cannanore, and that many advantages must result to the Company by allowing freedom of trade to the islanders; indeed I am persuaded it will appear equally just as necessary to rescue from oppression an industrious and considerable portion of newly acquired subjects a measure, considering their inclination and interests, of easy accomplishment, although, of course, the Beebee would expect some compensation for the loss of the most lucrative branch of her commerce."

In reply the Governor of Bombay stated that "he is of opinion that the inhabitants of the islands ought to be relieved from the oppressions of the Beebee of Cannanore, and allowed the same freedom of trade as the subjects in the province of Malabar enjoy, and the same has been submitted to the consideration of Governor-General."

From Secretary to Government to Supervisor, dated 9th June 1795.

Recorded 7th July.

Lieutenant Bentley's report was submitted\* by the Governor in Council

\* Letter 30th May 1795.

† Dated Fort William, 27th July 1795.

Recorded September 28th.

of Bombay to Governor-General of India, whose reply† acknowledges its receipt, and "adverting to the objects of this survey, the confirmation resulting from it of the grievances sustained by the inhabitants of the above islands, and the Supervisor's remarks upon it in his letter of the 15th April, we cannot hesitate to direct, in compliance with your recommendation, that the monopoly of the trade of the several islands dependent on Cannanore be immediately abolished, and that the duties on imports from them, as well at Cannanore as at other ports on the Malabar Coast, be regulated in like manner with the duties on imports from other places.

"Our conquest of the territory of Cannanore, as well as the subsequent cession from Tippoo Sultan and the agreement entered into by the Beebee with the Commissioners, will fully authorise adoption of this measure, and moiety of the duties hereafter levied at Cannanore is the utmost the Beebee, under her agreement, can be entitled.

"It may, however, in consequence of the abolition of the present monopoly of their trade, and of the correction of all oppressive abuses of authority on the islands, be practicable and just to make some addition to the direct revenue which the Beebee now draws from them. This revenue, which appears to arise from the produce of lands, the immediate property of the Beebee, on the different islands, is stated by Mr. Bentley to amount on the whole to Rupees 2,400, which corresponds with the account given by the Beebee herself to the Commissioners, and on which her revenue to the Company was fixed at an half as stated in No. 63 of the Appendix to their general report. Previous, however, to any determination on this head, we propose that the Supervisor be instructed to consult with the Beebee on the best mode of managing her several islands in future, and to settle with her such plan as may appear most conducive to the ease and security of the inhabitants, and, at the same time, as beneficial to the Beebee and the Company in point of rent and revenue as a due regard to her rights and those of the islanders (computed to be in number about 6,500) will admit, reserving for the Company a moiety only of the total amount receivable by the Beebee in strict conformity to her stipulation."

On receipt of these instructions, the Supervisor addressed the Beebee of Cannanore:

"In consequence of the accounts transmitted by me to the Governments of Bombay and Bengal of the state of the Laccadive Islands, the Supreme Government has deemed it just to meliorate the condition of the islanders, and to place them on a footing with the Company's subjects in Malabar by abolishing the monopoly of the trade of the

several islands dependent on Cannanore, and regulating the duties on import from them in the same manner as from other places. Should, however, the measure diminish the revenue on which the share payable by you to the Company was fixed, it may be necessary to make some alteration in the jumma received from you, and also to make other arrangements to secure the safety and ease of the inhabitants, and make them as beneficial as possible to you and the Company, for which purposes I shall, as soon as my present time may admit, meet you at Cannanore; and for the present you can send me a confidential minister well acquainted with the islands. I may be able to prepare some plan to embrace the objects above recited."

In reporting the purport of the above address to the Beebee of Cannanore to the Governor of Bombay, the Supervisor added: "I likewise propose despatching one of the first express boats that may arrive on this coast from the Presidency to the Laccadive with proper persons to impart to the islanders the favorable intentions of Government towards them, as well as the intended agreement of measures here of their relief and future security."

The above correspondence passed in the latter end of September, and early in November the Governor of Bombay himself appears to have been on the coast. The Beebee of Cannanore applied to him direct, praying\* that an interview might be allowed to her at such place as he might direct to enable her to lay her grievances before him. But the Governor had not time for a personal interview, and referred her to the local officers, who would report

\* To Honorable the Governor (at Calicut), from Beebee of Cannanore, dated 14th November 1795.

† To the Beebee of Cannanore, dated 24th November 1795.

"the particulars of your situation, and also make some adjustment with you relative to the Laccadive Islands. And you may rely that, consistently with the Honorable Company's rights and the general welfare of the inhabitants, your situation will always be duly attended to."

From the proceedings of the Governor it appears that "the Beebee of Cannanore came nevertheless to Calicut, in consequence of which the following proceedings took place:—Went this day to visit the Beebee

"November 28th, 1795. First visit to the Beebee of Cannanore."

of Cannanore and urged her to pay up her balance, which she said she would do but that she had a claim on the customs, and was only in arrear like the other Rajahs of Malabar; she then delivered a letter containing the particulars of all her claims, to which she requested an answer," in which she

Complained, *firstly* of the enhancement of the jumma made on her coast territorial possessions by Mr. Handley for M.K. 969, although the collection of customs had

Abstract of the petition.

been assumed on account of the Company that year, and urges, that her representation, to be allowed the same indulgences as the other Malabar Rajahs; had not met with support.

2ndly.—Urged her claims on the Rajah of Cherikul on various counts, and among others for the land granted to her by Tippoo in exchange for the Ameny Island of the Laccadives; and

3rdly.—That in October last your petitioner received a letter from the Supervisor, saying the Company wish to have the trade of the island, and ordered your petitioner to send a man of sense to Calicut to settle this; your petitioner is a woman whose distress are many, and from this all her people who formerly managed her concerns have left the service, and is alone without help or friends that can assist her; therefore your petitioner relies on your honor for support in her right and for a maintenance for herself and for her distressed children, and that they may enjoy that protection which has been given them by the Company.

“On my taking leave of the Beebee she requested I would send a person of confidence to her to discuss the several subjects of her application since, as she observed, she could not expect I would come every day.

“In reference to the Beebee of Cannanore’s request of yesterday, referred her application to Lieutenant-Colonel Dow, to whom I delivered the following memorandum of instructions:—

*“Memorandum for Lieutenant-Colonel Dow.*

“I refer you to the Beebee of Cannanore’s address to me on the several points she wishes to have settled; and as all these points are discussed in the Commissioner’s report, I wish you to take each of them up from the information therein contained, and adding thereto the proceedings since held, which Mr. Rickards can furnish you with, to discuss their adjustment with the Beebee accordingly, and to let me know what may be advisable in respect to the several points thus at issue.

“Besides which it is my wish to obtain from the Beebee her full assent to the introduction of our Government into and over the Laccadives, as she has, indeed, long ago engaged for, whenever it shall be demanded, and to engage her more willing assent it may be stipulated that she shall still retain all her own landed property therein (as per particulars thereof included in the schedule on the Commissioners’ proceedings, and referred to in their report) free of revenue, in all time to come, and she will, of course, remain at liberty to trade thither in common with the Company’s other subjects; and the request she makes in her address above referred to, about her lands in Randutura, may also be in that case acceded to, provided you find it absolutely necessary to obtain her consent as to the Laccadives.”

To Honorable J. Colonel Dow reported the result of this mission  
Duncan, 1st December 1795. on the 1st December 1795.

“I have waited on the Beebee of Cannanore and discussed the several points contained in her address to you, together with the proposition concerning the admission of our Government over the Laccadive Islands.

“During the two conferences I had on these subjects with the Beebee I found her perfectly adverse to resign the sovereignty of the islands, and she explicitly declared that she would never give her willing assent to this demand; she expressed a due respect and submission to the commands of the Company; she declared her readiness to receive any regulations that Government might think necessary for the island, but insisted that all judicial order relative to them should be communicated through her, for the faithful execution of which she would be responsible.

“She urged on this head that it was not for the sake of revenue she opposed herself to your wishes, although she allowed this was an important object for her family, but her chief motive proceeded from the disgrace which would appear in the eyes of the country to be inflicted on her. I held out all the advantages that would be insured to her provided she cheerfully assented to the introduction of our Government, but without effect; and I was only able to obtain that she would choose ten persons, out of which number we might select one, and give him instructions as may be judged proper. This proposition came from herself.

“On the whole I would take the liberty of recommending, that this medium measure should be accepted until we have leisure to ascertain more fully the nature and value of the Laccadive Islands, as it appears very problematical at present whether their produce would defray the expenses of a regular government. This would also give time to bring the Beebee into our views and dissipate her fears, for she is now evidently alarmed that we have other designs, besides the mere introduction of our Government. It is almost impossible, and time alone can make her comprehend our liberal and enlightened policy.”

To Honorable J. Colonel Dow again addressed the Governor  
Duncan, 5th December 1795. more fully.

“The Beebee certainly did not agree to admit a free trade into her islands, but on the contrary expressed an aversion to the measure, which I did not press upon her, as there was no appearance of her present acquiescence. Hereafter I have no doubt but she may be brought into this and many other beneficial views.

“Being well acquainted how apt those people are to recede from their engagement, I took the precaution to carry Lieutenant Walker with me in the several meetings I have had with this lady.”

*Verbal Agreement of Addey Rajah Beebee to Lieutenant Walker.*

"I, Addey Rajah Beebee, do hereby declare that I give my willing assent to the following particulars, viz. :—

"I fully and freely consent that a person may be deputed, by the Honorable Company, to the Laccadive Islands, to reside there, in order to ascertain their revenues, commerce, government, and to examine into all circumstances relating to the products of those islands. I also promise to order the inhabitants of the Laccadive Islands to furnish information on the above points without reserve, and to assist, as much as lays in their power, the objects of the inquiry.

"I have entered into this agreement under the fullest confidence that the English Government have no unjust views on my privileges, but on the contrary, by admitting a person to examine everything deliberately, my situation will be rendered secure and permanent."

It cannot be gathered from the records why this negotiation was broken off, or whether any steps were taken to carry out these concessions, so far as they went—probably not. A reference was made to Bombay\* to ascertain whether any further correspondence existed on the subject; but the reply† shows that it does not appear whether Mr. Stevens, the Supervisor, met the Beebee of Cannanore for the purpose mentioned in his letter of the 30th September 1795 to the Beebee of Cannanore, or whether she deputed any person, as directed.

*Difficulty in realising the revenue from the Beebee of Cannanore.*

From the correspondence noted in the margin it appears that under a jumma bundy made by Mr. Handley in 1793, in accordance with the original agreement with the Joint Commissioners, which subjected her territories to further scrutiny, the assessment on the Beebee of Cannanore's coast properties was enhanced by about 2,000 rupees per annum for the year 1769-70. To this enhancement she objected, and further claimed to be placed on the same footing as other Rajahs of Malabar in respect to Malikhannah allowance of one-fifth from the revenues of her estates and quinquennial lease. The Superintendent reported that—

"Although repeatedly informed in personal conferences that it was in vain for her to expect to be placed on the same footing as the other Native Chiefs (agreeable to the request contained in her first letter) from

causes which she must well know, still she persists in urging this point in her subsequent correspondence." It appeared further that there is an arrear for 969 (1795), being a balance of nearly one-fifth

of the revenue, "which it is very probable she retains till she receives a final answer to her first letter, and as she by no means seems to rest satisfied with what I have informed her;" measures had to be taken to enforce prompt payment of these arrears, and a plan of binding her to future regularity by signed agreement was carried out.

The same irregularity, however, recurred in respect to the payment of revenues in 1796, and the same objections and claims were persisted in. Most voluminous correspondence appears on record between the Beebee of Cannanore and the local officers on what she conceived to be her grievances, &c., and in respect to the collection of the outstanding balance. At length a severe warning\* had to be given: "We have already been so explicit

as to the positive inadmissibility of the Rajahs and Chiefs being allowed to run one year in arrear on their quinquennial lease to Rajah of Cherikul, and the Beebee of Cannanore should be informed that if they find any difficulty in fulfilling the terms of their respective engagements, the Company will have no objection to the resuming the managements of the collections and relieving them from the burthen, and that if a ready compliance be not yielded to the former the latter will be insisted on."

The communication of these sentiments† to Beebee of Cannanore elicited a memorial‡ in which she repeated her grievances and claims seriatim.

She objected 1st to the enhancement (about 2,000 rupees) of the jumma on her possessions on the coast made by Mr. Handley in 1793, which raised her demand (10,000 rupees as a moiety of profits on Laccadive trade inclusive) to 16,237 rupees, instead of 14,340 rupees as it had been fixed in arrear for the two years, 1791-92, by the Joint Commissioners and continued for M.K. 968 (A.D. 1793).

From Northern Superintendent, dated 20th July 1795.

From Beebee of Cannanore, to Northern Superintendent, dated 15th April 1796.

From Beebee of Cannanore, to Northern Superintendent, dated 12th September 1796.

From Beebee of Cannanore, to Mr. Coward, dated 12th September 1796.

From Beebee of Cannanore, to Mr. Coward, dated 20th September 1796.

From Beebee of Cannanore, to Mr. Coward, dated 29th August 1796.

From Beebee of Cannanore, to Mr. Coward, dated 1st October 1796.

From Northern Superintendent, to Beebee of Cannanore, dated 6th April 1796.

From Northern Superintendent, to Beebee of Cannanore, dated 4th August 1796.

From Northern Superintendent, to Beebee of Cannanore, dated 11th September 1796.

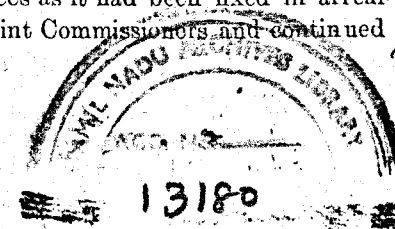
From Northern Superintendent, to Commissioner, dated 7th September 1796.

\* Commissioner to Northern Superintendent, dated 18th September 1796, 2nd para.

† Northern Superintendent to Beebee of Cannanore, dated 25th September 1796.

‡ Dated 4th October 1796.

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2nd.—To pay duty on coir, half of the profits of which she pays to Company.

3rd.—She claimed to be placed on the same footing as the Achans of Rahandatura with reference to her jumma on those lands.

4th.—She revised her differences with the Rajah of Cherikul; first, about Canatoor and Coruchella; second, about certain properties in Cherikul; and, thirdly, claimed that he be made to give up certain lands made over to her in virtue of Tippoo's Sanad in lieu of four islands on the Laccadives which he had resumed.

5th.—Prayed to be placed on the same footing as other Rajahs of Malabar.

In consultation\* the Commissioners resolved, "in order to put an end to difficulties of this kind in the realisation of the revenue now due and what may become due in future," to issue directions to Northern Superintendent to revise Mr. Handley's enhancement of the jumma which was fixed by the Joint Commissioners for 966-67 (in arrears) and continued for 968.

Commissioners to Northern Superintendent, 8th October 1796. "We have to desire that you will examine the ground and particulars thereof, which you must, of course, find upon the records of your division so as to form a judgment whether the increase upon the Commissioners' original settlement is such as can be reasonably defrayed by the Beebee, and upon your adjusting thus much with the Beebee, we shall recommend it for the sanction of Government; but to prevent all further altercation, the Beebee must, after this further scrutiny into the state of her revenue funds, execute an engagement binding herself in a fixed payable amount to Government, from which, in as far as it shall be sanctioned by the Honorable the President in Council, there will be no future deviation."

"2. You will perceive by the original arrangement with the Commissioners that she is entitled to no remission of customs; none will, therefore, be admitted. Her claim to one-fifth share of the revenue is equally unfounded, since she cannot pretend to the privileges enjoyed by the Malabar Chiefs who co-operated with, instead of opposing us, as she did in the late war. Her right as one of the Achemars of Randaterra is discussed in the enclosures of our letter of the 18th ultimo. This will be admitted to the extent described in those instructions, but Canatoor and Canotchalla have, we believe, been already committed to the exclusive management of a Tahsildar on our part, and confirmed by Government on account of the bitter animosity and disputes that it occasioned between the Beebee and her neighbour, the Rajah of Cherikul. We wish this arrangement in regard to Canatoor and Canotchalla to be continued. And we shall, moreover, write to the Beebee the purport of these instructions, to the end that such an agreement be now made

with her as to prevent all further altercation about the terms of her tenure under the Company's Government."

A letter was written to the Beebee of Cannanore, in reply to her

Dated 8th October 1796. memorial of 4th October, informing her, with reference to the disputed jumma, that the Commissioners had "now directed Mr. Peile to inquire into this difference, and to settle thereon, in conjunction with you a permanent jumma, from which, if it receives the sanction of Government, there will be no deviation hereafter. According to the arrangement that shall be thus fixed between you and Mr. Peile, you must, therefore, sign an *Ekrarnama* to prevent future altercation. As to Canatoor and Canotchalla, the management of these small districts must remain in the hands of the Company's Tahsildar to prevent the violent disputes that have occurred on this subject between you and the Cherikul Rajah. I do not find that you are entitled, by your original agreement, to any remission of customs; these duties must, therefore, continue to be collected on your goods in like manner as upon those of every other trader within the Company's limits in Malabar. By your original agreement you are not entitled either to a fifth share of the assessable revenue; this indulgence cannot, therefore, be granted. And as to your claims of being put upon the same footing with the other Rajahs of Malabar, I must beg leave to observe that it is not reasonable in you to expect it, since you must remember that we found the other Rajahs, our friends and allies, at the commencement of the late war with Tippoo Sultan, whereas you were in the opposite state of a declared enemy, whom we were obliged to conquer. As it has been settled between you and the first Commissioners that you should enjoy your *jenmom* lands in the district of Rhandaterra on the same terms as are granted to the other Achens, I have only to add that Mr. Peile has been instructed to admit of this indulgence towards you; at the same time I cannot help expressing my hope that you will, on your part, similarly acquiesce in the terms I now propose to you."

The Commissioners explained their action on the Beebee of Cannanore's memorial, dated 4th October 1796, to Government by stating that while, under a regard to her present and past situation, they could by no means consider her entitled to any of the exemptions or privileges claimed by her; yet, "considering that what the Beebee terms her grievances have for years back constituted a pretty general series of unadjusted representation and reference, it has occurred to us to be much better to put a final stop to all altercation upon this subject for the future by causing the Superintendent, after investigation of the grounds of the difference between the late Commissioners and Mr. Handley's settlement, to determine upon one fixed and perma-

ment payable jumma on which an *Ekrarnama* should be executed by the parties, and contain express stipulations as to every point of her present claims, or as she terms them grievances."

The Northern Superintendent reported his negotiation with the Beebee on the various points, laid down for his guidance. As to the settlement of the third point (relinquishment of her pretended rights in being considered in the light of the Malabar Rajahs so far as being allowed one-fifth of her collections), he reported that he found as much difficulty as he did on the fourth (her right to the disputed Terrahs of Canatoor and Canotchalla). "However," he adds, "I was fortunate enough to prevail upon her to give them both up, but with a kind of reservation on the latter head, and on which she seemed, with much feeling, to lay a great stress, she was very willing the Company should for ever consider them as their own and make the collections without any claim on her part, but that she never could consent that the Cherikul should be put in possession of the two Terrahs; this I assured her I would recommend in the most pointed manner.

"On the second point (the exemption from customs) it was settled that on all articles of merchandize, save coir imported from the Laccadives, she would most willingly pay the customs as a merchant. Her reason for not agreeing to pay the customs on coir as above was that when the original agreement was made that she should pay 10,000 rupees per annum for the half share profit on her trade to the islands, the customs were then in her own hands. This objection appeared to me very reasonable, and as the amount upon an average for the last three years is not more than 150 rupees per annum, I think I can, without any impropriety, recommend that the customs on this article may not be insisted upon.

"The settlement of the jumma which had been fixed at 16,237½ rupees (including the half of her profit on her trade to the Laccadives 10,000 rupees per annum, and half her *jenmom* property in those islands 2,400 rupees) she complained against as being too high at first, and that immediately after it had been fixed a great number of trees near the fort had been cut down; this I was perfectly well assured was the case. I therefore proposed that she should pay 15,000 rupees per annum, which she most readily agreed to.

"Having thus brought the business into train, which, if confirmed by our honorable superiors, I make no doubt but in future the collections of Cannanore will be as regular as any other part of the coast; with a further advantage of those claims (which has hitherto been the source of much trouble and perplexity) being done away. I shall feel much pleasure if the arrangements meet your approbation."

The Commissioners intimated their approval of the arrangements, and directed that an agreement might be accordingly entered into—with reservation relative to the Laccadives.

Commissioners to  
Northern Superintendent,  
18th October 1796.

"We approve of your proceedings with the Beebee of Cannanore; agreeable to the tenor and purport of which you will please to cause the Beebee to execute an agreement to be considered as finally binding when ratified by Government, a copy of which you will transmit to us as soon as convenient, that it may be transmitted to the Presidency for the purpose of being laid before the Honorable the President in Council for his sanction. In the above agreement to be executed by the Beebee you will be careful to insert a clause containing a reservation to Government respecting the Laccadive Islands, to the intent expressed in the proceedings of the late Joint Commission, under date the 11th April 1793, voucher 63, copy of which was transmitted to you for your information."

From Commissioners,  
to Governor in Council,  
dated 18th October  
1796.

The Commissioners also advised the Governor of Bombay of the progress of the arrangements.

"On the 9th instant we had the honor of laying before you, in our address of that date, copies of our correspondence with the Acting Northern Superintendent and Beebee of Cannanore relative to the unfounded and indefinite claims which the latter had always urged in bar to the realisation of the revenues of that district, including our letter of the 8th instant to Mr. Peile, accompanied by one of the same date to the Beebee, containing an explicit declaration to the latter of the conditions with which she must comply, and our own corresponding orders to the former what he is to exact. We have now the pleasure of enclosing copy of a letter, No. 6, received this morning from that gentleman, whereby you will perceive that he has come to an understanding with the Beebee on all the points which she pretended were doubtful with her hitherto, subject to the satisfaction of Government, which we having approved thereof have desired may constitute the grounds of an agreement in the form of an engagement on the part of the Beebee to be executed by her under the above proviso, and to contain also the clause confirming to Government a right which, in conformity to the voucher No. 63 referred to in the 252nd paragraph of the Joint Commissioners' reports, they possess—to sequester her possessions in the Laccadive Islands for the sole use and benefit of the Company whenever it may be hereafter resolved on; and, in consideration of the Beebee acquiescing in the payment of a money revenue to Government of 15,000 rupees per annum (which is perhaps to the full as much as her funds are capable of yielding since she has relinquished her claim to Canatoor and Canotchalla), we beg leave to submit to you

whether this adjustment may not be allowed an equal degree of validity as to the jumma of past years, so that upon her making good the full sum of 15,000 rupees for each of the years at which her revenue is assessed at the fictitious amount of Rupees 16,237-2-0, which she would appear never to have acquiesced in, the remainder or balance may not in such case properly be written off the Company's books."

To Commissioners,  
from Northern Superin-  
tendent, dated 30th  
October 1796.

Northern Superintendent accordingly reports having exacted the prescribed agreement which he forwards to the Commissioners. ..

"I, Beebee Balea, Lady of Cannanore, do agree and give this writing to witness that I will pay to the Government of the Honorable English East India Company 15,000 rupees per annum, being the jumma on the houses, purrams, &c., situated at and near Cannanore, on my trade to the Laccadive Islands, and on my yelm property on the said islands, and I do further agree to pay the said amount of 15,000 rupees at three different kists the first, or 5,000 rupees, on the 15th Dhannob, the second, or 5,000 rupees, on the 15th Medum, the third or 5,000 rupees at the end of Chingon. This article of agreement is not to do away, nor is it meant to do away in any shape the rights which the Government have to the Laccadive Islands as it is set forth in my Mochilka, dated the 9th April 1793, or 27th Shaban 1207 Hegira.

"2nd.—I do agree to pay the customs on all articles of merchandise, whether imported or exported by me, in the same manner and at the same rates as the merchants of Malabar, save upon the coir imported from the Laccadives.

"3rd.—I give up my pretensions to the one-third share of the collection which is granted by Government to the Rajahs of Malabar, being convinced that I have no right to insist on the said allowance.

"4th.—I give up all my right and title unto the Honorable Company which I have claimed to the Terrahs of Canatoor and Canotchalla, and do agree that the Company shall make the collections in any manner they may think proper, except through the medium of the Cherikul Rajah, which I must earnestly solicit may not be granted to him.

"5th.—And I do agree to pay all arrears on account of customs, except upon the coir which I may have imported from the Laccadives."

CANNANORE,

(Signed) BEEBEE BALEA.

28th October 1796, or  
M.S. 15th Toolam 992.

A counterpart of the agreement was sent to the Beebee by Northern

Superintendent; and the Com-  
missioners further addressed the  
Governor in Council on the  
subject.

From Northern Superintendent, to Beebee  
of Cannanore, dated 1st November 1796.  
From Commissioners, to the Governor in  
Council, dated 1st November 1796.

"On the 18th ultimo we had the honor of enclosing a copy of the Acting Northern Superintendent's letter to us, dated the 16th of that month, on the subject of his conferences with the Beebee of Cannanore; we have now the pleasure of forwarding extract of a further letter from that gentleman, No. 5, to which is subjoined copy of a provisional engagement and obligation executed by the Beebee on the 28th ultimo founded on our instructions to him of the 8th ditto, and communicated to Government in the letter we had the honor of addressing to you, under date the 9th of the same month, which we beg leave to submit to your consideration, to the end that the same may be ratified or not, as you shall be pleased to determine."

Before the receipt of these last proceedings, Governor in Council had answered the Commissioners' letter of the 9th October; with remarks on the Beebee of Cannanore's memorial:—  
From Governor in Council, to the Commissioners, 12th November 1796.

"We think it would be hard on the Beebee to pay the duty on her coir, besides the moiety of the full profit on her trade, provided that moiety were *bona fide* paid and accounted for; and as to her claim of exemption from customs you will find, by the Joint Commissioners' letter to the Supervisor of 13th September 1793, that out of the amount of Rupees 14,340-6-0, which was originally settled for her annual payment, on the footing and condition of the same constituting the moiety of her income, the sum of 12,100 silver fanams of 2,420 rupees were to be deducted, she paying in such case the duties on her own trade;" and with reference to her claims to certain possessions in Cherikul in virtue of Tippoo's Sannad, he observed "it has already been signified to her that she can have no claim on our Government for exchanges made between her and Tippoo whilst she was his vassal, as already sufficiently detailed in the two paragraphs of the Joint Commissioners' report above alluded to (paragraphs 244 and 245)."

Again on the receipt of the Commissioners' letter of the 18th October, advising the Governor of the progress of the negotiation, the Governor in Council intimated to them that, under the explanation contained in letter above (12th November), he was satisfied with the proposed "adjustment with the Beebee of Cannanore, in which he (Northern Superintendent) has equitably enough improved on that part of the first Commissioners' orders of the 17th of September 1793 that was quoted in our answer to you of the day before yesterday, by exempting her coir from the Cannanore duty, i.e., provided the sum of 10,000 rupees do really constitute the full moiety of her profits from the trade with the Laccadives; but that this may not be the case, the

further information obtained by our President when last at Calicut, appears to contain sufficient indication to demand at least some further inquiry. Since, by the enclosed copy No. 1 of papers that he has laid before us on the subject, there is reason to believe that her profits from the trade with the Laccadives must amount, according to the most moderate of the calculations therein stated, to above sixty, and by the other to above one lakh of rupees. The best way may then be to advise the Beebee of Cannanore of our having gained this information, to apprise her of the particulars thereof, and to let her reply thereto, and thereupon to enter with her into an amicable discussion of the merits, which may lead to some proposition for fully and satisfactorily ascertaining the point in dispute."

"On this occasion it is also incumbent on us to advert to that part of the Government General's instructions to the late President in Council of the 27th of July 1795, which directs the immediate abolition of the monopoly of trade of the several Laccadive Islands dependent on Cannanore, an object which our President appears, by the accompanying copy No. 2 of some papers that passed on this subject, when he was last at Calicut, not to have been inattentive to, although the shortness of his stay on the coast prevented his being there able to bring the negotiation to a conclusion. It is now therefore our wish that you should endeavour to accomplish this; and considering how successful Mr. Peile proved in his late various negotiations in the northern division of the province, we think it may, with every prospect of advantage, be referred to that gentleman, together with a copy of the Supreme Government's letter in question. That letter is already we believe among the records of the Supervisorship, but lest it should be mislaid, we enclose another copy, and if you should determine to commit the proceedings on this delicate negotiation to Mr. Peile, you will of course furnish that gentleman with such further instructions as may appear to you most advisable, and best adapted to procure the Beebee's assent to the measure required by the Government General. In this you will not overlook that step already gained by Colonel Dow in her assent to employ such agents for governing the islands as may have your approbation, and under such instructions for their guidance as you may prescribe; and should it prove necessary towards obtaining the Beebee's assent to grant to her any better terms than those held out in the Government General's letter, something more may be conceded in this view out of her land revenues in Randatterah, or from that in the vicinity of Cannanore, as you may find indispensably requisite. For, notwithstanding the tenor of the instructions from Calcutta, we do not conceive that the Governor-

*N.B.*—This refers to Mr. Bentley's estimate of the probable revenue, viz., 1,17,669 rupees, and Mr. Murdock Brown's estimate of 68,512 rupees, being the profits of the coir and cowry monopolies only.

General in Council would desire, especially under present circumstances, to proceed to lay open the Laccadive trade in direct opposition to the Beebee's good will, and, therefore, if after all it cannot be thus effected, you will report to us the particulars for his information, avoiding in the meantime any act or measure that may tend materially to lessen her present degree of attachment to the Honorable Company's Government."

In acknowledging the letter of the 1st November reporting the conclusion of the negotiation with the signed Council, to Commissioners, dated 25th November 1796. the Governor in Council observed: "Our having so lately and fully written to you on the subject of the Honorable Company's probable claims on the Beebee of Cannanore, renders any present notice on the draft of her late agreement unnecessary. But we cannot omit again expressing our desire that Mr. Peile may be able, consistently with his other vocations, to undertake the further negotiation which we have pointed out respecting the Laccadives."

Commissioners to Northern Superintendent, 26th December 1796.

Accordingly the Commissioners directed Mr. Peile—

"It will be most especially incumbent on you to pay particular regard to the statements of the Beebee's returns from her trade to the Laccadives, enclosed in the letter from Government of the 15th ultimo, which are so extremely disproportionate to what she has asserted to be the case, that a very strict inquiry into this matter is indispensably necessary previous to the ratification of her late agreement, which you will please to institute accordingly in the manner pointed out in the third paragraph of that letter.

"On the remaining part of the same letter and the last paragraph of the letter of the 25th ultimo, respecting the abolition of the monopoly of the trade of the Laccadive Islands dependent on Cannanore, Government have so fully explained the nature of the object in view (which corresponds also with the views of the Supreme Government as will be seen in their letter of the 27th July 1795) that we have not any thing to add further than calling your serious consideration to the means therein pointed out as the most likely to ensure your success in this delicate negotiation. And that as Government have been pleased to express in the most unequivocal terms their highest approbation of your conduct on all occasions of discussion on points the most interesting to our Honorable Company's employers hitherto, and have thereon founded a very sanguine hope of your compassing the present object with equal advantage and success; so we desire, in like manner, to signify our firm reliance on your exertions to accomplish this end, so desirable in every point of view, according to the precise manner in which Government have so much the wish it should be effected."

No further mention of the Beebee of Cannanore and her affairs

From Secretary to Government, to Commissioners, dated 7th August 1797.

occurs among the correspondence till August 1797, when the Secretary to Government addressed the Commissioners, communicating an extract of General Letter from the Honorable the Court of

Directors, dated 1st March 1797, with the following instruction:—

“To transmit the fifth paragraph to the Acting Northern Superintendent, as furnishing an additional motive for his procuring the Beebee of Cannanore’s consent to grant a free trade to the inhabitants of the Laccadives, in the prosecution of which object the Honorable the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief understand Mr. Peile is now at Cannanore.” The Honorable Court had intimated:—

“We very much approve of the measures that have been taken for relieving the inhabitants of the Laccadive Islands from the oppression of the Beebee of Cannanore, and allowing therein the same freedom of trade as is enjoyed by our subjects in the province of Malabar.”

Extract from a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 1st of March 1797, paragraph 5.

Northern Superintendent, in acknowledging the above with enclosure from the Honorable Court, reported “The Laccadive Islands is a subject I shall have occasion to discuss with the Beebee to-morrow or next day; and as she has hitherto evinced great reluctance in admitting our Courts of Justice into those islands independent of her authority, I should feel extremely obliged in receiving your advice, whether I may recede in any manner from a total abolition of her authority by endeavouring to prevail upon her (should she still object, which, from what she has already said, I think she will) so far as to agree that a Company’s servant shall reside in some of the islands for twelve months, to whom all complaints shall be referred by the people before any punishment can be inflicted, and also, during that time, to obtain such information of the produce of the islands as may lead to a full discovery of their value.” He further reported, with reference to the information gained by Government through Messrs. Bentley and Murdock Brown that the revenue drawn by the Beebee of Cannanore from the islands had been greatly understated by her hitherto, that the Beebee’s agent had applied for copies of the accounts in order to draw up counterstatement, and that they had been supplied.

The Commissioners replied\* to the above: “We have only generally to refer you to our instructions of the 26th December last, since to decide on any particular part thereof previous to the whole subject being fully discussed would be in many points of view

\* Commissioners to Northern Superintendent, dated 14th August 1797.

objectionable. We have, therefore, to desire that you take as early an opportunity as possible of giving a full consideration to the general purport of your instructions at large regarding the Beebee of Cannanore and her tenure of the Laccadive Islands, and that you will thereon exert yourself to induce as complete an acquiescence on her part as may be practicable to the terms contained in our aforementioned letter of the 26th December last, when, should you find that her objections are insurmountable to any particular part thereof, the same will be of course stated in your general report, at which time we shall also be better enabled than at present to judge of the weight they may be entitled to.”

Mr. Peile submitted a report of his negotiations, in which he remarked that the Beebee of Cannanore “declares herself perfectly satisfied with her present agreement to pay 15,000 rupees per annum,” and that she “does not wish for any alteration from the present mode of paying customs, her coir from the island being exempt, is all she desires.” He then proceeded to state the particular of his conversations with the Beebee on the subjects adverted to in the letter of the Government, dated 15th November 1796.

On the first visit he had discussed her trade with Laccadives and the profits therefrom, which the Government had been informed were greater than hitherto admitted by the Beebee. “Her Minister, Coonjey Packey, asserting at the same time, that the profits which Government now received were equal to, if not more than, what the Beebee actually gained;” had promised, if supplied with translations of the information, to draw up within a few days the most true and faithful statement of the receipts and disbursements on account of the islands for M.K. 970 and 971. In this arrangement, though likely to delay a final agreement with the Beebee, Mr. Peile acquiesced, being anxious to obtain every information, and hoping that “the delay would be overbalanced by the knowledge I should obtain of the different articles of merchandise that were sent to the islands, and which might eventually be of material use.” The translations were given and he further reported: “I again waited on the Beebee in order to prevail upon her to come into the views of Government by opening the trade to the Laccadives. But I am concerned to add that I found every argument fruitless and on my reminding her of her engagement entered into in April 1796 with the Joint Commissioners, she most positively asserted that she had never understood that the islands were to be sequestered at the pleasure of Government; all that she understood from that agreement was that if the Government did not credit the account given in by her of the produce of the islands, a person might be sent to inspect, and she would be subject to that inspection, if it was proved that the islands yielded more profit than she had stated, which was 20,000

rupees per annum. I confess I was much surprised at these declarations of the Beebee's, which were corroborated by her Minister. I inquired if she had counterpart of the agreement, as also what language it was drawn in. She answered that she had not a counterpart, and that the agreement was in Persian, which had been explained to her as she had asserted, but nothing further. However improbable it may appear the Beebee denying her agreement, I conceive I should not be warranted if I did not state the circumstance. The very idea of throwing the trade open seemed to affect her exceedingly; she represented that her whole dependance for herself and family was on these islands; that if they were taken from her, her creditors would immediately call upon her for the money she had borrowed; and that she had mortgaged the produce to Chowakara Moossa from whom she had borrowed 4,60,000 rupees, and was yet indebted to him 2,00,000; that she was obliged to deliver the coir to him at 50 rupees per candy, the profit on which barely paid the interest of the money. She also represented that the islands being taken from her would disgrace her; and that if such an event was to take place, herself and family would petition to Government to remove them from Malabar where their ancestors had resided for so many generations. In short, Gentlemen, I found it in vain any longer to dwell upon this part of my mission. I therefore entered on the subject of the administration of justice in the islands, and on this head I found the Beebee almost as averse as she had been on the former. With much difficulty I brought her to consent that Government might appoint whom they thought proper to administer justice, under any regulations which might be deemed necessary; and that she also would agree, in order to ascertain the real value of the islands, that a person on the part of Government should reside for a twelvemonth in the islands for that purpose. But that a written agreement should be given that the Courts of Justice would not interfere with her trade. The Beebee was requested to explain why she thought the Courts of Justice would interfere with her trade. She replied, that formerly her family gave at the rate of 25 rupees per candy for coir, and she now paid 30 rupees; but that if Courts were established, the people might complain that their coir was worth 40 or 50 rupees per candy; in which case, a representation would come to this country, and in all probability she would be deprived of the monopoly. It appears obvious to me, Gentlemen, that without this monopoly is secured to the Beebee, any alteration that may be thought necessary either in the trade or the administration of justice, will be in direct opposition to the Beebee's feelings. However, by a person residing at the islands, the mode of administering justice will be known as the Beebee readily agreed that all matters should be referred to a person remaining there, and be approved of by him, before any execution

could take place: further by this residence Government would obtain a perfect knowledge of the produce of the islands, and of the benefit that might arise, either by throwing open the trade or carrying it on under certain restrictions. Besides, should Government, at any future period, again deem it expedient to negotiate with the Beebee, this information would be of the utmost importance, to those who might be entrusted with the mission, as facts might be opposed to the assertions, which her ministers can now make without any great danger of being detected. The Beebee proposed that if such a plan was adopted, she should desire to have a person on her part to be present at the framing of the accounts, as she was ignorant of those which I had presented to her. The accompanying account No. 8 is abstract of the Beebee's supplies and returns from the islands for two years. The original accounts were so extremely long and complicated that I was under the necessity of bringing the whole into one point of view. I confess I am at a loss how to offer an opinion on these accounts when contrasted with those of Lieutenant Bentley, the difference being so very great, particularly in the article coir. And I have only to observe that I think if the above plan is adopted (should Government determine not to take possession of the islands) of stationing a person in them, together with an agent on the part of the Beebee, all difficulties will be obviated, and whatever misrepresentations may have hitherto been made on her part will be evinced to Government, and put the value of the islands, in every point of view, beyond evasion or doubt."

The Dr. and Cr. accounts produced by the Beebee of Cannanore's Agents, which purported to be correct returns of receipts and expenditure of the islands for the years M.K. 970-71 (A. D. 1795-96), received no attention, and merited none.

The Commissioners appear to have submitted Mr. Peile's report to the Governor in Council on the 21st September 1797. But the covering letter is not forthcoming on the records, and the views of the Local Commissioners cannot be shown.

In reply\* the Governor in Council, referring to Mr. Peile's report of the 15th September idem, remarked:

"Paragraph 18. On the subjects of the Laccadives and the Beebee's objections to surrender her sovereignty, or to admit of a free trade therein, the following observations have occurred on consideration of what Mr. Peile hath written on the subject.

"19. The Beebee's making a plea of her ignorance of the Persian language with a view to account for her present pretended want of privity in respect to the latter part of her agreement with the first Commissioners, respecting the eventual sequestration of these Laccadive

Islands, and, above all, in the view of preventing the trade in coir from them being laid open, is a mere subterfuge on her part. The extract herewith sent from the Proceedings of the first Commissioners, under date the 11th April 1793, will show the full deliberation Messrs. Duncan and Page acted with on this occasion, and that it constituted a concession they were determined to insist on, and did accordingly exact, not perhaps entirely in conformity to the Beebee's own wishes, between whom and the other Rajas and Chiefs they always endeavoured to impress her with this distinction, that she was a conquered foe, and they, men who had taken part with us in reducing her late supporter and protector; and that she and her Minister Coonjee Packy were well and thoroughly aware of what they thus agreed, and she signed to, there is no room to doubt. Nor will the Beebee's pretext of ignorance of the Persian avail, since Mr. Duncan has, during his subsequent residence in Bengal, received letters from her in that language, and though the Native Officers who then accompanied the Commission were mostly either from Bengal or Madras, and are now returned to their respective countries, yet from Trimmul Row, a person formerly in the service of the Padinhar Colote of the Zamorin family, and who was employed afterwards by Mr. Duncan as an Interpreter, and happened to be in that capacity at Cannanore at the period of the conclusion of the agreement in question, he has learnt through Mr. Wood, his present clerk, that there was, at that time in the Beebee's family a man called Bobajee Hadjee, who had been 18 years in her service, and is also a good Persian scholar; adding that it was this Bobajee who, according to his (Trimmul Row's) recollection, went with Mahomed Hosaine, a native of Coromandel, and then one of the Commissioners' Interpreters, and brought back the agreement from the Beebee executed; after (as Mr. Duncan can safely add) the subject of it had been for several days before discussed through Packy, her principal Minister, whom the Commissioners provided should sign as a witness the original instrument, and if it be now among the records at Calicut, (as having been probably delivered to the Supervisor), a reference to the original Persian writing may ascertain whether Packy complied with that injunction.

" 20. But whether he did or not must be immaterial to the sufficient authenticity of the deed; and we proceed, therefore, to consider the Beebee's other objections as detailed in the report before us from Mr. Peile.

" 21. There is certainly nothing positive and explicit in that agreement as to the laying open of the trade, and although as much may perhaps be inferred under the general idea of the islands themselves being sequestered for the Company's advantage, yet in their letter of the 27th of July 1795 the Government General include also the

conquest of Cannanore and Tippoo's cession as concurring to give full authority for the orders they then passed for abolishing the Beebee's monopoly of the commerce; all which has since been approved and confirmed by the Honorable Court of Directors, who appear by their last advices to consider the measure as already carried into effect, from a communication made to them, no doubt, of the orders issued for that purpose by the late Government of the Presidency of Bombay; the causes of the delay and disappointments in respect to which may be traced in the accompaniments to your letter of the 12th instant (referring to Mr. Stevens not appearing to have taken steps in 1795 to carry out the measure in accordance with his letter to the Beebee of Cannanore of 30th September 1795) and in the details of the conversations with the Beebee of Cannanore by the Governor of Bombay (then in Calicut) and Colonel Dow in December 1795.

" 23. . . . . And request your sentiments (which it is to be understood that we desire on the subject of all reports you sent up to us from others) on the best means of carrying into execution that part of the required system for the Laccadives, to which the Beebee has yielded her consent and by the nomination of a proper person to administer justice in the islands, under such regulations as you may think fit to propose for our consideration, in as general consistence as possible with those that now prevail in this province, as well as for a further ascertainment, attended by a person on the Beebee's part, of the real value of those islands in corroboration or otherwise of Messrs. Bentley's and Brown's estimate thereof in the accompanying extracts, wherein you will observe that neither of these gentlemen's calculations differ much in the result, and that both make the Beebee's profits exceed a lakh of rupees per annum, whereas she has only yet admitted them to amount to about 20,000 rupees, a difference which it is certainly well worth while most fully and satisfactorily to investigate, without insisting in the mean time on the coir trade being taken out of the Beebee's hands, or obliging her to pay more for it to the islanders than 30 rupees per candy, as she would certainly feel both loss and what she terms disgrace from a different conduct on our part; whilst should on the other hand her account of the profits prove accurate, the expense of the Government of these islands must prove a new and considerable charge on the Honorable Company; besides which it may be perhaps most convenient to avoid taking formal and entire possession of the Laccadives during the war with France, as our doing so would infallibly expose them, much more than now, to the insults and depredations of the enemy's ships and vessels of war. So that on the whole we think there may be yet time without public disadvantage for another reference to the Government General before that point be finally decided on.

"23. Meanwhile we shall leave the *Drake* or *Swift* cruizers here under your orders to enable you to carry into execution the preparatory measures that may be intermediately adopted as far as the Beebee's consent has been obtained by Mr. Peile, respecting which we shall, therefore, expect in due course to hear from you on the several points adverted to in the preceding paragraph."

\*From Commissioners to the Northern Superintendent, dated 19th November 1797.

The above letter of Government was referred by the Commissioners\* to the Northern Superintendent for further report.

Commissioners to Government, 19th November 1797.

In their reply† to Government the Commissioners remark:

"Para. 10. The very apposite observations which you have been pleased to introduce, Sir, in the 19th paragraph sufficiently establish the subterfuge to which the Beebee has resorted on the occasion of Mr. Peile's conversation with her respecting her engagement to accede to the measure of the sequestration of her Laccadive Islands at any time when Government may resolve on the measure; but we have searched the records of our Dewan Cutcherry in vain for the original agreement which Bobajee Hadjee and Mahomed Hosaine carried to the Beebee and brought back with her signature. It was our intention to have caused inquiry to be made whether this Bobajee Hadjee was yet in the Beebee's service, and to have questioned him regarding Packy's signature as a witness; but noticing in your 20th paragraph that you deem this circumstance immaterial as to the validity of the deed, we have thought it best not to institute any inquiry on this point, lest it might appear to the Beebee and her Minister as an indication of a doubt on our part of what is so sufficiently authenticated, and consequently presumes and virtually admits the competency of Government to lay open her trade to those islands, concurring in this with the inference which the Supreme Government, in their letter of the 27th July 1795, deduce from the conquest of Cannanore and Tippoo's cession.

"12. We shall, after due deliberation, have the honor of communicating our sentiments on the nomination of a person to proceed to the Laccadives for the joint purposes of acquiring a more perfect knowledge of the trade of these islands and regulating the administration of justice therein, without taking formal possession of them until our future report on the trade shall have furnished Government with the means of deciding between the reports of Messrs. Bentley and Brown, and that rendered by the Beebee; since if the statements recorded by either of these gentlemen come near the truth, there can, we think, be no room for hesitation as to the necessity of more effectual measures for securing to Government at least treble the amount

they receive at present under the head of a moiety of the Beebee's profits on the coir trade. This is taking it at Mr. Brown's statement who gives Rupees 68,512-0-2 as the Beebee's annual profit on coir and cowries, exclusive of firewood, dried fish, tortoise-shell, and coconuts. Mr. Bentley states the profit on the coir only, including a small sum derived under the head of revenue, viz. Rupees 2,300 (about sufficient by that gentleman's account to defray the expenses of her government) at no less than Rupees 1,17,669, which we observe is occasioned by his sinking the cost of the coir to considerably less than half what Mr. Brown states it, and raising the sale price 30 per cent. on that gentleman's calculation. We are inclined, however, to be of opinion at present that when political circumstances may admit of the Government taking formal possession of these islands without the hazards alluded to in the concluding part of your 22nd paragraph, it may be found expedient, in a financial point of view, to continue the monopoly of the coir trade to the Beebee under proper restriction, from whence, after its real value is ascertained, a more certain advantage might possibly be derived, than either from an open trade, or retaining it in the hands of the Company for the following reasons, viz. :—

"First.—If the Beebee acceded to such terms for the monopoly or exclusive privilege of this trade, as Government might think just to dictate whatever result from them would come into the Company's treasury free of deduction.

"Secondly.—It would still preserve the Beebee's consequence in the eyes of the public, which may be a consideration, as Government are desirous of avoiding by all consistent means any occasion of mortifying her more than is necessary, even in her own estimation of which she terms disgrace.

"Thirdly.—It would render unnecessary, an expensive establishment which would be otherwise required to levy duties on the trade equal, even in the gross amount, to what the Beebee might, on her real profits being ascertained (which there is reason to doubt at present) be induced to pay rather than give up that kind of superiority.

"Fourthly.—The high duties which would be necessary in the event of an open trade being resolved upon, would hold out such an inducement to smuggling as we have little reason to expect the vigilance of the Company's officers would be able to contravene; and, lastly, if the Company retained the trade in their own hands, it would probably be a work of time to assimilate our manner of dealing with the ancient prejudices of the natives, even under all their present disadvantages, so as to ensure the Company getting the full produce even at an advanced price, which we think there is reason to fear the intrigues of those at present interested in the trade whoever they are, would work the means of compelling them to pay, thereby lessening their profits on

the actual quantity of coir the Company got, even supposing the sale price to keep up to its usual standard, besides subjecting them to the being undersold by those who might, by long-established intercourse with the natives, contrive the means of intruding on their privilege.

"13. We wish the foregoing observations, however, Sir, to be viewed as suggestions submitted to your consideration rather than our decided opinion on those measures, on which we would be most gratified to be favored with your sentiments if you should be pleased to deem them worthy of your deliberation."

In answer\* the Government stated their intention "to write to the

\*From Government to Commissioner, 20th November 1797.

This letter would throw light on the feelings of those at the head of the Government at the time.

Supreme Government very fully and as soon as possible, on the causes of the non-execution of their instructions relative to the Laccadives, on which occasion shall also be submitted to their consideration the several reasons you have very commendably brought forward for continuing the

monopoly of the coir trade to the Beebee under proper restrictions."

The Commissioners again reported, "Pursuant to your orders of the

From Commissioners to Government, dated 13th February 1798.

21st October last, and in conformity to our intimation of the 19th November following: we have been desirous of the opportunity of naming a fit

person to proceed to the Laccadive for the purposes required, with which view we have hitherto detained the *Fly* with us.

"It is no doubt, Sir, much to be wished that we had a more perfect idea of the value of those islands than we at present possess, but to render a deputation thither subservient to that end requires the services of a person of experience and zeal, and, if possible, one versed in the Malabar language, which induced us, on hearing of Mr. Clephane's reinstatement, to turn our thoughts appointing him to execute your orders in this respect; but consequent on the deficiency of European officers as detailed, we are necessitated to defer the fulfilment of your views in regard to the Laccadives for the present, without you can find it convenient to depute a gentleman from the Presidency for that express service.

"With regard to the best means of carrying into execution the other part of the proposed system to which the Beebee has yielded her consent, viz., the administration of justice, we are still more at a loss to form any judgment of what might be fit to propose for your consideration in the form of regulations for that purpose, being ignorant of the laws or local usage in the islands, and consequently unable to determine how far or in what manner they can be assimilated with those prevailing in the province. It appears to us, however, that, in preference to an abrupt interference with the present mode of administering justice there, it would be more advisable for the person who may

go on that service to let matters of law and equity run in their established course until he attains a competent knowledge what that is; which he will in that case be directed to report to us for your information, when such alterations may be made as shall be obviously and direct in their operation to the advantage of the inhabitants in their own estimation. For although the first principles of right and wrong are the same in all places, yet such is the influence of Government on the minds of men and the perversion of their reasoning faculties under a system of tyranny in the constitution of the Government, or usurpation in its local representations reconciled by long habit, that even if the Beebee's or that of her Minister's should prove to be such in our eyes, it might after all, if the abuses were not such as to expose the lives of the people to the caprice of their rulers, be thought politic to refrain from any innovation in the customs to which they have been so long used rather than awaken part of them to a sense of their degradation, and mortify others by a sense of their inferiority in a society where they have been used to take the lead, so that taking any active part during a temporary deputation might increase the evils it was intended to remedy by leaving many under the impression of their being injured; and as those would most probably be chiefly of the number of their present heads or principal men, they would be more liable to abuse their authority when ours was withdrawn. In either case, however, whether with a view to the attainment of the wished for information respecting the trade, or the acquirement of the knowledge of their present laws and usages, but with regard to the former object particularly, the deputation may, we think, be deferred till after the rains; for by the time any gentleman can arrive here from the Presidency and the nomination of a person on the part of the Beebee to accompany him can be obtained, so much of the season will elapse as to make the communication between our island and another difficult, and at least precarious; which would effectually defeat the main purpose of the deputation until the re-opening of the season. But by a judicious use of the twelve months next ensuing, and but an ordinary degree of observation, such a fund of information might no doubt be obtained as to determine Government finally on the interest they ought in justice to have in the Beebee's trade, and how far they ought in sound wisdom to interfere in the administration of justice."

In reply the Government approved of Commissioners having deferred

From Government to Commissioners, dated 2nd March 1798.

the deputation of an "Agent to the Laccadives till after the monsoon, the more especially as the general subject involves some considerations on

which we think it may be advisable to communicate with the Supreme Government," and desired to be furnished with any further information "on the general state of that part of the Beebee's possessions, with a

view to enable us to determine how far it may be consistent with justice and expediency to extend the Company's authority over them." The Commissioners replied: "Our letter of the 19th November 1797 and 13th

February last comprise all that we are prepared to offer on the subject of the expediency of extending the Company's authority over the Beebee's islands, nor is it probable that we shall have the means of being more explicit until circumstances favor the deputation of some person to acquire the necessary information on the spot, whose report on that head will be, we hope, conclusive on this point."

Nothing further appears on the revenue records of the Malabar District.

#### *Political Consideration.*

From Governor of Bombay to Rajah of Coorg, 26th December 1796.

From Northern Superintendent to Commissioner, 6th January 1797.

From Governor of Bombay to Commissioners, 16th February 1797, with paper of intelligence of Rajah of Coorg, dated 8th January 1797.

The Commissioners, however, reported: "We have made particular inquiries from Chowakara Moossa regarding the negotiation which the Coorg Rajah alleges to be on foot between Tippoo and the Beebee of Cannanore, and we have the pleasure to add upon the strength of Moossa's assurance, whose information on all points regarding the Beebee of Cannanore (with whom he is not upon the most cordial terms) may be considered as the best procurable, that the Coorg Rajah's allegation does not appear in this respect to be adequately founded."

In 1798 it appears that the *Raymond* and *Woodcote* Indiamen were taken in Tellicherry roads on information given to the Commander of the French Frigate *Bremewn* by the Nakodah of one of the Beebee's vessels.

This circumstance raised doubts of her fidelity, and appeared to Government of sufficient importance to justify and require that she be called on "to explain, without too much alarming her fears or avowing any direct suspicion of her attachment, which you need not at the same time place implicit confidence in, but act towards her with such a degree of circumspection as may be suitable to your ideas on the spot of her disposition towards us or our enemies, avoiding as much as possible any open breach with her unless circumstances to us now unforeseen should render it necessary."

From Commissioners to Beebee of Cannanore, 15th June 1798.

From Beebee of Cannanore to Commissioners, 18th June 1798.

From Commissioners to Government, 19th July 1798.

In reply, the Beebee of Cannanore stated curtly that none of the commanders of her ships had mentioned falling in with any ship, and the Governor in Council remarked:

"Para. 5. The Beebee of Cannanore's letter is very little satisfactory, and we recommend you to endeavour to trace the commander of that vessel of hers from which the French are said to have obtained their information, and to examine him and report what grounds there may appear to you for suspecting or acquitting him or his mistress of disaffection to the Government of the Company, or of attachment to the interests of Tippoo and the French."

From Governor of Bombay to Beebee of Cannanore, 9th January 1799.

Of the same date.

The Commissioners, however, assured Government that "they have every reason to be well satisfied with the conduct of the princess, and to believe that she is firmly attached to the Government."

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,  
Head Assistant Collector.

## APPENDIX A.

*Memorandum on the Grant Compensation on account of the four  
Ameny Islands.*

These islands were lost by defection on account of gross oppression on the part of the Beebee of Cannanore, but a compensation for the supposed loss of revenue was granted from the possessions of the Cherikul Rajah, to whom Tippoo was at the time restoring his rāj—though considerably diminished—in 1784. The revenue of the islands was reckoned at 6,500 rupees, the compensation at 7,380 rupees, and the lands so granted were enjoyed by the Beebee of Cannanore for five years. On the breaking out of the war and after the reduction of Cannanore in 1791, the Cherikul Rajah resumed these grants. And the resumption was sanctioned by the Joint Commissioners, who deemed that the claim of the Beebee under Tippoo's grant could not be sustained. The claim was, however, kept alive and reiterated till finally and distinctly relinquished by the agreement signed 28th October 1796 (15th Toolam 972), nor was it again mentioned till on the eve of the breaking out of the war of 1799. The Beebee then addressed the Officer Commanding the Provinces, praying that the four islands might be recovered for her. The Commissioners declined to give an opinion on the policy of restoring the islands in event of their falling into the British hands when submitting the petition to the Government of Bombay.

The islands fell under the British power in 1799 and were attached to Canara. And the claims of the Beebee were apparently favorably submitted by the local officers of Malabar in 1804. It was, however, judged that the claim was not ruled by the law of nations, as "she can have no just claim to be placed in any other situation by the conquest of Mysore than that in which she would have stood if such an event had not taken place; independently also of that consideration, His Lordship, would under any circumstances, deem it to be inexpedient to vest the Beebee of Cannanore with the authority which she has solicited over the Laccadive Islands under the declared aversion of the inhabitants to her government." But no allusion is made to the

important negotiation and resolution to throw open the trade and establish the British jurisdiction already detailed.

The Court of Directors took an indulgent view of the claim.

\* Para. 123. "Although it is true that the Beebee of Cannanore has in strictness no legal claim upon these islands, we think her case as it now stands rather a hard one. The first exchange by which the three islands were taken from her does not appear to have been sought by her, but was an act of power on the part of Tippoo." They were of opinion that, as had the island been within the control of the Company when the resumption of the equivalent granted by Tippoo was made and sustained in peace by the Rajah of Cherikul under the British influence, it might have been thought right to restore the islands themselves to her; and considered that as "those islands had come into their possession, though the claim was ruled by no law, and though from the aversion of the inhabitants to the government of the Beebee it may not be advisable to restore the possession of those islands to her, some consideration in money should be allowed her on account of them."

The Collector of Canara reported at considerable length, but without reference to the voluminous prior proceedings or a just appreciation of the Beebee of Cannanore's position on these islands. Assuming her position to be that of a Jenmakar or proprietor, he proposed that an allowance equal to half the net rent be made in compensation—the real nature of the sources from which the revenue is drawn was apparently lost sight of by him—and he recommended a grant of 1,500 Star Pagodas.

This compensation the Beebee seems to have rejected as inadequate, and a long gap occurs in the official records. In 1822 the Board of Revenue made their final report on the claim which had been revived a few months before. In this they stated that the compensation must be considered in the light of a voluntary donation, as the Beebee of Cannanore had been conquered in 1791 while in strict alliance with Tippoo; but as the Honorable the Court of Directors had determined that that consideration should not operate to her detriment, the Board proposed that the same sum, viz., Star Pagodas 1,500, should be assigned and paid with arrears from the date of the Honorable Court's orders in 1805. And the Government, having regard to the hostile relation of the Beebee of Cannanore at the time the resumptions were made in open war by allies of the British arms, "considered her claim to consist

\* 227, 228. Claim of the Beebee of Cannanore to three of the Laccadive Islands which had been ceded by her to Tippoo for an equal compensation.

entirely of the liberal disposition evinced towards her by the Honorable the Court of Directors, and in no degree to be founded on right." And as the arrears had accumulated from her declining to accept the proffered bounty at the time, it was determined that no arrear should be paid; but "that a formal renunciation be taken from her of all further claims on the same account, and in acknowledgment that the transaction is closed and set at rest for ever."

The Beebee of Cannanore's subsequent conduct proved evasive; and it became apparent that, while accepting the terms, she had every intention of keeping alive the claim in hopes that by perseverance she might at length obtain the end. It therefore became necessary peremptorily to stop all further payments till the agreement which had been ordered had been formally entered into. This was accordingly done and the matter set at rest.

The following is a precis of the records on the subject. It appears from the Joint Commissioners' report that when Tippoo about to reinstate the Rajah of Cherikul, whom at the instigation of the Beebee of Cannanore he had ousted from Cherikul in 1783, he gave the Beebee of Cannanore two grants out of the Cherikul territory, one in jaghire,\* the other in lieu of the Ameny granted by a sannad dated A.H. 1217 (A.D. 1787), which is as follows:—

"Be it known to the present and future Aumeels and to the Meccadums and husbandmen of the talook of Kushanabad *alias* Cherikul dependent on the Turruke Cutcherry under the Sircar of Puttum, the capital or seal of empire.

"Whereas the sum of 7,380 rupees for the country Chelatterra, &c. hath been granted from the said talook in exchange for the island of Ameny (the jumma of this last being Rupees 6,500, which island hath been transferred by Ally Rajah to the Government, which thereon bestowed to that Rajah the lands Chelatarra in question. It is necessary that, according to the under mentioned particulars, you do from the 1st of Ahmedy of the Sraub year 1217 of Mahomed) agreeing with the 1st of Cheller Soumy Semitchee leave the territory in question to the possession and occupancy of the said Rajah to the end that, having appropriated its produce to the support of his exigencies, he may night and day be attentive to and occupied in the concerns of Government new sannad not to be demanded yearly, and a copy only being taken the original is to be returned."

*Particulars of the Tarrahs.*

|                    |             |     |       |   |    |
|--------------------|-------------|-----|-------|---|----|
| Chalat terra,      | 1 terra ... | ... | 1,199 | 3 | 12 |
| Tuloob do.         | 1 do. ...   | ... | 154   | 5 | 2  |
| Chooceya terra,    | 1 do. ...   | ... | 396   | 0 | 9  |
| Kanootchant terra, | 1 do. ...   | ... | 59    | 9 | 7  |
| Mundicant do.      | 1 do. ...   | ... | 190   | 9 | 14 |
| Kunutoor do.       | 1 do. ...   | ... | 213   | 3 | 12 |

Hoons ... 2,214 2 8

at 3 Fanams per Rupee ... 7,380 0 0

*Signature.*

Some delay took place in obtaining possession in consequence of repeated references being made to Seringapatam, as the Beebee of Cannanore had been actuated by a very malicious spirit towards the Rajah of Cherikul in choosing the land; but eventually she occupied a large area of that principality for several years.

The success of the British arms in 1791 and the conquest of Cannanore enabled the allies of the Company to resume their respective possessions, among whom the Rajah of Cherikul resumed also the lands held under the sannads in question and collected the revenue.

On a claim for restoration being preferred by the Beebee of

*Vide Proceedings, 11th April 1793, of Joint Commissioners and report of Joint Commissioners, para. 245, voucher No. 63.*

Cannanore, the Commissioners held that being under Tippoo's Sannad the Beebee of Cannanore's claim "could not be sustained," although the right was contested with much bitterness on other grounds than the sannad, viz., on immemorial

jenm right thereto, and that her own jenm property had been fraudulently inserted in the sannad by Tippoo. After

due inquiry into the merits of the allegations a decision was passed by Mr. Farmer to the effect

that the inquiry into the statement of the Beebee of Cannanore had been conducted in form and with firmness by Tippoo, who had decided that the land in question belonged to the Cherikul territory,

and that the collections must consequently be made over to the Rajah of Cherikul—the Beebee

of Cannanore's claim was rejected, but certain temporary arrangements for the preservation of peace—to the disturbance of which the bitter animosity existing between the Rajah of Cherikul and the Beebee of Cannanore seemed likely to lead had, however, to be made, and much

angry correspondence on the subject came on record during 1794.  
 • The resumed compensation was, however, permanently made over to the Rajah of Cherikul.

The resumption, however, continued to form one of the points of grievances frequently submitted by the Beebee of Cannanore in petitions during 1795 and 1796. Her bitter jealousy of the Cherikul Rajah and loss of revenue led her to impugn the justice of the decision and keep alive her claims. The Government remarked "that it has already been signified to her that she can have no claim on our Government for exchanges made between her and Tippoo whilst she was his vassal, as already sufficiently detailed in the two paragraphs of the Joint Commissioners' Report (244 and 245)." Still the claim was persisted in until formally relinquished by the agreement signed 28th October 1796 (15th Toolam 972).

From Governor in Council to Commissioners, dated 12th November 1796, para. 13.

The Beebee of Cannanore, however, again revived the subject early in 1799, and addressed the Officer Commanding the Provinces, to the effect that Tippoo held four of the Laccadives—for which an equivalent had been granted from the territories of the Rajah of Cherikul, but lost when the British conquered the country in 966—which she prayed might be recovered for her.

From Beebee of Cannanore to General Stuart, 30th January 1799.

From General Stuart to Commissioners, 13th February 1799.

From Commissioners to General Stuart, 15th February 1799.

This petition was submitted to Government. "The subject of the Beebee of Cannanore's claims to four of the Laccadive Islands at present in the possession of the Sultan was fully discussed by the first Commissioners. How far it may be politic to give them up to the Beebee in the event of their falling into our possession, is a point which we cannot pretend to determine."

From Commissioners to Governor, 1st March 1799.

"From private information we learn that the state of Tippoo's force there is very weak, consisting only, according to the accounts we have received, of an officer and 30 or 40 men."

No answer to this letter appears to have been sent.

A letter\* on record, however, shows that it was suspected that the Beebee of Cannanore had clandestinely taken possession of these four islands to which she had put up a claim as soon as the war was over; but, the fears were unfounded, and the islands were leased by Captain Munro to Chowakara Moossa for twelve months.

\* From President to Northern Superintendent, dated 12th November 1799.

Northern Superintendent to Commissioners, 17th November 1799.

The Beebee's claim to the Ameny Islands was reported on by Mr. Rickards about 1804; but the records of the period being imperfect, the correspondence is not forthcoming.

From Board of Revenue to Principal Collector, dated 2nd February 1804. The decision of the Government is given in the letter noted in the margin.

Para. 4. "His Lordship in Council has considered with attention the information which has been stated respecting the claim preferred by the Beebee of Cannanore to the possession of three of the Laccadive Islands; the circumstances under which those islands were annexed to the dominions of Mysore and subsequently, by the overthrow of the empire of Tippoo Sultan, brought under the authority of the British Government, have appeared to His Lordship in Council to preclude any right on the part of the Beebee to the possession of that property, for she can have no just claim to be placed in any other situation by the conquest of Mysore than that in which she would have stood if such an event had not taken place; independently also of that consideration, His Lordship would, under any circumstances, deem it to be inexpedient to vest the Beebee of Cannanore with the authority which she has solicited over the Laccadive Islands, under the declared aversion of the inhabitants to her government."

The Honorable the Court of Directors, however, took a different view.

Para. 123.\* "Although it is true that the Beebee of Cannanore

Extract of a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors, 6th December 1805. has in strictness no legal claim upon these islands, we think her case as it now stands rather a hard one. The first exchange by which the three islands were taken from her does not appear to have been sought by her, but was an act of power on the part of Tippoo."

"124. If, when we permitted the Rajah of Cherikul to resume from the Beebee the equivalent she had received in lands taken from his territory, these islands had been then under our authority, we should probably have thought it right to restore them to her. Their coming into our hands by conquest some years afterwards varies indeed the law of the case, but does not, we conceive, altogether answer her claim upon the Company, because it was no doubt the protection we gave to the Rajah of Cherikul which enabled him to resume and keep without a struggle the grants made to her by Tippoo, so that our Government was in effect somewhat more than passive in this business. We, therefore, are of opinion that, though from the aversion of the inhabitants to the government of the Beebee it may not be advisable to restore the possession of those islands to her, some consideration in money should be allowed her on account of them."

\* 227, 228. Claim of the Beebee of Cannanore to three of the Laccadive Islands which had been ceded by her to Tippoo for an equal compensation.

"That they (the Board of Revenue) be required to state their opinion respecting the amount of the pecuniary compensation which may be deemed due to the Beebee of Cannanore on the principle stated by the Honorable Court."

Extract from the Resolution of Government, dated 1st August 1806.

Board of Revenue to Principal Collector, 3rd December 1806.

\*Principal Collector to Board of Revenue, 6th April 1807.

The Principal Collector reported\* having communicated with and obtained sundry information from the Principal Collector of Canara.

"Para. 3. The answer of the Principal Collector in Canara states the average net proceeds to Government from the Beebee's three islands at Star Pagodas 3,004-4-64 per annum.

"4. As the original owner and proprietor of these islands the claims of the Beebee extend, I should presume, no further than to derive that emolument from their proceeds as she would have obtained had they been included among those of her islands which ceded to the Company by the treaty of Seringapatam in 1792.

"5. The islands which ceded to Company by that treaty were exempted from Tippoo's revenue, equally with the three islands now claimed by the Beebee, as she appears to have held them in general, on what may be termed, *enam* under Tippoo's government, who granted to her a jaghire or rather *enams* in Cherikul in lieu of the rents she was supposed to have netted from the three islands which were afterwards resumed and annexed to the Beddenore or Canara Cutcherry.

As far as the official records go this position seems to rest only on the assertion of the Beebee of Cannanore. The jumma of Cherikul in the schedule of the treaty of Seringapatam shows that the revenues of the island were included, and such the Joint Commissioners considered to have been the case.

The Beebee of Cannanore enjoys nothing in the shape of rent (except on private gardens) on the Laccadives proper. The revenues derived is that of a dominant power, not the rental of a landlord and proprietor.

"6. The exemption or *enams* on the islands which ceded to the Company under the treaty of 1792 were not continued to the Beebee, but she was allowed, in common with every *jennmkar* in the province to exercise the rights of proprietor and retain management of the property which she possessed in them upon payment to the Sircar annually the sum of 11,200 rupees, which, from the best information at that time procurable, was considered to be their available jumma.

"7. The jaghire granted to the Beebee in Cherikul was not recognised by Government, but allowed to be resumed by the Rajah, within whose territory it was situated, for the reasons stated in Mr. Rickard's letter to the Board of the 18th August 1803.

"8. I have seen the sunnud in the Beebee's possession under which she obtained her jaghire consisting of five tarrahs in Cherikul District. The sunnud particularises the rent on each description of land contained in those five tarrahs, making the total thereof amount to Rupees 7,380 per annum. It notices the resumption \* by the Sircar of three of the Laccadive Islands as being the cause of the assignment to the Beebee of the five tarrahs above mentioned.

"9. In a paper of memoranda which the Beebee has transmitted to me explaining in abstract the circumstances of the preceding transaction, after noticing it to have been a matter of compulsion on the part of Tippoo, she states that Tippoo calculated her three islands to have been worth to her 6,500 per annum, and estimated the five tarrahs assigned to her in lieu at Rupees 7,380 per annum.

"10. The Principal Collector's (of Canara) average of the annual produce † of the islands amounts, as I have already stated, to S. Ps. ‡ making a difference comparatively with the jumma of Tippoo's jaghire in Cherikul of S. Ps. † in favor of the islands.

"11. In estimating the compensation to be now given to the Beebee and considering the terms on which she possesses the islands already in her possession, she cannot I presume be deemed entitled to a larger proportion of the net proceeds of her lost islands than what may be acknowledged by Government to be her right, as their former owner or proprietor, after deducting what may, on the other hand, be considered to be the revenue payable to the Sircar.

"12. I shall, therefore, assume the position that the Beebee is to be viewed in the light of the original proprietor § only, and as such entitled to the proprietor's share of half of the net rent. I have estimated the proprietor's share at half, as the production of the islands are chiefly confined to cocoanut trees.

"13. Allowing the preceding data to be a fair principle of estimating the claims of the Beebee of Cannanore, it remains to be decided from what period they are to be calculated.

"14. Should the liberality of Government consider her to be entitled to the arrears of her share of the net rent since the islands have reverted to the authority of the Company's Government, the sum of Star Pagodas 19,032-38-32, being the half of net collections from fusly 1209 to fusly 1215, as per Mr. Reid's letter, will now be her due.

"15. Should Government consider her entitled to the proprietor's share of the rent from the date only of the Court of Directors' orders, the arrears due to her will be about half of the net collections of the last and current fuslies, or Star Pagodas 4,462-7-16, and she will of course be entitled to half of the rents of each ensuing year.

"16. But if it be the strict intention of the Honorable Court of Directors that some consideration in money should be allowed to the Beebee of Cannanore on account of the islands in question, I should in that case propose that she shall be paid a sum of money the interest of which shall ensure to her one-half of the annual net average collections of the islands calculated from fusly 1209 to fusly 1216, which by Mr. Reid's letter before referred to will be Star Pagodas 1,500. The principal to yield which income at 12 per cent. per annum being about Star Pagodas twelve thousand five hundred (12,500), I beg leave humbly to submit to your Board how far it may be consistent with the orders of the Court of Directors to present that sum to the Beebee of Cannanore, in full of all her claims upon the Honorable Company, past, present, and future, for the islands in question.

"I have the honor, &c."

The proposed compensation was probably offered to the Beebee of Cannanore and rejected as inadequate, and the matter rested for many years.

It is to be regretted that much correspondence is probably missing, as it might have been of importance to know whether the doubtful position taken in the above letter were permitted to pass, or whether any reference was made to the voluminous and conclusive documents already on record relative to the Beebee of Cannanore's tenure on the Laccadives.

With the exception of a few miscellaneous letters explanatory of errors and mistakes, nothing can be found prior to the final report\* of the Board of Revenue on the subject.

\* From Board to Chief Secretary, dated 3rd October 1822.

Board of Revenue made final report on the subject of the claims preferred by the Beebee\* of Cannanore on account of the Amendevy Island. In paragraphs 2 and 3 the great delay is accounted for by the perplexity which had ensued from confounding these claims with other points of litigation between the Beebee of Cannanore and Rajah of Cherikul. Paragraphs 4 and 5 contain a concise recapitulation of the history of the defection of these islands to Tippoo in 1784 and the compensation granted under that prince's sunnud held by Beebee of Cannanore till its resumption in the conquest of Malabar in 1792 by the Rajah of Cherikul, who was an ally of the British during the war. In paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 they recapitulate the revival of the claims in 1803, when they were disallowed by Government, 14th January 1804, as shown in Board of Revenue's letter to the Collector, 2nd February 1804, and the indulgent view taken by the Honorable Court of Directors in their letter of the 6th November 1805. In paragraph 9 the Board reviews paragraph 14 of the report of the Principal Collector of 6th April 1807, and from paragraph 11 it appears that the Principal Collector had been authorised to offer to the Beebee of Cannanore an abatement of revenue of about 1,500 pagodas per annum, that being the estimated value, less the usual deductions, of the islands to which the Beebee of Cannanore

Dated 27th June 1822.

did not acquiesce till 1822, as by her letter to the Board of Revenue. The Board then proceeds to remark (paragraph 14) that the conquest of the Beebee of Cannanore, while in strict alliance with Tippoo, "might in the first instance have rendered any compensation on the part of the British Government a voluntary donation, but as the Honorable the Court of Directors have determined that this circumstance shall not operate to the detriment of her claims," the Board propose that the terms offered by the Principal Collector in the first instance be made the basis of an arrangement for the abatement of revenue to that amount, and that arrears from 6th November 1805, the date of the receipt of the orders of the Honorable Court of Directors, be paid to the Beebee of Cannanore.

N.B.—In this letter the term "Her Highness" is used.

The Government ordered that an abatement to the amount of 1,500 Star Pagodas be made in compensation for the Amendevy Island, but "as the Beebee was in alliance with Tippoo Sultan, the enemy of the British, and as Tippoo took the islands from her and gave her a compensation for them by the grant of a part of the Cherikul Rajah's lands which he recovered on the downfall of the Sultan's power, the Governor in Council considers her claim to consist entirely of the liberal disposition evinced towards her by the Honorable

the Court of Directors, and in no degree to be founded on right; as she declined to avail herself of the proposal made to her in consequence of the Honorable Court's instructions up to the 27th of June last, the Governor in Council is of opinion that it is only from that date that she should be allowed to reap the benefit of it."

A remission was accordingly sanctioned\* in "compensation for the loss of the Amendevy Islands. But the Government desire that a formal renunciation be taken from her of all further claims on the same account, and in acknowledgment that the transaction is closed and set at rest for ever."

From Principal Collector to Board of Revenue, dated 18th February 1823. The Collector reports having communicated the resolution of Government to the Beebee of Cannanore. And stated that: Para. 2. "Her first answer was of that indefinite nature which is the constant practice of natives who make a point of never relinquishing a claim, or abandoning a point for which there is the least opening. I therefore wrote to her again to request a categorical answer, intimating that the same principle which influenced Government in awarding a certain and defined pecuniary compensation from the 27th June last might operate in the present instance if she did not in plain and decided terms accept or refuse to abide by the terms offered; that of course if it was her desire, I would forward copy of her answer for the further consideration of Government, but that the consequences were on her own head. To this I received a long memorial, both in English and Malayalam, recapitulating her claims, &c., in reply to which I repeated my former arguments, and requested a positive and direct answer, and have received another letter accepting of the terms, but requesting that I will again bring to the favorable consideration of Government her former claims." He requested further instructions "as from the disposition of the family I am convinced that they will never cease prosecuting their claims until the door is closed to them by peremptory and final decision from Government, and that whilst they accept of the proffered terms, it is their intention to renew their claims from time to time, so as to keep it alive to an indefinite period on the hopes that by perseverance they may at length obtain their end."

The Beebee's memorial and the Principal Collector's letter of the 11th April were submitted† to the Government; when orders were passed that "the Honorable the Governor in Council does not think proper to comply with the request of the Beebee of Cannanore that the compensation granted to her for the loss of Amendevy Islands may begin to take effect from an earlier date."

\* From Secretary to Government to Board, 18th March 1823.

† From Board of Revenue to Chief Secretary to Government, 5th May 1823.

From Secretary to Government to Board of Revenue, 16th May 1823.

The amount having been inadvertently paid to the Beebee of Cannanore before the formal deed of renunciation of all future claims had been executed, the Beebee of Cannanore passed "receipts improperly worded, inas much as they keep alive her pretensions," and as, on her being called on to change these receipts, she refused to do so, the matter was referred\* to Government through the Board of Revenue,† on which the Honorable the Governor in Council was pleased‡ to desire that "no further payment may be made by the Principal Collector of Malabar to the Beebee of Cannanore until he has obtained the requisite renunciation from her of all further claims on account of the Amendevy Islands. I enclose a petition on the subject which has been received from the Beebee, and I am directed to desire that she may be informed that the Governor in Council does not see fit to comply with it, and has finally disposed of the case."

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,  
Head Assistant Collector.

\* From Principal Collector to Board of Revenue, 6th August 1823.

† From Secretary to Board of Revenue to Secretary to Government, 25th August 1823.

‡ From Secretary to Government to Board of Revenue, 19th December 1823.

## APPENDIX B.

## SUMMARY SKETCH OF THE FISCAL SYSTEM OF THE AMENY ISLANDS.

Subsequent to the defection in 1784 the Ameny Islands were placed under Tippoo's officers. I have not learnt what modification in the system which had obtained took place, probably none except a reduction in the commutation price at which rice was supplied from 2½ to 2 rupees per robbin. After the fall of Seringapatam they were leased for four years to Chowakara Moossa at an average rate of 8,400. In 1804 Mr. Read revised the system, abolished all restrictions and monopolies, that of coir excepted, and fixed the price at 25 rupees per candy of coir—75 per cent. of which was to be paid in rice at 2 rupees per moodah, and the balance in cash. The import and export duties were commuted to a fixed impost of half a maund of coir per moodah of rice supplied, amounting to a reduction of about 12½ per cent. on the entire value, leaving the actual value of coir about 21 rupees 4 annas per candy of 640 lbs. The profit on coir, valued at 65 rupees per candy, was then about 200 per cent., or about 43 rupees.

The commutation price of 2 rupees per robbin being kept up, while its value fell to 1 rupee 8 annas per moodah, enhanced the profits by saving 25 per cent. on that portion paid in rice, and made the payments virtually about 17 rupees per candy, at which rate they stand now slightly reduced by a fixed classification introduced as shown in note.

The difference of the price received by the Canara and Cannanore Islands at the time is about 10 rupees per candy, or about 160 per cent.

No other restriction of any description exists. The salt and tobacco monopolies, which never practically have been in operation on these islands (when receiving it from the Government is optional), have been formally given up and other indulgences granted.

The administration of justice is in accordance with the Regulation. The civil business being done by the Collector under Regulation V. of 1822 a Regulation which is in operation in the district of Canara.

An efficient and respectable Shibundy is kept up at an expense of from 560 to 600 rupees per annum.

The Canara Islands yielded between 1805 and 1826 an average revenue of 20,000 rupees from the coir monopoly alone.

Between the years 1827—35, consequent on the low prices of coir, the revenue fluctuated exceedingly, and the average of five years, 1830—35, was as low as 1,768 rupees; after which the market for coir, though permanently reduced at least 10 per cent., righted itself in some measure, and the net revenue of the islands, less all expenses for police, &c., has exceeded 8,000 rupees per annum for 12 to 15 years past. The

number of productive trees of the four islands having during the same time averaged from 65,000 to 70,000, the revenue derived has equalled an assessment of nearly 2 annas per tree, which, I believe, is the average jumma on coconut plantation in Malabar.

Particulars of the Trees in enjoyment of the Pandaram in Agaty in December 1847, showing the nature of those properties.

|                                | Total Full-grown<br>Trees. | Young Trees.            | Plants. |                                     | Total Full-grown<br>Trees. | Young Trees. | Plants. |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>Tekkacherry.-</i>           |                            |                         |         |                                     |                            |              |         |
| <i>Within Tekka Pak.</i>       |                            |                         |         |                                     |                            |              |         |
| Nupinoda and Pandam ... ..     | 662                        | Not taken are numerous. |         | 11. East of the Totam mah ... ..    | 11                         | ...          | 32      |
| <i>Arenada Kal.</i>            |                            |                         |         | 12. West of Kunyuma ... ..          | 4                          | ...          | ...     |
| Addy ... ..                    | 60                         | 6                       | 19      | 13. East of Totam ... ..            | 12                         | 1            | 24      |
| Ballap ... ..                  | 136                        | 111                     | 9       | 14. Belly Illatody ... ..           | 136                        | ...          | 15      |
| Tottakery ... ..               | 30                         | 3                       | ...     | 15. By Kumbangare ... ..            | 1                          | ...          | ...     |
|                                |                            |                         |         | 16. Petambalat ... ..               | 8                          | 0            | 7       |
|                                |                            |                         |         | 17. Do. north of ... ..             | 12                         | 1            | 39      |
|                                |                            |                         |         | 18. Near Arkal ... ..               | 19                         | 3            | 4       |
| Total ...                      | 888                        | 120                     | 28      | Total ...                           | 290                        | 22           | 216     |
| <i>Without the Pak.</i>        |                            |                         |         | <i>Baddacherry.</i>                 |                            |              |         |
| 1. Kuttyaworan Karyakar ... .. | 81                         | 33                      | 130     | 1. Near Jumat Pally ... ..          | 5                          | ...          | 2       |
| 2. Koyama Karyakar ... ..      | 33                         | 405                     | 203     | 2. Near Jumat Pally, east of ... .. | 1                          | ...          | ...     |
| 3. Yeryangakad ... ..          | 10                         | ...                     | ...     | 3. Kalady Kollom ... ..             | 101                        | 4            | 232     |
| 4. By Markar Pally ... ..      | 7                          | ...                     | ...     | 4. By Kilacherry ... ..             | 20                         | 9            | 114     |
| 5. Bakina Kud ... ..           | 96                         | 2                       | 106     | 5. By Pale Pully ... ..             | 24                         | 140          | 401     |
| 6. Beedari Odo ... ..          | 13                         | ...                     | ...     | 6. Tawakkal Ody ... ..              | 1                          | ...          | 2       |
| 7. By the Yella Pally ... ..   | 9                          | ...                     | ...     | 7. By Yulleka ... ..                | 2                          | ...          | ...     |
| 8. Manakada ... ..             | 25                         | ...                     | 29      | Total ...                           | 154                        | 153          | 751     |
| 9. Near Maiden Pally ... ..    | 38                         | 4                       | 209     | <i>Baddake Pak.</i>                 |                            |              |         |
| Total ...                      | 1,195                      | 564                     | 705     | Pandaram ... ..                     | 847                        | 263          | ...     |
| <i>Yeddacherry.</i>            |                            |                         |         | Baba Karyakar Parly ... ..          | 81                         | 200          | 4       |
| 1. Talkakada, &c....           | 307                        | 444                     | 667     |                                     |                            |              |         |
| <i>And by the Sheik Pally</i>  |                            |                         |         |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 2. Yeddakata, &c....           | 21                         | 3                       | 4       |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 3. Umanyode ... ..             | 7                          | ...                     | ...     |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 4. Do. east of ... ..          | 4                          | ...                     | ...     |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 5. Wolambat ... ..             | 5                          | 1                       | ...     |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 6. Kunda Mel ... ..            | 7                          | ...                     | ...     |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 7. Do. east of ... ..          | 3                          | ...                     | ...     |                                     |                            |              |         |
| 8. Beryatu ... ..              | 7                          | ...                     | ...     | Tingaram ... ..                     | 2,605                      | 1,798        | 746     |
| 9. Kunyumatha, &c. ... ..      | ...                        | ...                     | 38      | Bingaram ... ..                     | 2,923                      | 1,452        | 2,306   |
| 10. By the Sheik Pally ... ..  | 10                         | 9                       | 31      |                                     |                            |              |         |

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,  
Head Assistant Collector.

JOINT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE ON CIRCUIT  
CANNANORE, 6th October 1847.

From

R. CHATFIELD, Esq.,  
*Joint Magistrate of Malabar,*

To

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
*Magistrate of Malabar.*

SIR,

I have the honor to forward, for your perusal, certain depositions taken from some inhabitants of the Beebee's Island of Androt, by which you will be made acquainted with one of the most brutal cases of oppression, and death in consequence thereof, that I ever remember to have met with.

I am at a loss what further steps to take in this matter, as the offenders are servants of the Beebee of Cannanore; it is distressing to think that such criminals should escape exemplary punishment, and I hope the Government will authorise their being brought before a tribunal where they will meet with punishment, which, however great, must be less than their offences deserve.

I have removed to Tellicherry all the witnesses in this case to avoid their being molested or tampered with, as the poor creatures are extremely timid and simple, and seem to hold truth in more respect than the more *civilised* natives of the coast.

If any communication could be made with Mr. Robinson for taking evidence on the spot it would be highly advisable. I attempted to obtain a boat for the conveyance of a letter to that gentleman, but have been unable to succeed in my object, and we must expect steps to be taken to remove the witnesses and confuse the evidence with a view to prevent the capture or conviction of the principal offenders (who are now in the island).

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. CHATFIELD,  
*Joint Magistrate.*

From

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
*Magistrate of Malabar,*

To

R. CHATFIELD, Esq.,  
*Joint Magistrate, Cannanore.*

SIR,

I will translate the documents submitted with your letter of the 6th instant and send them to Mangalore, with a request to Mr. Blane to forward them by the earliest opportunity to the island where Mr. Robinson is likely by this time to be.

Mr. Robinson has not improbably heard something of this oppressive and brutal conduct of the Beebee's Kariastan during his residence at Androt. It will be very desirable to hear from him if he has so, what he has done in consequence, or what he thinks best to do now. Here will be little difficulty in his getting back to Androt, if necessary, from any of the other islands.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) H. V. CONOLLY,  
*Magistrate.*

CALICUT, 12th October 1847.

No. 1,615.

From

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
*Magistrate of Malabar,*

To

W. ROBINSON, Esq.,  
*Acting Head Assistant of Malabar.*

SIR,

I have the honor to forward papers which relate to a cruel case of oppression said to have taken place some time ago at Androt. In the uncertainty whether you have heard any thing of it in your late sojourn at that island and taken any steps in consequence, I do not exactly know what to suggest; I leave the matter, therefore, for your own judgment as remarked in my letter to Mr. Chatfield. It is clear that, presuming the case to be as repre-

From Joint Magistrate, Tellicherry, dated 6th October 1847.  
To Joint Magistrate, Tellicherry, dated 9th October 1847.

sented, it is very desirable to bring the guilty parties to justice. I doubt not that they are amenable to a British Court of Justice, and that the Government would wish the trial to take place before the Sessions Court of Calicut or Tellicherry.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. V. CONOLLY,  
Magistrate.

CALICUT, 26th January 1848.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq.,  
Acting Head Assistant Magistrate,

To H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
Magistrate of Malabar.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th October last, with enclosures, and beg now to submit the record of the further local inquiry made by me under your direction.

The circumstances of the case are simply these. On the 9th of Medom (17th April) last the island of Androt was entirely laid waste by the hurricane. The disaster was early reported to the Pandaram of Arkal (the local name for the Beebee's government), when about 400 moodahs of rice were despatched to the island to be sold to the people for coir at the monopoly price which has for some years been established on the islands, i.e., six maunds of coir of the value of 5 or 6 rupees per moodah of rice. The rice was placed as usual in the hands of the Karyakars and Accountants and some of the principal inhabitants, for distribution. It soon became sufficiently evident that there must be a famine during the monsoon on the island, and much irregularity occurred in regard to this rice; those who most needed it got little of it even at the price. The rice was housed in an open shed, the Arkal godown, as almost all the houses on the island had been destroyed by the hurricane. Shortly after being placed there three moodahs of rice disappeared. Embezzlement was at first suspected, the Nadpals (Beebee's peons) were examined, and many houses searched without success. About eight days subsequently the principal Karyakars, &c., determined to put all persons who might be suspected to the ordeal. Thekmaveel Kassim Koyah prepared the usual test, and some 15 or 20 individuals ate of the bread. One of the thieves, Rajab Kutty, confessed and

implicated Moossa Poker as his accomplice. They were ordered to bring back the rice which they did, and a fine of double the amount stolen was imposed in addition. Besides this the Karyakars determined to put into practice a custom of the islands locally termed *Cowrachy*. \* *Cowrachy* is put in force, generally for offences against the Pandaram; and some other heinous crimes are punished in the same way. The house of the offender is suddenly visited by a mob headed by the Nadpals of the Beebee, and every thing, to the ornaments on the persons of females and the household utensils, are carried off. The trees standing on their property are also confiscated to the private account of the Beebee.

In this case it will be seen that the two houses of Beyata Pera and Uluvil Pera were visited by a large body of men headed by Nadpals and a younger member of the Karyakar's family. The prisoners who were the only males of the families were prevented from accompanying these parties, lest they should manage to secrete anything. In Uluvil Pera at the time of the visit were Ajjima Semabu, Moossa Poker's wife, and Temacha (the former and latter were examined before the Joint Magistrate); Semabu was at the time still confined to her cot, having been brought to bed only a week prior—the females were turned out of the house and stripped of the jewels, &c., on their persons at the hands of men, while others entered the house and collected every thing it contained. The indignity of this proceeding was naturally sorely felt, and there seems to have been as much roughness used as might be expected at the hands of such people. I inspected the jewels and found that several of the bangles had been cut with a knife and otherwise wrenched and broken in stripping them off. But the worst feature of the business is the rousing Semabu, then in a sickly state, from her cot and exposing her before the 40 days' seclusion were over.

It was at this juncture that the child, her newly-born infant, is said to have fallen or been pushed out of her arms. This being a point of much importance, occupied my particular attention. All the evidence I obtained on this point is such as appears in the deposition of Semabu, the mother, while a few others depose to having heard that this was the proximate cause of its death, which very shortly ensued. The child it seems fell sick about this time, pined away under dysentery, and died the tenth or twelfth day after the occurrence. There were no marks about the body; and if it did fall it may be doubted whether the fall caused the disease of which it finally died. I should be afraid, considering the wretched state of famine which about this time

\* The word in Malayalam means robbery with violence, and is used indiscriminately by the islanders with reference to these wholesale confiscations and the plundering of pirates.

existed in the island, to attribute the death to the fall. My returns show that the deaths during those two dreadful months from dysentery, famine, and dropsy exceeded 200, and a very large portion of the deceased were females and children of tender age. The very fact that almost the whole family, men, women, and children, were constrained to start during the monsoon for the coast in small open rowing boats shows that this family were among the severest sufferers. I early became acquainted with all the circumstances of the case, but heard nothing of the alleged murder till the question had been raised on the coast, nor can I find that my peons heard this version of the matter, although we were for weeks on the island. My own impression is certainly that the death occurred from natural causes consequent on the wretched state of the island, and that the circumstance has been made a convenience of in exaggerating a proceeding of a most irregular and reprehensible nature, which was conducted there is every reason to believe, with little gentleness, delicacy or consideration. I must at the same time admit that a different opinion may be formed, and that the persons who committed the act must bear the disadvantage of such an inference.

In Boyata-Pera there were Moossa Poker's aged mother (since dead) and father; the deposition of the latter, a very old and sickly man, will be found on the record now submitted. Every thing in the house was similarly "*Cowrachied*," and his mother's person stripped of her ornaments. Moossa Poker was not present at the time, his aged parents were there alone. I examined the old man and Moossa Poker, and they both attribute the old woman's death to the fright she then got. She is said from that time to have pined away gradually and died within one month. I must repeat my impression that with regard to this also I think that the death occurred from other causes than fright; but must admit that rough treatment must have seriously affected the health of one so frail and aged. Moossa Poker personally represented the circumstances of the case to me on my first arrival, when he did not mention this matter. I observe, however, from allusions in the papers forwarded to me, that a private letter which had passed between members of the family has been filed before the Joint Magistrate; from this probably may be gathered whether the family really entertained the belief now asserted relative to the proximate cause of the old woman's sickening from the first, or whether a fortuitous circumstance has been made use of to aggravate a serious grievance.

Moossa Poker and Rajab Kutty were both retained some time in custody, but the difficulty of obtaining food was so great that it became necessary to release them. In the meantime most of their families were compelled to leave the island in a starving state. Permission to accompany them was withheld.

70A  
70A

Very shortly after my arrival in the island in September last the case was brought to my notice. For various reasons I was unwilling to interfere directly. I listened carefully to all I was told, but complaints and dissatisfaction were so general here as elsewhere, that I was afraid of showing the particular interest which minute questioning always implies. I, however, on this, as on many other cases, spoke strongly to Koyah Kutty, the Beebeo's Agent then with me, directing him to settle it, or otherwise I should be compelled to interfere. I desired him to return all the property to the parties, and we agreed that a fine which had already been imposed by the decision of the principal inhabitants, of double the amount stolen, would suffice. This punishment was slight, but there were many extenuating circumstances, and the whole proceeding had been so reprehensible on the part of the Pandaram that I thought that the confinement and other annoyance already endured, enhanced the punishment greatly. The jewels, &c., were returned with my knowledge, and I was told by the Kariastan Koyah Kutty that a fine of the amount agreed on had been imposed. I heard nothing further of the case till it was revived by your letter of the 12th October last. When I returned to Androt to make full local inquiry people were all prepared. Half the inhabitants of the islands were probably present at the "*Courachy*," but they, afraid of being treated as aiders and abettors, would not give evidence. The further inquiry instituted under your orders has led me to form a somewhat more unfavorable impression of the "*Courachy*" part of the matter than I did at first, and I regret to be obliged to confess that I was misled as to the final settlement. I had supposed that the Kariastan had, as recommended by me, fixed the fine at six moodahs of rice, value about 12 rupees, but find on inquiry that he had enhanced this by enforcing a further fine of 5½ moodahs of rice, which he commuted into a compulsory payment in coir at the monopoly price of six maunds per moodah, thereby imposing a further fine of 25 to 30 rupees. I am explicit on all matters that the whole case may be before you, and in explanation must remind you of the anomalous position in which I stood; for I can assure you that, had I not resolutely refused to interfere in the internal matters of the island, I should have been overwhelmed: so great is the discontent.

The only thing taken in the "*Courachy*" which was not returned by the Kariastan was some wood taken from these houses. This has been embezzled by the Karyakar Cheyah Mulanjee Row, &c., who was at the time building a boat. In evidence it would appear to have been sold. This to my certain knowledge is a story trumped up long subsequent to the matter having been first brought under my notice. The Karyakar is a man of influence and wealth on the island.

With reference to the conduct of the Kariastans Cheyah Mulanjee Row, Hussan Kutty Mulanjee Row, &c., I think that they only put into exe-

cution an established custom of the islands—one which you will observe was practised only four years ago by the same Karyakars without reprehension. They considered this a case which called for the measure, as a quasi-State offence. The system is at fault, not the persons, except in so far as the subordinates seem to have acted in an especially objectionable way in this matter. I may mention that the Beebee's Kariastar who accompanied accorded his distinct approval of their conduct when I spoke to him of the case.

The general matter of the administration of public justice and police on these islands I reserve for another place. As respects this case I must express an opinion that the two deaths in question cannot be attributed entirely to the causes stated. That a "Cowrachy" actually took place with many of its objectionable features cannot be denied, but it must be remembered that "Cowrachy" is a species of wild, irregular, retaliative justice which has obtained in the Beebee's administration of the police of the islands. It would, therefore, not be possible to bring the Kariastans of the Beebee to justice on any direct charge in the matter.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,  
*Acting Head Assistant Magistrate.*

CALICUT, 27th January 1848.

No. 135.

From

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
*Magistrate of Malabar,*

To

R. CHATFIELD, Esq.,  
*Joint Magistrate, Cannanore.*

SIR,

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, I have the honor to forward a report\* from Mr. Robinson on the subject of the aggravated assault to which certain people of the island of Androt were subjected by some of the Beebee's people. I shall be glad to be favored with your sentiments regarding the matter.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. V. CONOLLY,  
*Magistrate.*

From Joint Magistrate,  
dated 6th October 1847.  
To Joint Magistrate,  
dated 9th October 1847.  
\* Dated 26th instant,  
with enclosures (to be  
returned).

JOINT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE,  
TELLICHERRY, 1st February 1848.

From

F. CHATFIELD, Esq.,  
*Joint Magistrate of Malabar,*

To

H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
*Magistrate of Malabar.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date the 27th ultimo, forwarding a report\* of Mr. Robinson's on the subject of an aggravated assault in the island of Androt, and calling for my sentiments on the subject.

Mr. Robinson's report confirms so much of the statements made before me by the unfortunate complainants that it would be superfluous to enter into a discussion on disputable points. Taking Mr. Robinson's report as the ground work for a few remarks, I have to observe that the rice was sold at famine prices, and the "utmost rascality" practised in the disposal of it. In consequence of this price and rascality a couple of youths, to save the lives of their relatives, committed the dreadful enormity of taking what they could not purchase, and what, says the mother, they must all have perished hopelessly without. For this crime the whole family is mulct in a preposterous fine, the females treated with ignominy and brutality, and an infant, if not killed assisted by a fall from its mother's arms, towards that death whither wretchedness and famine might possibly have otherwise prematurely hurried it. The plundering of these poor islanders seems to have been conducted under the semblance of a form which the worst mis-government could alone patronize, and the harshest of all tyrannies alone practise.

Mr. Robinson does not produce to my mind any evidence to show that the infant died a natural death, whereas the opposite conclusion of its relatives has every thing in its favor, without supposing the event was seized upon merely with a view to aggravate the general charge; but whether the child died in consequence of its fall or in consequence of dysentery, and whether the old woman expired of fright, starvation, or age, the proceeding from first to last is one of a most sickening nature; and as a recurrence is not impossible where the "Cowrachy" exists, is to be hoped, if the culprits are now beyond the reach of civilized law, that the present case may have some influence in effecting a radical change on the administration of justice throughout the islands.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. CHATFIELD,  
*Joint Magistrate.*

CALICUT, 5th February 1848.

No. 189.

From H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
Magistrate of Malabar,  
To R. CHATFIELD, Esq.,  
Joint Magistrate, Tellicherry.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant on the subject of Mr. Robinson's report on a case of assault in Androt.

The point on which I especially wish for your opinion is whether it is desirable to prosecute the matter criminally, or be content with obtaining for the sufferers in the assault such compensation as can now be afforded. In the former case the Government must be moved to decide by what Court the offence should be tried.

It is in intention to propose such steps as will introduce a system of justice into the Laccadive Islands and prevent a recurrence of similar barbarities. I make this reference to you as you are necessarily better acquainted, from *personal* inquiry, with the merits of the case than myself. But I think your natural indignation has led you somewhat to overlook the fault which led to the outrage complained of without attempting to defend the heartless conduct of the Beebee's people. I cannot think that the relatives of the parties who complain to us were justified in their abstraction of the Beebee's rice. Much is to be said,

You call the two who stole here youths. Mr. Robinson tells me one was 40 years of age. no doubt, *in alleviation* for men who steal food under the impulse of hunger, but their stealing is yet a fault, and one that would be more or less punished by any authority.

The great aggravation of the assault in the present instance seems to me to consist in its having involved the innocent, or the comparatively innocent, the women who merely partook of the stolen food, in the punishment aimed at the guilty; and even this, abominable as it justly is in our eyes, is only an abuse of authority common among all native powers.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed) H. V. CONOLLY,

Magistrate.

I beg to attract your attention to the suggestion thrown out in Mr. Robinson's report that much light may be thrown on the view which was originally taken by the sufferers themselves of the amount of injury inflicted on them by a reference to the letter "between members of the family filed before you."

(Signed) H. V. CONOLLY,

Magistrate.

JOINT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE,  
TELLICHEERY, 9th February 1848.

From R. CHATFIELD, Esq.,  
Joint Magistrate of Malabar,  
To H. V. CONOLLY, Esq.,  
Magistrate of Malabar.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date the 5th instant, and, in reply, to state that since Mr. Robinson, after an inquiry on the spot, concludes that the commission of a murder cannot be substantiated, and that the barbarous assault was perpetrated when the island authorities were executing a process considered legal, or at least customary, I do not see what use it would be to proceed criminally against parties who could dispute your jurisdiction and plead prescription in support of their proceedings. It may be enough to guard against the recurrence of future iniquities by an alteration in the law and the parties who administer it.

The letter you and Mr. Robinson allude to spoke, I think, of the plunder of goods and the detention under surveillance of part of the complainant's family, and I thought all the parties examined before me looked upon themselves as deeply grieved, and not likely to consider the "Cowrachy" as a legitimate, or at least pleasant, way of detecting thieves and remunerating losses.

I saw the complainant yesterday, and she informs me that *most* of the property taken from them has been restored, and I have to-day written to the Beebee to hasten the delivery of the remainder.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed) R. CHATFIELD,  
Joint Magistrate.

*Memorandum by F. H. Crozier, Esq., on the Report from Mr. Robinson on the Laccadive Islands under the Rule of the Beebee of Cannanore.*

1. The origin of this report was a complaint arzee to the Collector of Malabar against the fiscal and judicial maladministration in those islands under the Beebee's immediate and sole control.

2. After a brief, strong, encomium upon the zeal and ability displayed by his Assistant, Mr. Robinson, in the investigation, Mr. Conolly proceeds to say that up to the period of Tippoo's successful invasion the whole group was in the Beebee's hands. From the period of Tippoo's fall certain four islands have been attached to the Government territory,

whilst five islands also specified, and up to the last year well people and well cultivated, are still in the Beebee's possession.

3. The prosperity and *population* of two of the Beebee's islands was greatly reduced by a storm of last year, *that* of the remaining island is estimated at about 2,000 and 1,500 inhabitants respectively. A very superior coir, valuable fisheries, cowries, holothuria, and tortoise shell form the staple produce.

4. The natural advantages of the islands are great, and yet the inhabitants are miserably poor, dispirited and discontented—the result of oppression and exaction. Their products are disadvantageously

Paras. 189, 181 of Mr. Robinson's report. monopolised, and the only return granted rice of an inferior description. The punishment for

infringement of regulations is most severe; fees for liberty of employment and trade, such as fishing, pilotage, &c., are exorbitant; and all local appointments are bought and sold.

The Beebee's power as merchant and sovereign is most injurious to the interests of the people—a power despotic, mercenary, oppressive unfettered, and unchecked by legal or other restraint, comprising exclusive right to trade, monopoly of produce and *necessary import* regulator of prices and sole advancer (*in grain alone*) on credit. The consequence is described as universal debt and state of abject distress poverty, and humility.

5. Such is the present fiscal state.

6. The judicial system is said to be equally bad and more disastrous

Paragraph 208. parties of no character or weight holding all positions of justice and of trust, profit being the chief or only aim in fixing the awards; money payments liquidate the most heinous crimes, and by which both the Beebee and her local

Paragraph 210. officers profit according to the crime committed and amount of payment made; one ascertained and reported case is instanced for theft—the property of the Beebee; the

Mr. Chatfield's report and para. 210 of Mr. Robinson's. orders were so barbarously and indiscriminately carried out as to injure the innocent, and to be the probable cause of death, and this is represented as no uncommon or selected case.

So bad in short is the present aspect of affairs in the Laccadives that, but for the mixed feeling of hope and fear towards the British Government, open rebellion at the present moment would be manifest, as occurred in 1781 and 1784 in Armeric and its three dependencies.

The Beebee is said to have lost much power, her taxes and monopolies are evaded, and Government aid is sought towards the support of existing and recovery of her lost influence.

Paragraph 217.

Mr. Conolly has explained the futility of this expectation, and ventured to hint a total relinquishment of her right of government for some agreed upon equivalent; pride or a point of honor is stated as the chief obstacle to an arrangement which Government interference *alone* can bring about.

This appears the only course now left open. The Beebee's promises of amendment and reform have only been made to be broken, her denials of oppression and wrong have been disproved, and her means even were wanting if the intention existed of governing upon sound principle. The whole fiscal and police system must in short be changed and remodelled.

The official records show that in 1797 not only the Governments of India but also the Court of Directors were fully alive to the evil, and seriously contemplated a remedy.

See Governor-General's Order, dated July 1795, and Court's approval, 1797.

In 1793 an agreement appears to have been made, but not ratified or carried out, to the effect that the Beebee's entire possessions on the Laccadives were to be sequestered to Government; again in 1797, after much trouble and subterfuge, a second treaty was agreed to by the Beebee, "that, provided certain monopolies were reserved to her, the Government might appoint whomsoever they thought fit to administer justice, &c."

The political aspect of the world at the time—war with France, &c.—appears *alone* to have prevented so desirable an end.

Paragraphs 245, 246.

Beyond the fiscal and judicial change, it is not now proposed to interfere with the Beebee's position as proprietary or private landlord, as with her present possessions on the coast so her own arrangements for leasing or directing her private property in the islands will be established.

Much private property is enjoyed on the islands, and the proprietary right seems clearly understood. Over this the Beebee has no feign claim; the principal inhabitants are of high caste ancestry, independent and patriarchal in their habits.

So late as the middle of the last century trade was free and unfettered, and the total abolition of her monopoly in coir in 1793 was ordered by the Governor-General and approved of by the Court of Directors; a communication to that effect was made to the Beebee in 1795.

In the same year (1795) an officer was deputed by the Government to inspect, survey, and report upon the state of the islands; the oppressed and miserable state of the people was strongly represented by Mr. Bentley and their anxiety for British interference.

Mr. Bentley of the Engineers. Paragraph 241.

From the foregoing it would, therefore, appear that the local officer of the present and former times strongly advocate annexation. Former Governments consented and it would appear now to be a fitting, if not a *necessary*, occasion for decided measures—a proceeding which humanity would strongly urge, and a pecuniary view not discourage.

The persevering efforts of the Beebee's family to recover the four islands usurped, as stated by Tippoo, and ceded to the Government at his fall, added to the known parsimonious aggrandizing nature of the Mopillah character, would lead to the conclusion that these possessions were far more profitable than acknowledged, and that other and more weighty reasons than family pride dictated those appeals.

The clemency of the Court of Directors sanctioned a "right" considered by the Local Government and authorities forfeited in 1792—a right only acquired after Hyder's invasion and seizure of all the Cherikul Rajah's property, up to which time tribute was paid by the Beebee to the Cherikul family.

The details of future arrangements are deferred, but no real difficulties are by Mr. Conolly anticipated. The Beebee pays 10,000 rupees a year to Government, presumed to be half the net profits; this 10,000 it is proposed to relinquish and allow other 10,000, taking in exchange the island revenues, which, under a fair and encouraging system, it is calculated will prove, even in a pecuniary point of view, advantageous.

Other uninhabited islands of the Laccadive group are described to be capable of successful occupation and extended culture, and thither some of the sufferers, by the late storm, have been already by Mr. Robinson located.

The terrible distress existing in two of the Beebee's islands has been entered into with painful detail by Mr. Robinson. The loss of life and property resulting, as stated in a marginal note to Mr. Conolly's letter, may lessen the amount of money payment originally proposed in exchange for the Beebee's possessions.

#### MINUTE BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR.

I have read not only Mr. Crozier's Memorandum, but the whole of Mr. Conolly's and Mr. Robinson's detailed and interesting reports.

I do not think that it is anywhere conclusively shown that the Beebee of Cannanore has ever consented to transfer the islands she still

possesses to the British Government. I consider the arguments adduced by the Bombay Government in their correspondence with the Commissioners to be futile as to establishing our right to claim the fulfilment of any such agreement, especially in the absence of the "Original Treaty," which is stated to have been drawn up in Persian and to have been signed by the Beebee.

It therefore seems to me to be quite plain that the first step towards any such arrangement (supposing it may be otherwise deemed advisable) will be to obtain the Beebee's consent; but, judging from these papers, I do not see the smallest chance of that being willingly granted. I also presume that this Government could not enter on any negotiation with the Beebee for the attainment of that object without the sanction of the Government of India or possibly that of the Home Authorities.

The next question to be considered is the proposed pecuniary stipulations, and I confess that I see nothing in these papers to lead me to suppose that Mr. Conolly's plan of giving up our admitted claim to a tribute of Rupees 10,000 per annum, and adding as much more as the price of the (to be ceded) islands, is likely to be publicly advantageous, at all events for a series of years.

I think there is ample proof in these papers that the inhabitants of the Beebee's island have the means of asserting their rights, and that to a certain degree they do so. In saying this, I am far from wishing to extenuate the mismanagement which is shown to exist, but in the case of "Cowrachy" or confiscation of property, which forms the concluding portion of the Appendices to Mr. Robinson's report, I can perceive no illegality that is not common in all independent Native States. In the Mahratta (Paishwas) Government it was much worse. There if a man had a claim, good or bad, against another, and could not obtain redress, he had recourse to burning the stacks of a third person, affixing to a tree or bush at hand the name of his supposed injurer, whose property was forthwith seized and confiscated, whilst the incendiary was allowed to remain unmolested. Many instances of this kind came before me after the conquest of the Deckan, and not only the incendiaries, but the people of all classes were surprised to find that our measures were directed to the punishment of the proper criminals. These cases—of which I speak from personal knowledge—will show that we cannot safely draw any comparisons between our own procedure and that of Native States.

I do not understand the principle on which the Joint Magistrate of Malabar appears to have thought it possible that a case of "Cowrachy" or "official plunder" occurring in one of the Beebee's islands could be investigated in our Courts, but I am glad to see that the interference of our officers (whether strictly allowable or not) has had the effect of ameliorating the severity of the punishment.

As we already hold a part of the group of islands, and have necessarily some establishments on them, I infer that the same (with, perhaps, a trifling increase) would suffice for the whole. This and all other questions connected with the revenue will be best pronounced on by the Board of Revenue, to whom the papers had better be sent for their consideration.

Should their opinion be in favor of the arrangement suggested by Messrs. Conolly and Robinson, an application can be made to the Government of India for its sanction to proposing to (or requiring from) the Beebee of Cannanore the cession of her islands on such terms as may be considered fair and just to her interests.

HENRY POTTINGER.

October 25th, 1848.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 10th November 1848, No. 1225.*

Read letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 23rd June 1848, No. 19.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council observes that, under date the 15th April last, the Board of Revenue were called on to give their opinions on Mr. Robinson's propositions for the management of the group of Laccadive Island belonging to the district of Canara, and he now resolves to transmit the further report furnished by Mr. Robinson through the Collector of Malabar respecting the general condition and prospects of such of the Laccadive Islands as are in possession of the Beebee of Cannanore for their consideration, and in order that the Board of Revenue may afford the Government the benefit of their views on the propositions it embraces.

2. It does not appear to the Governor in Council to be quite clear that the Beebee has ever consented to transfer those islands to the British Government, or that she can be prevailed upon, even now, to part with them on the terms suggested; nor is he satisfied that the proposed pecuniary stipulations of giving up an admitted claim to a tribute of Rupees 10,000 per annum, with as much more as compensation for the islands to be ceded, is likely to be publicly advantageous, at least for some years to come, or that with the means the inhabitants of these islands have of asserting their rights, and of which they avail themselves to a certain degree, the transfer on their account alone would be

expedient. The expense of managing these islands might not be great, as the Government have already establishments for their own islands attached to the Canara District; this question and all others connected with the revenue will be fully considered by the Board of Revenue in all their bearings, and should their opinion be in favor of the arrangement suggested by Messrs. Conolly and Robinson, they will state the terms which they may consider fair and just to the interests of the Beebee of Cannanore for obtaining the transfer of the islands.

3. In the meantime the Collector of Malabar will urge on the Beebee the necessity of aiding the islanders who have suffered so much during the late disastrous seasons, as well as of redressing the grievances of which they have already complained, and he will intimate to her that the Government will expect her to adopt such measures in communication with Mr. Conolly for the better management of these islands as will prevent future complaints of oppression on the part of her agents, and obviate the authoritative interference of this Government in behalf of the inhabitants.

(Signed) H. C. MONTGOMERY,  
Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd August 1849, No. 349.*

Read letter from the Collector of Canara, under date 27th March 1848, forwarding copy of Mr. Robinson's report of 22nd February 1848 upon the effects of the hurricane of April 1847 upon the Laccadive Islands annexed to the Canara District.

(Here enter No. 28.)

Read Extract Minutes of Consultation, 15th April 1848, communicating a report, dated 7th February 1848, furnished through the Collector of Malabar by Mr. Robinson, relative to the effects of the same hurricane upon those of the Laccadive Islands which are subject to the Beebee of Cannanore, and calling for the views of the Board and of the Collector of Canara before passing final orders upon the subject.

(Here enter No. 392.)

Read letter from the Collector of Canara, under date 27th May 1848, submitting observations upon Mr. Robinson's report sent to him with the above extract.

(Here enter No. 40.)

Read Extract Minutes of Consultation, 10th November 1848, transmitting, for the Board's review, a further report of the 19th May 1848 respecting the general condition, management, and prospects of the Laccadive Islands in possession of the Beebee of Cannanore, furnished by Mr. Robinson through the Collector of Malabar.

(Here enter No. 1,225.)

Read Extract Minutes of Consultation, under date 19th February 1849 forwarding, for report, an address from the Beebee of Cannanore, transmitted through the Collector of Malabar, wherein she solicits the remission of half the peishcush for 15 years in consideration of the loss sustained in her possessions in the Laccadives in consequence of the storm of April 1847.

(Here enter No. 173.)

Read letter from the Collector of Canara, dated 9th June 1849, submitting, for the special sanction of Government, a statement of the charges incurred on account of two peons deputed to the Amendeivy Islands at the requisition of Mr. Robinson.

(Here enter No. 31.)

Read letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 13th June 1849, submitting, for the special sanction of Government, a statement of the charges incurred in affording relief to the distressed inhabitants of the Laccadive Islands.

(Here enter No. 48.)

Read Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 4th ultimo, referring, for the early consideration of the Board, a letter from the Collector of Malabar forwarding an address from the Beebee of Cannanore on the subject of a remission of half of her tribute.

(Here enter No. 620.)

Read letter to the Collector of Malabar, dated 25th June 1849 requesting information as to the relative position of the Rajah and Beebee of Cannanore.

(Here enter No. 1,366.)

Read letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 16th July 1849, furnishing the information called for in the above-mentioned letter from the Board, dated 25th June 1849.

(Here enter No. 64.)

Para. 1. The four first papers recorded at the head of these Proceedings relate to the effects of the storm of 15th and 16th April 1847 upon the Laccadive Islands, both those belonging to the Honorable Company and attached to the Canara District, and those under the government of the Beebee of Cannanore, and to the measures which have been taken, or remain to be taken, for the relief of the sufferers upon that occasion.

2. The hurricane which visited these islands in April 1847 is represented to have been of a violence unparalleled in the recollection or in the traditionary history of the group. It commenced on the 15th April about 8 p.m. from the E.N.E., and seems to have moved in a W.N.W. direction between the islands and the main land, as evinced by the circumstance of the line of islands next the coast having all been more or less injured, while the outer islands were less affected in proportion to their distance from the continent. Its destructive effects were aggravated both by its having occurred at the season of spring tides, and by its having fallen upon the islands on their eastern or more exposed sides. The storm broke upon Kalpenni, one of the Beebee's islands, at 8 p.m. of the 15th, passed on to Androt, also belonging to the Beebee, which it reached between 12 and 2 a.m. of the 16th. It arrived at the Company's Island of Kiltan, and the last of the Laccadives severely affected by it at about an hour after sunrise on the same day.

3. The Board will first notice its effects as regards the Company's islands. Of these, the only one which has suffered to any extent is Kiltan, and the injury here sustained was mainly occasioned by the inundation, the spring tide being about full when the storm reached it. The force of the wind was less than at the south-easterly islands of Kalpenni and Androt, probably in consequence of Kiltan lying to the westward of the real course of the hurricane, and the consequences were, therefore, far less disastrous. 6,864 trees, including young trees and plants, have been lost; 21 dwelling houses, 38 out-houses, 4 mosques have been washed down or destroyed; and some tanks and wells filled up. The loss of life has, however, been small, and, owing both to the industrious character of the people and the favorable outturn of the year as to produce and prices, all that was repairable had already been repaired when Mr. Robinson visited the islands six months afterwards. Mr. Robinson has recommended an advance of 80 rupees, re-payable within three years, to a party whose boat was wrecked. This recommendation, and one to a similar effect in favor of an inhabitant of another island, has been afforded by the Collector. In the other of the Canara Islands—Chotlat Ameny, and Kadamut—the loss sustained has been inconsiderable. The Board will, therefore, proceed to review the condition of the Beebee's

islands; but they will first advert to a few points connected with those belonging to the Company, which are noticed by Mr. Robinson in the concluding paragraphs of his report of 22nd February 1848.

4. The prospects of this portion of the Laccadive group are stated to be encouraging. It was visited by cholera in 1845, when many persons were carried off; but otherwise the islands have been healthy, and the seasons good since Mr. Robinson's last visit at the commencement of that year. The outturn of the season of 1847, notwithstanding the hurricane, was more favorable than had been experienced for 10 or 15 years, and the exports, from Amendeve more particularly, have largely increased. With the exception of Kiltan, where a case of poisoning, which it was feared was not the only one of the kind, had occurred, the good order of the islands have been maintained and crime was on the decrease.

5. In 48 and the following paragraphs of his report,\* Mr. Robinson describes the measures which he took for distributing, among the parties who engaged to cultivate them, the waste lands which have hitherto been regarded as the property of Government. The arrangements appear to have been very proper. He has also, for reasons fully set forth in paragraphs 69 to 72, and in the justice of which the Board quite concur, recommended that a Karani be appointed to each of the four Canara Islands, who is to be permanently stationed upon his island, and, besides keeping all the accounts, &c., connected with it, will assist the resident peon in the performance of his general duties. The aggregate salary for the four Karanis at first proposed by Mr. Robinson was Rupees 87 per annum, or Rupees 18 above the amount of the pay of a single peon, which the Government (Extract Minutes of Consultation, 12th April 1847,) expressed themselves prepared to sanction for the purpose of raising the efficiency of the office. Some further communication has, however, taken place between him and the Collector, and the result is a recommendation that the total annual charge for the Karanis be augmented to Rupees 126, involving, after deduction of the sum paid to the present Karani, a net increase of Rupees 99 per annum, which, as remarked by Mr. Blane, is but a small sum after all in comparison of the importance of the objects to be attained. The Board beg to recommend the proposal for the favorable consideration of Government, and to advise that the higher rates of salary, Rupees 120, suggested by the Collector be adopted, the payment as heretofore being made, not in money but in rice.

6. The practice of exacting sand cusser, or making a deduction from the weight of the coir on its receipt at Mangalore on account of sand, mentioned in paragraph 76 of the report, should be at once discontinued, and the coir, if of the standard quality of its class, be taken at the

actual quantity delivered. Any attempts at fraud should be treated upon their merits.

7. The Board will now turn to the Beebee's islands. The first of these to experience the fury of the hurricane was, as already stated, Kalpenni, situated at the south-eastern extremity of the group. The storm burst upon this island at about 8 P.M. of the 15th April, when the spring tide was at the full. "The sea rose and flooded the whole, but across the narrower part of the main land it seems to have had tremendous velocity. All the trees, with the very soil, and between 50 and 60 houses were washed into the ocean with upwards of 200 persons, while along the whole length of the shore a flood of loose coral has been deposited over the island, which will render a considerable tract quite unserviceable until it has decomposed and become soil. Across the broader parts of the island the water was not so destructively rapid, but so complete was the inundation that the first impression of the islanders was that the whole shoal was sunk. The water filled the totam\* with salt water, killing all vegetation and drowning many persons. It was in consequence last year quite waste. Over the eastern bank of the totam a flood of loose coral stones was poured, which has filled up and destroyed a part of this useful land. Many wells and tanks were filled with sand and stones, and the fresh water in all of them was spoilt. The inundation was probably more destructive than the wind, and has shaken the confidence of the people in the stability of the islands greatly. The storm lasted for about an hour in all its violence. Then a sudden lull, and the wind soon sprung up briskly from the westward and the flood subsided, leaving the islands in the most perfect state of desolation."

\* Excavated lands in which garden produce is raised.

8. Of the 348 houses standing before the storm, not one escaped; many were so entirely washed away as scarcely to leave vestiges of their foundation; all were unroofed and otherwise damaged; all the mosques, 29 in number, were injured, and nearly the whole of them at the time of Mr. Robinson's visit were lying in a state of ruin.

9. The population of Kalpenni prior to the hurricane is reckoned at 1,642 souls; of these, 246 were drowned or washed away during the storm, far the larger proportion being women and children; 112 perished in the ensuing five months from famine, or from the diseases engendered by unwholesome and insufficient food; 376 escaped to the coast during the monsoon, thus leaving in the island 908, of whom nearly four-fifths are women and children.

10. The plantations in the island have been entirely destroyed; out of upwards of 105,000 full-grown cocoanut trees, the number before the storm, 768 only are now standing; the total number of trees, young trees and plants which have survived scarcely exceeds 10,000. This is only the main island of Kalpenni; the state of the adjoining islets—Tulakum, Patty, and Cheria-kum—is even more disastrous. The other trees—bread-fruit, banana, and betel-nut—are likewise all lost. More than a third of the trees destroyed are Pandaram or the Beebee's property.

11. The hurricane reached Androt between 12 and 2 A.M. of the 16th April, five or six hours later than at Kalpenni. The tide was then happily low, so that only a small part of the island was inundated, and the results of the visita-

|                                                                | Population. |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Before the storm ...                                           | 2,576       |          |
| Left the island from pressure of famine during the monsoon ... | 963         |          |
| Died of famine or disease ...                                  | 191         |          |
| Remaining on island ...                                        | 1,422       |          |
|                                                                | Houses.     | Mosques. |
| Buildings before the hurricane ...                             | 408         | 34       |
| Destroyed or damaged during do. ...                            | 398         | 33       |
| Since repaired or partially so ...                             | 146         | 13       |
| Trees blown down or destroyed by storm ...                     | 101,373     |          |
| Still standing ...                                             | 5,584       |          |
| Do. young trees and plants ...                                 | 21,323      |          |

Androt before the storm, and the losses consequent upon that event. The injury sustained in the other islands belonging to the Beebee is inconsiderable.

12. The extent to which the population of Kalpenni and Androt had been reduced in consequence of the visitation has been already adverted to, but the number of the inhabitants still remaining upon them were greatly in excess of that which the islands in their present ruined condition were capable of supporting. It, therefore, became a matter of paramount necessity to find provision elsewhere for as many as could be induced to quit their houses. The measures adopted for the settlement of such parties and their families upon the other islands belonging to the Beebee and upon those attached to Canara are described by Mr. Robinson in paragraphs 20 to 39 of his report of 22nd February and paragraphs 34 to 55 of his report of 7th February 1848, and deserve unqualified approbation. It will suffice to observe that the chief features of the arrangement have been the placing of the emigrants from Kalpenni and Androt as kudians or tenants of the principal inhabitants of the other islands. Trees have been allotted by the latter to the former sufficient to constitute a fair remuneration for their labor on the service tenure customary in the Laccadives; and when the number so assigned has fallen below that required for the maintenance of the tenant and his family, the deficiency has been supplied in the Company's islands from the Sircar trees, the kudian being bound to render the service

due for such trees to his employer in place of to the Government. The immediate loss to Government from the measure is Rupees 40 per annum, being the rate at which the Sircar trees have been hitherto let; but this trifling sacrifice of revenue is more than compensated by the relief thereby afforded to so many of the destitute islanders, and by the advantage which will hereafter accrue to the Government plantations themselves, which have hitherto been much neglected. Care at the same time has been taken to render the loss of the trees as little felt as possible by those who have hitherto rented them. In the Beebee's islands the same steps have been pursued, the Beebee, with praiseworthy liberality, having given up all her Pandaram trees in Kowraty, Agaty, and Suhely—9,198 in all—free of rent for two years. Advantage has also been taken of the late opportunity to settle some parties upon Kadamut, hitherto one of the least advanced and most improvable of the Canara Islands, and to make a similar settlement upon the Beebee's Island of Suhely Par, the resources of which up to the present time have been very imperfectly developed. The total number of emigrants from Androt and Kalpenni who have been provided for in the manner above described is between 700 and 800. Mr. Robinson's arrangement in these respects should be at once confirmed.

13. After the removal, in the mode already shown, of those who have been otherwise disposed of, there still, however, remained in Androt about 900 and in Kalpenni 425 inhabitants—numbers far more than those islands in their present desolate state can support without assistance. The condition of these parties, and the way in which the exigencies of their position are to be met, occupy paragraphs 57 to 96 of

\* 7th February 1848. Mr. Robinson's report.\* "Both of these islands," Paragraph 69.

he states, "are in a great measure again waste land, and the people will certainly not be able, unaided, to prosecute the restoration vigorously; and if this be not actively pushed, both of these fine islands will fall into a state of prostration from which generations may pass ere they recover. At present the whole population is forthcoming, and most willing to return as soon as the islands shall be able to support them; while the landholders are still hanging about the islands undeteriorated in their tastes, and willing, especially in Androt, in a body to exert themselves. Such is the nature of the cultivation of these islands that years of laborious exertion must elapse ere the staff of the subsistence and the sole article of their commerce is again brought into existence. With the most efficient assistance years of privation must be endured." Under these circumstances, the people of Androt have preferred an application, that assistance to the amount of Rupees 5,000 per annum may be granted them for five years, with an immediate supply of nuts fitted for seedlings, the full value of which would amount, if coast nuts are supplied, to from Rupees 1,500 to Rupees 2,000; and they propose to refund these

advances after a lapse of ten years by paying one-third of all products of the island till the whole be discharged. The inhabitants of Kalpenni have expressed the same desire for aid, but not in such definite terms. The Head Assistant Collector has given it as his opinion that the number of nuts applied for—a lakh—is moderate, and thinks that the nut supplied should be the coast nuts, as larger and finer than the indigenous nut. He also recommends that advances, not exceeding on the average 4,000 rupees a year for five years, to be repaid wholly or in part, be made to the natives of Androt; and that annual advances for the same period, to the average yearly amount of Rupees 3,000, be granted to Kalpenni, with the same quantity of seed nuts as in the case of Androt.

14. In forwarding Mr. Robinson's report, his superior, the Collector of Malabar, has remarked upon this part of it: "I was strongly inclined, on consideration of the whole matter, to support Mr. Robinson's proposition for Government advances to the distressed islanders. But the Beebee of Cannanore, after much correspondence and personal communication, has remonstrated so strongly against our further interference at present, and has so solemnly promised to take such effectual measures as will relieve the present distress, that (though with considerable hesitation as to her ability) we have thought it necessary to yield to her wishes, and allow her to do what she can. It is the immediate exigency which has more especially to be cared for."

NOTE.—i.e., of the Beebee's rights and arrangements, fiscal and judicial, in her islands, and of the measures to be taken for their future government, discussed in Mr. Robinson's subsequent report of 19th May 1843.

The general question will be submitted for consideration at as early a date as possible, and till that is determined the people secured against starvation must wait.

15. The Collector of Canara, to whom Mr. Robinson's letter of 7th February 1848 was submitted for his observations, states: "With regard to the advances recommended by Mr. Robinson to be made to the inhabitants of Androt and Kalpenni, they do not appear to me to be large when compared with the importance of the object in view, and their eventual recovery seems certain. I should rather be disposed to make them to the full extent petitioned for by the islanders than to lower the amount as proposed by Mr. Robinson in the 85th paragraph of his report. The difference in the sums proposed would be of little importance to Government, whilst it might probably restrict the means of restoring the prosperity in a manner which would not be desired." He remarks, however, that the success of this part of Mr. Robinson's scheme, as of those measures which have been already taken, must altogether depend upon the arrangements to be introduced for the future administration of the Beebee's islands, and that the question of these arrangements is so

intimately connected with other considerations relative to the Beebee's rights, her present tenure of the islands, and the engagements subsisting between her and the Company, that the subjects do not admit of being separated, but must be discussed together. This opinion, in which the Board quite concur, leads them to the review of Mr. Robinson's report of 19th May 1848, in which he has examined in much detail the resources, social and fiscal condition of the Beebee's islands, the title and tenure under which they are held, and the general features of their administration.

16. The immediate cause which led to the drawing up of this report is shortly given by Mr. Conolly in paragraph 3 of his letter of 23rd June 1848: "An address was presented to me in 1846 by certain of the inhabitants of Ancutta, one of the Beebee's islands, complaining of various oppressions under which, as they asserted, they, in common with their fellow islanders, labored. The subject appeared to me to be beyond my jurisdiction, and I gave an endorsement to that effect. The address was then forwarded by the islanders to the Government, who, under date the 21st August 1847, transmitted it to the Collector of Canara and myself, with instructions to inquire into its allegations. This order was received about the time when Mr. Robinson was preparing to visit the Laccadives in order to ascertain the amount of injury which they had received from the storm of April 1847. The opportunity was too seasonable to be lost, and Mr. Robinson, in making the researches for which he was particularly designed, took advantage of his visit to acquire such information as would enable us to answer the Government call on the general question."

17. The coral formations constituting the Laccadive group (including both the Company's and the Beebee's islands) occupy a space stretching from 10° to 12° North Latitude and from 72° to 74° 30' East Longitude. The group is about 140 miles from north to south, and between the most easterly and westerly islands, upwards of 100 miles broad. It is characteristic of the group that the shoals generally lie at a considerable distance from each other, seldom less than 20 to 30 miles apart, and thus the small number of reefs and islands, as shown in the margin, cover a very large space. Several are open reefs, and of those formations on which islands are

|                                   |                                                             |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Belyapany.                     | } Open reefs.                                               | } Islands belonging to the Beebees of Cannanore. |
| 2. Cheriapany.                    |                                                             |                                                  |
| 3. Betrapar.                      | } An extensive reef with an uninhabitable island; no water. |                                                  |
| 4. Chetlat.                       |                                                             |                                                  |
| 5. Kiltan.                        | } Inhabited islands attached to Canara.                     |                                                  |
| 6. Kadamut.                       |                                                             |                                                  |
| 7. Amony.                         |                                                             |                                                  |
| 8. Agaty with Bingaram, Tingaram. |                                                             |                                                  |
| 9. Kowraty.                       | } An extensive reef with two small islands.                 |                                                  |
| 10. Androt.                       |                                                             |                                                  |
| 11. Kalpenni.                     |                                                             |                                                  |
| 12. Sahely.                       | } Open reefs.                                               |                                                  |
| 13. Punala Para and               |                                                             |                                                  |
| 14. Barry.                        |                                                             |                                                  |

situated the actual island is but a very small portion of the whole, the remainder being lagoons or back-waters enclosed between the reefs which form the *enceinte* of the islands. These lagoons produce in a greater or less degree, according to their extent and the depth or shoalness of their waters, fish, cowries, holothuria or sea slug, yielding the Biche-de-Mer of commerce and occasionally ambergris.

18. The islands generally lie round the east side of the shoals, and vary from one to three miles in length, but none exceed one mile in breadth. Their level is low, in no part more than a few feet above high-water mark. The soil is light, coral-sand naturally barren, but well adapted for the production of the cocoanut, which grows well in every part of the islands. A few feet beneath the sand is a substratum of coral stretching over the whole island, of varying thickness, but apparently on the average about one foot and-a-half; within this crust is contained loose wet sand and fresh water. In most of the islands a greater or less extent of this substratum has been quarried out, and the fine damp subsoil laid open. In these excavations, locally called totam or garden, are produced coarse grain-pulse, the Arcka and Banana trees, yam and vegetables, to which in most islands may be added the bread and in some the lime trees.

19. Universal local tradition attributes the settlement of the principal islands of the Laccadives to a period about 1,000 years ago, though some partial occupation had obtained prior to that date. For the next six centuries or more the polity of the islands remained the same. They were independent of each other in their internal management, which was patriarchal and conducted by a Mundayal, Moodutal or chief inhabitant, and the heads of the principal families. The conversion of the islanders to Mahomedanism seems to have taken place about 600 years ago. In manners, religion, rules of descent, &c., they now precisely resemble the Mopilahs of the coast. The independence of the islands appears to have been first assailed by the Portuguese, who made a settlement on Ameny, and perhaps extended their authority over the other islands, but their power was not of long continuance. They were shortly afterwards exterminated by poison, with the assistance and through the intrigues of the Rajah of Cherikul. The whole group then became dependent upon that prince, probably about 1545—50, and were by him conferred in jaghire, with the title of Rajah, upon the present family, the head of the Mopillah caste in Cannanore, at a peishcush of 6,000 fanams per annum. This tribute was paid till the middle of the last century, when Bamaly Rajah, the most powerful of the Cannanore family, availed himself of the gradual dismemberment and distracted condition of the Cherikul house to accomplish his independence.

20. Hitherto the whole of the Laccadives had been under the government of the Cannanore Rajahs, but the establishment of the coir monopoly, first introduced about 1765, and enforced with great severity, led in 1784 to the defection of the northern islands—Ameny, Kiltan, Kadamut, and Chetlat—which transferred their allegiance to Tippoo. An equivalent jaghire, in compensation for the loss of this part of their possessions, was granted by Tippoo to the Cannanore family out of the territories of the Rajah of Cherikul under a Sanhad bearing date 1787, and since that time the different portions of the group have been practically under very different administration. The northern islands passed, on the fall of the Mysore dynasty, into the power of the British, and have since remained annexed to the Province of Canara. The southern division of the group, with the Beebe's other possessions upon the coast, became at the disposal of the Company by the storm of Cannanore towards the end of 1791, and were further ceded with Tippoo's entire dependencies in Malabar by the peace of Seringapatam in 1792. They have, however, still continued to be held by the Beebe at a peishcush of Rupees 10,000 alleged by her to be one-half of her profits derived from them, a tribute which, though at first adopted only provisionally, has remained unaltered to the present time. In the year 1822 a remission in her peishcush to the extent of Star Pagodas 1,500, but not in arrears, was also sanctioned in compensation for the loss of the Canara Islands, the equivalent granted by Tippoo in lieu of them having been regained by the Rajah of Cherikul, from whom it had been taken.

21. A description of the several islands which still remain subject to the authority of the Beebe, of their population, productions, and resources is given in detail in paragraphs 46 to 126 of Mr. Robinson's report. It will not be necessary to follow him through his account of each island, but the Board have compiled from this part of his treatise the annexed tabular statement, showing, as far as has been ascertained, the state of the various islands, as regards their extent, area, population, number of houses, mosques, boats, quantity of coir, cocoanuts, cowries, &c., produced in each, and other particulars, and to this abstract they would refer for information upon the points above alluded to. This abstract does not exhibit Menkayat, the most northerly and largest island of the Maldives, which is also under the Cannanore rule. Mr. Robinson was unable to visit this island, and he could obtain only scanty and imperfect information regarding its condition and resources. All that could be learnt is shown in paragraphs 218—229 of the report. It will be seen that the revenue system which obtains there differs in some important particulars from that prevailing in the Laccadives. The whole land and plantations in the island

are claimed by the Rajah\* as his jenm or fee-simple property, and the coir monopoly does not exist. The people are enterprising, and carry on considerable trade with the other Maldives, with Ceylon, and Bengal. Their condition upon the whole seems superior to that of the inhabitants of the Beebee's possessions in the Laccadives.

\*i.e., on the Beebee's behalf.

The Rajah and Beebee seem to be spoken of in Mr. Robinson's report indifferently, the former being the minister or representative of the latter. It appears that the actual business of the State has usually been conducted by a male member of the Cannanore family under the designation of Rajah, although the sovereignty of the islands rests with the Beebee.

See letter to Malabar, 25th June 1849.

Do. from Malabar, 16th July 1849.

| Island.                                                        | Extent.                                                                     | Superficial Area.                                    | POPULATION PRIOR TO THE HURRICANE. |          |           | Houses. | Mosques. | Houses, large and small. | COCONUT TREES, FULL GROWN AND BEARING. |         |        | Export of Coir during last 5 years. | Export of Cocoanuts, annually.      | Cowries, valued annually.                                                                  | Tortoises.                       | Remarks.                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                |                                                                             |                                                      | Males.                             | Females. | Children. |         |          |                          | Private Property.                      | Public. | Total. |                                     |                                     |                                                                                            |                                  |                                                                                                         |
| Androt                                                         | 3 miles by 1.                                                               | 2 1/2 square miles, or 1500 acres.                   | 830                                | 1,037    | 688       | 2,555   | 403      | 34                       | 183                                    | 70,000  | 30,000 | 100,000                             | From 1 to 3 lakhs.                  | From 1 to 3 a candy.                                                                       | ...                              | a Not above 300 now remain on the island; the rest perished during the 1840 m. or have since emigrated. |
| Kalheini—4 islands, only 1 inhabited.                          | Dimensions 500 or 600 acres, i.e., of uninhabited part of principal island. |                                                      | 453                                | 675      | 612       | 6,542   | 348      | 29                       | ...                                    | 60,000  | 30,000 | 90,000                              | From 250 to 300 candies.            | Could not be ascertained, but large quantities smuggled.                                   | From 6 to 8 1/2 lakhs. annually. | b Not above 7,000 or 8,000 of these trees are left.                                                     |
| Kowraty                                                        | 2 1/2 by 1,000 yards average breadth.                                       | 1 1/2 to 1 1/2 square miles, or 900 acres.           | 764                                | 789      | 527       | 2,080   | 434      | 33                       | 128                                    | 79,850  | 7,000  | 86,850                              | 350 candies, from 3 to 4 lakhs.     | Probably from 3 to 4 candies.                                                              | From 3 to 4 o. s.                | c Only 450 now remain.                                                                                  |
| Subely Par, including the two islands of Bejuly and Chanyatry. | .....                                                                       | .....                                                | Not permanently inhabited.         |          |           |         | ...      | ...                      | ...                                    | ...     | ...    | ...                                 | ...                                 | ...                                                                                        | ...                              | d The bearing trees now do not exceed 700.                                                              |
| Agaty                                                          | .....                                                                       | 3 1/2 miles by 600 yards, average breadth 300 acres. | 431                                | 565      | 499       | 1,545   | 378      | 24                       | 68                                     | 35,500  | 2,500  | 38,000                              | 250 candies, accurately determined. | Cowry beds, 20 to 30 lbs. little worked hitherto, worth of though supposed to be valuable. | From 1 to 1 1/2 candies.         | Smuggling is carried on in this island extensively both in cocoanuts and cowries.                       |
| Bingaram, Ingaram, and Parly.                                  | .....                                                                       | .....                                                | Not inhabited.                     |          |           |         | ...      | ...                      | ...                                    | None    | 5,614  | 5,614                               | ...                                 | ...                                                                                        | ...                              | e Much smuggling appears to be carried on in this island in coir, nut, and tortoise shell.              |

22. No trace has been discovered of the existence of any taxation upon the islands, while still independent and under the management of their own headmen. During the Cannanore dynasty an export duty on coir, and subsequently on the rice imported for home consumption, each at rates varying from 6 to 10 per cent., was fixed and formed the earliest subsidy levied on the people. To this source of revenue were afterwards gradually added arbitrary contributions called for upon extraordinary exigencies, nazeranas on various occasions, escheats, royalties of cowries, tortoise shell, ambergris, &c. The sovereignty over waste land was not asserted till at least 100 years after the islands first became connected with the Cannanore House. The coir monopoly was introduced between 937 (1761-62) and 940 (1764-65). That of cocoanuts dates from the very recent period of 1825.

23. Of the above sources of revenue, that derived from coir is the most important. The monopoly in this article was introduced, as already stated, by the Bamaly Rajah about the year 1765, since which date the islanders have been compelled to dispose of all their surplus coir to the Cannanore Sircar at certain rates. The greater part is delivered into store at Cannanore by the islanders, but some is sold to the Beebee's officers in the islands. From 1765 or 1770 to 1826 the price given by the Sircar for the coir was nominally Rupees 30 per candy, which was paid in rice at the commutation rate of Rupees 2½ per moodah. But from this ostensible price must be deducted 21 per cent., viz., 10 per cent. import duty on all coir imported at Cannanore and 10 per cent. export duty on all rice exported in payment of it, with about 1 per cent. for sundry charges; and the commutation price of rice has remained unchanged, notwithstanding the great depreciation in the actual value of that commodity. From 1800 to 1826 the commutation rate still stood at Rupees 2½ per moodah, while the price in Canara did not exceed Rupees 1-10-0, or Rupees 1-12-0 per moodah. Thus the actual payment for coir during that period was not above Rupees 18-8-0 per candy. In the year 1827 the value of coir fell suddenly from Rupees 60 to 20 per candy, and the monopoly rate was consequently lowered to Rupees 22, which, after the deductions above noticed, did not leave to the grower a larger net price than Rupees 10½ per candy. This continued until 1832, when the

monopoly system underwent an entire change; cash rates and commutation prices were abolished, and 5½ moodahs of rice per candy of coir fixed as the price, which, after deduction of 21 per cent. for duty and charges, leaves the net payment at about 4½ moodahs, or at Rupees 1½ per moodah, Rupees 6-6-0 per candy of coir—a price which, it is stated, hardly pays the manufacturer. The monopoly prices in the Canara Islands have undergone little alteration

since their acquisition by the Company, and average Rupees 23-6-0 per candy.

24. Hardly as this monopoly must bear upon the islanders, its pressure is aggravated by abuses in its administration. In the receipt of the coir it is weighed not by the candy but the maund, which is separately made up so as to turn the scale, causing

a considerable excess in favor of the Beebee in each candy. The computation is made by the candy of 680 instead of 640 lbs., the customary candy of the islands, and the weights employed are above the proper standard; 10 per cent. in addition to the 21 per cent. import duty and charges is levied upon all coir imported at Cannanore on account of book debts—a subject to which the Beard will allude in the sequel. The rice supplied in payment of the coir is frequently of indifferent quality; and occasionally, when the market price of rice is high, the people are paid in part in credit orders at low rates and left to supply themselves, which they cannot do at the rates. The coir purchased by the Beebee in the islands or levied as fines, &c., is conveyed to the coast at a rate below that of the ordinary freight, and the boat-owner is held responsible for the full weight delivered to him, whatever loss by dryage, &c., may have occurred upon the passage.

25. The effects of such a system, both upon the quantity and quality of the article affected by it, are such as might be expected. The people can make, and do use, beautiful coir for their own purposes, but they cannot afford to make such at the Beebee's prices. Hence the quality of the whole coir exported from the islands is such as would probably be rejected in the Government godowns at third-class coir. The difference between the Company's coir and that furnished to the Beebee was estimated by her

agent at from 25 to 30 per cent.; much of the raw material is lost or wasted, either from the husks not being made up into yarn, or from its being sacrificed to the manufacture of juggery, in which the trade is free. It is computed by Mr. Robinson that had the inhabitants of the Cannanore Islands the same inducement to turn their raw material to the best account as those of the Company's Islands, they might supply not less than one-third more coir than they now do. At present the rate of coir manufactured is in the Company's Islands 5 maunds, in those of the Beebee only 3½ maunds per tree.

26. The shoals surrounding the islands yield large quantities of cowries and tortoise shell, but these products are monopolised by the Rajah. They are strictly preserved; permission must be obtained to fish them, and when fished

Other monopolies.  
Cowries.

the whole must be delivered under heavy penalties to the Pandaram.

Paragraph 163.

Tortoise shell.

Paragraph 173.

may average from Rupees 300 to Rupees 350. The holothima or sea slug yielding the Biche-de-Mer of commerce is also preserved, but

Holothima.

Paragraph 183.

Salt.

Paragraph 185.

Tobacco.

Paragraph 189.

The receipt of the tobacco, occasionally of inferior quality, is made compulsory upon the people. When it arrives, the chief people of each chery (division) are assembled, to whom the share to be distributed in their respective cherics is allotted; and by them, with the Karyakers, the further distribution to the chery is made; no option of receiving it is admitted.

27. These restrictions and monopolies are loudly complained of by the inhabitants, and their enforcement is daily becoming more difficult. The discontent is aggravated by the fact that in the Company's Islands the trade in cowries, tortoise shell, and holothima has long been free, and that in salt and tobacco has recently been thrown open.

28. The monopolies described in the preceding paragraphs 23 to 27 are of old standing, that of *cocoanuts* is of recent origin, having been introduced in 1826 contemporaneously with, and as intended to compensate the Cannanore Sircar for the great decline in the value of coir in that year, already\* remarked on. The net price

Paragraph 155.

\* Paragraph 23.

paid for the nuts delivered at Cannanore is Rupees 4-8-0 per 1,000; the market value ranges from Rupees 7 to 9, and occasionally more. When the trade was first made exclusive, the supply to the Sircar was certainly not less than 10 to 15 lakhs of nuts, yielding Rupees 2,000 to 2,500 profit. The pressure of the monopoly has since opened other channels for the disposal of the produce. Large quantities of nuts are smuggled, some are converted into oil, and the manufacture of jaggery, the trade

Paragraph 158.

in which is still free, has rapidly increased. In 1846 the supply to the Beebee fell short of 200,000 nuts, yielding a profit of from Rupees 300 to 500, half of which came from the now devastated island of Androt. It would seem indeed that the resistance offered to this monopoly has latterly risen to such a pitch that it will

Note to para. 169.

scarcely be possible to persevere in it. It does not exist in the Company's Islands.

29. A further source of revenue is derived by the Beebee from nazeranas or compulsory presents. These are

Paragraph 176.

levied under various pretexts—on the appointment of a Kazeo for conferring local titles and privileges, for granting audiences, for permission to wear ornaments, and as fees on the money earned by the islanders for

Paragraph 180.

pilotage. The exaction under this last head is felt as a great grievance, "tending, as it does, to prevent their entering a field when competition is free." It would appear that even the removal of an islander to the coast does not secure him from payment of these pilotage fees if he has left behind him in the island any relative from whom the amount can be extracted.

Note to para. 181.

30. The sovereignty over waste land was not asserted by the Rajah until at least 100 years after the islands became connected with the Cannanore House, and all lands occupied by the inhabitants prior to that date are their jenm or fee-simple property. Proprietary right is very clearly defined and well understood by the people.

Waste lands, para. 40.

Paragraph 129.

The jenm rights of the Rajah are confined to those lands which were waste at the time of the resumption or assertion of sovereignty above mentioned, and to the uninhabited islets or reefs of Suhely, Bingaram, &c., together with the lands or trees scattered throughout the islands which have become escheats, or have been confiscated for offences against the State. In

Kalpenni, para. 72.

Kowraty, para. 64.

some islands the Pandaram property is marked off by a wall separating it from private plantations. It is for the most part on the extremities of the islands or along the shore, in places which, from their soil or situation, were left unoccupied when the central and fertile portions of the islands were taken up by the inhabitants. The trees are held by the islanders on payment of rent to the Sircar, which occasionally amounts to half the gross produce.

The Pandaram lands are stated to be a constant source of dispute and ill will between the people and the authorities, and the restrictions against fishing, collecting cowries, &c., upon the uninhabited islets. Suhely, Bingaram, &c., claimed as Sircar property are felt as a great grievance; the system seems to require revision.

Kowraty, para. 83.

Paragraphs 88—113.

Paragraph 103.

31. It is not to be supposed that the items of revenue particularised in the preceding paragraphs are realised punctually and without arrears, and from the balances which have thence accrued and the advances made by the Rajah to the people arises the system of book debts described by the Assistant Collector in

Book debts, para. 193.

paragraph 193 of his report. All advances made on account of coir, arrears due for salt and tobacco, on account of judicial fines and penalties, of rent of public gardens, import duties, nazeranas, &c., are entered in these books. Nothing is written off as irrecoverable. Two sets of accounts are kept, one upon the islands exhibiting recent and current balances, another at Cannanore consisting of arrears of a longer standing. Some of these latter debts are said to be of 20 or 30 years date. On account of the balance due on this last dufter, 10 per cent. of all coir imported at Cannanore is deducted in making payments,

See above, para. 23.

thus raising the actual deductions from the nominal monopoly price of coir to 31 per cent. The accounts kept at Cannanore are inaccessible to the people, and the abuses incident to such a state of things, where the parties stand to each other in the relative position of the Rajah and these islanders, is too obvious to require comment.

23. On the cession of the Malabar District and its dependencies to the British in 1792, the Cannanore possessions were valued in Tippoo's schedules at Rupees 93,750, of which Rupees 80,359-6-0 appeared to the Joint Commissioners to have been an annual mulct assessed by Tippoo upon the family for the Laccadive and Maldivé possessions and for the trade. That this did not exceed their value appears from the local information obtained by Lieutenant Bentley, who, in 1795, was deputed to visit and report upon the islands, and from the calculations of Mr. Murdoch Brown made about the same time. The former estimated the revenue at Rupees 1,17,669, and Mr. Brown reckoned the profits of the coir and cowry trade alone at Rupees 70,000. From what he now knows of the islands Mr. Robinson conceives that, Menkayat exclusive, the revenue was not less than 80,000 to 90,000 rupees at the date of the cession. The statement made by the Beebee in 1793, that the profits did not exceed Rupees 20,000, a moiety of which was tendered as peishcush, was beyond all question a gross misrepresentation. Between 1800 and 1826 the revenue and profits increased, and must have considerably exceeded a lakh of rupees, the outturn of the coir monopoly only, in the Company's Islands which do not equal one-fourth of the Cannanore possessions in the Laccadives, having during that period averaged upwards of Rupees 20,000 annually. The great fall in the value of coir in 1826 caused a very large diminution in the amount yielded by the islands. The average revenue from 1830 to 1847 is computed by Mr. Robinson, who states that he has been careful to understate rather than to exceed in the estimate, at about Rupees 20,000. The Kariestan who accompanied him admitted that the peishcush, Rupees 10,000, paid by the Beebee did not exceed a moiety of her net profits. The revenue above given is exclusive of that drawn from the Island of Menkayat and from fees, nazeranas, and other minor sources. It is also that

derived prior to the hurricane of 1847, which has so greatly affected the value of the group, two of the principal islands—Androt and Kalpenni—having thereby utterly desolated and rendered unavailable as sources of revenue for many years to come.

33. The general government of the islands has always been administered from Cannanore, either by the Rajah himself, by a Yelliah (or Beebee's husband), or, under nominal control, entirely by Kariestans or Agents. Of late years it has been conducted altogether by the Kariestans. The local administration has been uniformly entrusted to Karyakars, general local agents. Neither the Rajah nor his immediate attendants or Head Agents upon the coast ever visit the islands personally; a Karyakar is stationed on each island, and is under immediate orders from Cannanore. An Accountant and three or four Nadpauls, village runners, complete the paid establishment of each island. The Karyakar and Accountant pay fines (nazerana) on their appointment, and as their salaries are very small they have to reimburse themselves for the cost of their offices, and to derive their chief support from fees and cesses, authorised and unauthorised, levied mostly in kind upon the inhabitants, but falling, it would seem, chiefly on the poorer classes.

34. Such a system of local administration, freed from all practical check and superintendence by the distance of the islands from the coast, the communication with which is closed during five months of the year, is, as might be expected, stated to be fraught with abuse and oppression, and altogether inadequate for the due protection of the people. Latterly, the feeling of disaffection to the Cannanore House has, among other modes, manifested itself in withholding their customary cesses. The people of Agaty have contributed none for two years. Those of Kowraty are believed to have followed the example, and the desolate state of Androt and Kalpenni render their further levy there impracticable. Some revision of the system seems, therefore, no longer to be avoided. Each of the Laccadives has a small body of hereditary Mokustans (principal people) who are the chief landed proprietors and boat-owners, and possess considerable local influence. Under the immemorial constitution of the islands they should form a cutcherry for the transaction of local business, which they generally do, but hitherto with no good results. The institution, however, under more efficient superintendence, seems capable of being made the germ of a better system.

35. The Monigar on the Company's Islands receives Rupees 17½ a month, and the whole establishment Rupees 500 per mensem.

36. The administration of justice, civil and criminal, within the islands seems to be exceedingly irregular, ill-defined, and uncertain; ruled nominally by custom, but dependent in a great degree upon the will of the Rajah or his Kariestans and discretion of the local servants and principal people. There appears to be no prescribed rule of procedure or record of trial or proceedings. Questions of importance are referred for orders to Cannanore, and there settled by the Kariestans. All minor affairs are arranged on the islands. The administration, which at one time was most severe and arbitrary, is now much milder, and errs rather upon the side of weakness and timidity. Petty police offences and the lesser breaches of fiscal rules are adjudicated by the Karyakars and principal people, and punished by fine, imprisonment, or the stocks. The mode of treating more serious delinquencies could not be clearly ascertained. It was affirmed that no cases of a heinous nature had ever occurred since the commencement of the Company's rule in Malabar. This statement, which is of course incredible, was put forward from the anxiety of the Cannanore family

Paragraph 210. to prevent disclosures which might lead to an interference with their authority. Punishment capitally or by mutilation practised formerly seems to have fallen into disuse. Heavy fines and forfeitures are still inflicted. One mode of punishment peculiar to the islands is that termed *Oowrachy*. It is a remnant of the barbarism of early times, and consists in suddenly surrounding the house of the

Paragraph 210. delinquent with a mob of people and violently carrying off all it contains, stripping the females of their ornaments, &c., and confiscating the whole property for the Rajah's benefit. This description of punishment is only occasionally resorted to, and chiefly in cases of an aggravated character, though it

Note to para. 210. seems sometimes to be put into practice upon slighter grounds. Civil matters are adjudicated

Paragraph 212. by the Karyakars and principal people, or by the Cazees, and settled chiefly by oath or arbitration. The people complain much of the corruptness and inefficiency of the whole administration of civil justice. The fees exacted for decision of such cases vary much at the discretion of the Karyakars, and are determined by no fixed rule. Oaths

Paragraph 215. are commonly employed in the administration of civil and criminal justice as well as in investigations of infractions of fiscal prohibitions, are held in much reverence and rarely violated. Ordeals are also resorted to, but chiefly upon questions of religion and superstition.

37. From what has been stated in the preceding paragraphs regarding the revenue system, internal condition, and government of the Southern Laccadives, it will be evident that the mode in which they have

hitherto been managed by the Beebee and her agents tends to repress the resources of the islands, and is fraught with oppression to their inhabitants. The defection of the northern islands from the rule of the Cannanore House and transfer of their allegiance to Tippoo in consequence of the exactions practised upon them has already been

Paragraph 241. remarked. As far back as 1795 Ensign Bentley, in the survey of the Beebee's remaining portion

of the group, found the people loud in their complaints of the miseries to which they had been subjected, and most eager to be taken under the direct government of the Company. These feelings of antipathy to the present rule seem to have since acquired greater force, and are aggravated by the contrast exhibited in the condition of the islands which are under the authority of the Company. The islanders have lately manifested them by their refusal to pay the usual cesses demanded

Paragraph 206. for the support of the local establishments, and

Paragraph 175. by the resistance offered to the continuance of

Paragraph 207. the cocoanut monopoly. The other monopolies are also borne with impatience. The desolation which has fallen upon two of the islands—Kalpenni and Androt—must of itself for a considerable time place the Beebee's authority in abeyance there, but the disaffection to the Cannanore rule is unanimous, and of the determination

Paragraph 252. of the islanders to force a change Mr. Robinson has very little doubt.

38. The nature of this change, and the measures which should be adopted for the remedy of abuses and permanent establishment of a more equitable and liberal system, remains to be considered. Mr. Robinson, who is strongly supported by Mr. Conolly, appears to be of opinion that these objects may best be attained by the transfer of the islands to the direct management of the Company, and that if this be done, all the required relief may be afforded without involving any loss to Government, or materially diminishing the revenue hitherto drawn from the islands. "I have little doubt," says the former, "that under a better system and under the direct government of the Company all that the people now seek might be granted them with but little diminution in the revenue, when the islands shall have recovered from the effects of fiscal and financial error and ignorance. The Company's Islands, which in extent and capabilities certainly do not exceed one-fourth of the Cannanore possessions, are now yielding an annual revenue of Rupees 8,000 with ease. Our subjects are satisfied and envied by their neighbours under native management." The details of the arrangement seem to Mr. Conolly to present no great difficulties. "The Beebee as sovereign pays us Rupees 10,000 a year as the half of her net profits from the islands. All we should have to do, so far as the money part is concerned, would be to relinquish this demand and allow her Rupees 10,000 more, we taking, in exchange for this Rupees

20,000, such revenue as the islands under a fair system could produce. This would not affect the Beebee's claim to her private lands throughout the islands, which she would retain upon the same footing as her estate upon the coast, viz., she would make her own arrangements for leasing her private grounds, and merely pay share of her rent to Government as a tax."

39. How desirable soever such a measure might be as regards the islanders, there seems little probability of its being acquiesced in by the Beebee. Only a few years after the cession of the Malabar Province to the Company, a similar arrangement having been recom-

NOTE.—And subsequently 1st March 1797 approved by the Court of Directors.

mended by the Government of Bombay and ordered by the Supreme Government, was in 1795 proposed to the Beebee by Colonel Dow, who found her altogether averse to it. "She explicitly declared that she

From Colonel Dow to Honorable J. Duncan, 1st December 1795. would never give her willing assent to the demand, not merely for the sake of the revenue, but her chief motive proceeded from the disgrace

which would appear in the eyes of the country to be inflicted on her." That these feelings still subsist is evident from several parts of Mr. Robinson's report. Mr. Conolly, indeed, states that he had hinted to her "to take into consideration the desirableness of offering to give up these islands in exchange for some fair equivalent. But this idea her pride will not allow her to entertain for a moment."

40. If the Beebee could not be prevailed upon to make a voluntary cession of her islands to the Company, the only grounds upon which the transfer could be required of her, irrespective of her wishes, seem to be, first, the circumstance of the sovereignty of the Southern Laccadives never having been guaranteed to her by any express treaty; and, secondly, the engagement executed by her upon the 11th April 1793, binding herself to submit to the sequestration of the islands, if it should be so ordered by the Governor-General in Council.

41. The circumstances under which the engagement referred to was given were the following:—Immediately after the conclusion of the treaty of Seringapatam in 1792, attempts were made to ascertain the actual extent of the profits derived by the Beebee from her islands for the purpose of determining the tribute to be paid by her to the Company on account of those possessions, and it was in contemplation to send an officer to survey the islands and report upon their condition and resources. In April 1793 an arrangement was made with the Beebee, whereby she consented to pay, in arrear for each of the two years 976 and 977, Rupees 10,000, being, as she alleged, one-half of the revenue realised by her from the Laccadives, and at the same time entered into the following agreement:—

"I, Beebee Balea, the Princess of Cannanore and of the Laccadive Islands, &c., do acknowledge and give in writing that I will pay to the

Government of the Honorable English East India Company the moiety of whatever is the produce of my country according to the funds thereof, and out of the Rupees 20,000 annual profit which I reap from my trade with the Laccadives; I am also to pay the half to Government, besides which I do stipulate to pay in like manner the half of whatever further income or profits from the said lands or trade shall be hereafter ascertained to accrue to me by the inquiries of the officers of Government.

"And as it has been signified to me that after the rains a gentleman is to proceed to the Laccadives to sequester them for the advantage of the Honorable Company's Government, and to appropriate to the use of the said Government all the produce thereof, I do therefore engage to submit also to this, if it shall be ordered by the Governor-General in Council; neither shall I in any shape object thereto, or otherwise if it be so ordered, I shall be ready to account for the true income and produce, and to pay the same to Government; wherefore I have written these few lines as a moochilka for the revenue of Government."

42. In an agreement subsequently executed by the Beebee, 28th October 1796, in which she engaged to pay an annual tribute of Rupees 15,000 for her possessions in the Laccadives and upon the coast, it was stipulated "this article of agreement is not to do away, nor is it meant to do away in any shape the rights which the Government have to the Laccadive Islands, as it is set forth in my moochilka, dated 9th April 1793, or 27th Shaban 1207 Hejreh."

43. It is in the first place to be remarked that the contingency intimated in the agreement, and in which the Beebee bound herself to acquiesce, viz., the deputation of a gentleman "to proceed to the Laccadives to sequester them for the advantage of the Honorable Company's Government, and to appropriate to the use of the said Government all the produce thereof," and which was to have taken place "after the rains," has not occurred to the present day. The mission of Lieutenant Bentley in 1795 was not for the purpose of sequestering, nor did he sequester the islands, but merely instituted inquiries as to their condition and resources. No other officer appears to have been deputed to the islands from that time to that of Mr. Robinson's late visit. The agreement of 9th April 1793 itself is not forthcoming, and the Beebee, on being reminded of it some years after its execution or in 1797, alleged "that she had never understood by

From Northern Superintendent to Commissioner, 15th September 1797.

it that her islands were to be sequestered at the pleasure of Government; all that she understood from the agreement was that if the Government did not credit the account given in by her of the produce of the islands, a person might be sent to inspect, and she would be subject to that inspection, if it was proved that the islands yielded

more profit than she had stated." This plea seems at least very plausible. The negotiations with the Beebee prior to the execution of the agreement had all turned upon the amount of tribute to be required of her for the Laccadives, in the event of their being left in her possession. It is not probable that she would have assented to any stipulation whereby she might be deprived of them altogether—a measure to which, as already shown, she has always testified the greatest repugnance. On the other hand, the temporary attachment of the islands having for its object to ascertain their real value, and the revenue payable on account of them was an expedient in which she might not have been unwilling to acquiesce, and from which, considering the reasons which existed for doubting her own returns of their resources, she could hardly withhold her consent. The terms in which the agreement is drawn up are at least ambiguous. The negotiations subsequently carried on with the Beebee, as shown in detail in Mr. Robinson's appendix, for the purpose of inducing her to resign the sovereignty of the islands, to throw open the trade, or to reform the administration of justice moreover, seem scarcely compatible with the supposition of any previous surrender, and seem to show that no great weight was attached to the agreement even at that time; and the Board would be reluctant that it should be brought forward as the grounds of demanding the cession of the islands so many years afterwards. Neither does it appear to them that the mere absence of any definite treaty or engagement guaranteeing the sovereignty of the Laccadives to the Cannanore House (for that executed on the 28th October 1796 seems never to have been ratified) should now be advanced as a plea for their resumption, after the tacit sanction afforded by the continuance of those possessions to the present family on the existing conditions for so long a period.

44. From what has been stated by Mr. Robinson, the Board are not disposed to think that, financially considered, the acquisition of the Southern Laccadives would ultimately be disadvantageous to the Company. The calamities which have fallen upon two of the chief islands—Androt and Kalpenni—must doubtless render them unproductive for many years to come, but the same circumstance will also necessitate a temporary reduction in the peishcush paid by the Beebee, if the islands are to be retained by her. As, however, the Beebee, in the event of her ceding the islands, would of course expect to receive at once an annual equivalent equal to her present peishcush or alleged average profits, the arrangement must at first be attended with loss to Government—a loss which may not be made up for a considerable time.

45. The Board, as already stated, would be unwilling to advise the resumption of the Laccadives against the wishes of the Beebee, and at least would not recommend it if any other expedient for improving the

condition of those islands could be adopted. The events which have lately occurred seem, however, to afford the means of introducing many reforms into these islands and ameliorating the state of their inhabitants without resorting to the extreme measure of a transfer of authority. The Beebee has recently (12th January 1849) presented

From Government, a memorial praying for a remission, for the next 19th February 1849. fifteen years, of one-half the peishcush, Rupees 15,000, now payable by her on her possessions in the islands and on the coast upon the grounds of the losses which she has sustained, and the expenses to which she has been subjected in consequence of the ravages made by the hurricane in the islands of Kalpenni and Androt. Her direct loss in the revenue drawn from her private property and from the inhabitants she estimates at Rupees 13,000 per annum, the value of the trees given up by her on Agaty, Suhely, &c., for the support of the settlers from the two ruined islands is rated at Rupees 3,000 yearly, and the value of the supplies in grain, cloth, &c., furnished to the sufferers by the storm is calculated at Rupees 7,000—an outlay which, it is averred, will have to be made for not less than ten years to come. That there is very great exaggeration in her alleged losses and expenditure from the two last of these causes cannot be doubted, but Mr. Robinson is of opinion that the representation respecting the first, or the failure of revenue hitherto derived from Androt and Kalpenni, is on the whole correct; and, he adds, some remission of the Beebee's jumma for ten years at least is urgently required. The precise amount of remission he has not stated; but considering the loss, Rupees 13,000 per annum, which she has and will for several years have to sustain in consequence of the ruined state of Kalpenni and Androt, the relief to be afforded her should be on a liberal scale.

46. Under these circumstances, the Board of Revenue would beg to recommend that a remission, the precise amount of which must be determined hereafter after further communication with the Collector of Malabar, be allowed to the Beebee in her peishcush for the next ten years; but that this indulgence be granted only upon condition of her consenting to the introduction of such reforms in the fiscal and general management of the group as are evidently required, and will tend to assimilate the condition of the inhabitants to that of the Company's islanders. The details of such arrangement will be for future adjustment, and for that purpose it may be desirable that Mr. Robinson should again visit the islands. The measure must, however, include a thorough reform of the coir monopoly, the adoption of fair rates of payment to the producers, and abolition of the many unjust and vexatious practices now attendant on the system. The monopoly of cocoanuts, of salt, and tobacco should be at once abandoned, and those of cowries, tortoise shell, holothima and ambergris, if allowed to

continue, be placed upon an improved footing. The disputes regarding waste land should be finally settled, the accounts of book debts kept, both upon the islands and at Cannanore, be examined, such items as are unreasonable or irrecoverable struck out, and arrangement made for the gradual liquidation of such as may properly be payable. To this should be added a complete reform of the system of dispensing civil and criminal justice throughout the islands, and the maintenance of a sufficient Revenue, Police, and Judicial Establishments adequately remunerated. The payment of nazeranas should likewise be discontinued. The Beebee should further, as suggested by Mr. Robinson,

engage to leave to the emigrants from Androt and Kalpenni the enjoyment free of any tax, for the next five years, of the Pandaram lands and trees on which they have been settled.

Memorandum, 18th  
January 1849, para. 7.  
Enclosure in E. M. C.,  
19th February 1849.

47. It has been mentioned in a previous part of these proceedings that the inhabitants of Androt and Kalpenni applied to Mr. Robinson for relief, both in cocoa-nuts and money, and that their application was allowed to lie over for future consideration, in consequence of the Beebee's objections to any interference with her subjects, and her solemn assurances that she would herself afford them all requisite assistance. How far she has redeemed this pledge does not appear. The Board are, therefore, of opinion that inquiry should be made upon this point, and that in the event of the islanders still requiring aid beyond the will or power of the Beebee to furnish, it should be supplied by Government, and arrangements made for the gradual recovery hereafter of such parts of the charge as it may be deemed proper to be borne by the islanders.

48. In conclusion, the Board beg to submit for special sanction the statements furnished by the Collectors of Malabar and Canara of the expenses incurred under the authority of Government, 24th August 1847, for the relief of the inhabitants of the Company's and of the Beebee's Islands.

| Amount entered in statement forwarded by Collector of Canara        | Rs.   | A. | P. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| 27th May 1848 ... ..                                                | 4,549 | 0  | 10 |
| Do. in do. by do. 9th June 1849 ... ..                              | 42    | 12 | 9  |
| Do. in do. forwarded by Collector of Malabar, 13th June 1849 ... .. | 1,181 | 1  | 2  |
| Total ... ..                                                        | 5,772 | 14 | 9  |

The total amount expended is Rupees 5,772-14-9, of which Rupees 1,369-4-2, value of supplies furnished to the Canara islanders, has been or will be recovered. Of the remainder, Rupees 4,403-10-7, the sum of Rupees 2,346-8-0 has been disbursed on account of the Beebee's

Islands, and Mr. Blane states\* it will remain to be decided by the Government whether any and what portion of this sum shall be borne by the Beebee. Considering, however, the losses which the Beebee has

herself sustained and her own need of relief, the Board would not advise that any part of this charge be thrown upon her.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing extract from the Board's Proceedings be submitted to Government.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Secretary.

MINUTE BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR.

*Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 2nd of August 1849.*

I have very attentively read and considered these Proceedings, and, in the course of so doing, have referred to the papers which formerly came before me regarding the Laccadive Islands, and on which papers I stated my views in a memorandum, under date the 26th of October 1848.

After the fullest consideration, I see very little that I can now add to that Minute. I am confirmed in the impression I formerly stated, that there is not a semblance of a pretence for demanding the cession, or restoration, to us of the portion of the group held by the Beebee of Cannanore; and as she appears to have the most insurmountable objection to any such arrangement, and even protests against our further interference with her islands, the points before Government appear to me to be whether we should accede to her application for remission, and to what amount, and on what conditions it should be granted.

I have had some little difficulty in making up my mind with respect to the amount, owing to the somewhat conflicting opinions contained in the various reports as to the extent of the Beebee's revenue in prosperous times, as well as her actual recent losses; but the most favorable accounts demonstrate the necessity for liberality, and further that that liberality must be continued for a series of years until her islands shall have gradually recovered the ravages of the hurricane of April 1847.

I accordingly beg to propose that application be made to the Government of India to sanction the remission of one-third of her peishcush, or Rupees 3,333½ annually, for ten years, to commence with the current fusly 1289 (1849-50), on condition that she will give effect to such reforms in the management of her islands as the Government shall deem advisable on a further report from the Collector of Malabar.

I am not prepared to say that the reforms should be carried to the full extent suggested by the Board of Revenue in the 46th paragraph of their Proceedings under review, but those suggestions may form the basis of Mr. Conolly's communications with the Beebee, who should

be assured that Government have no object at heart beyond the prosperity and good of the islands, and the concomitant increase of her revenue.

The expenses submitted with the letters from the Collectors of Canara and Malabar, of the 9th and 13th of June 1849, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue should be sanctioned, and I concur with the Board of Revenue that there is no use in making any claim on the Beebee of Cannanore for the share of these disbursements incurred on account of her subjects. I cannot, however, by any means subscribe to the opinion offered by the Board, "that in the event of the islanders still requiring aid beyond the will or power of the Beebee to furnish, it should be supplied by Government, and arrangements made for the gradual recovery hereafter of such part of the charge as it may be deemed proper to be borne by the islanders." Even had the Beebee been willing to make over her islands to us, I should have considered the smallest amount of advances proposed to be made to the inhabitants *in coin* to be out of all proportion to their numbers or importance, and whatever interest I may take personally in their welfare and relief from their impoverished condition, it must not be overlooked that Government are liable to equally urgent calls on their charity and benevolence, which in this instance seem to me to have been exerted (including the proposed remission to the Beebee) to the utmost admissible bounds.

I fancy there must be some mistake in the 35th paragraph of the Revenue Board's Proceedings, where the whole establishment of the Company's Islands is spoken of as costing Rupees 500 per mensem, whilst the revenue is stated in the quotation from Mr. Robinson's report in the 38th paragraph to be only Rupees 8,000 per annum. This should be explained, and a statement called for showing the total monthly expense, when Government will be able to judge of the propriety of applying for sanction to the increased charge for the Karanics proposed to be stationed in each island.

The deduction in the weight of coir delivered under the term of Sand Kusser, referred to in the 6th paragraph of the Board's Proceedings, should be at once abolished.

In conclusion, the thanks of Government should be communicated to the different officers, and especially to Mr. Robinson, all of whose measures are worthy of the highest approval.

10th September 1849.

HENRY POTTINGER.

I concur.

18th September 1849.

(Signed) D. ELIOTT

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 19th October 1849, No. 1,006.*

Read the following papers:—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

(Here enter 2nd August 1849, No. 349.)

Minute by the Right Honorable the President.

(Here enter 10th September 1849.)

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has had under his consideration the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue recorded above, relative to the condition of the Laccadive Islands after the hurricane of April 1847, in connexion with the papers which have already passed on the subject, as well as the further correspondence now forwarded by the Board on the measures of relief to the sufferers which have been or remain to be taken.

2. The group consists of 14 islands of the names entered in the margin of paragraph 17 of the Board's Proceedings, of which the first seven belong to the British Government, three being open and uninhabitable reefs, the remaining four inhabited and attached to the district of Canara. The remainder of the group, comprising seven islands, belongs to the Beebee of Cannanore.

3. The hurricane broke upon Kalpenni and passed on to Androt, both the Beebee's Islands, and reached the Company's Island of Kiltan, the last of the Laccadives severely affected by it. The accounts given of the effects of the hurricane are truly lamentable, especially in the Beebee's Islands, where the loss of life and property was great. In Kiltan the consequences of the hurricane were less disastrous, the loss in the above respects being inconsiderable.

4. The arrangements made by Mr. Robinson for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of these islands, as described in his reports of the 7th and 22nd February 1848, are worthy of the highest approval, and the Governor in Council desires that the thanks of Government may be specially communicated to him, as well as to the different officers who have aided him in those measures.

5. The measures taken by Mr. Robinson for distributing among the parties who engaged to cultivate them the waste lands of the Company's Islands, which have heretofore been regarded as Government property, are considered by the Board of Revenue to be very proper. They also support that officer's recommendation for the appointment of

a Karani to each of the four islands, to be permanently stationed, who, besides keeping all the accounts, &c., is to assist the resident peon in the performance of his general duties. The result of a further communication on the subject with the Collector, the

Paragraph 5. Board observe, is "a recommendation that the total annual charge for the Karanies be augmented to Rupees 126, involving, after deduction of the sum paid to the present Karani, a net increase of Rupees 99 per annum," and they "advise that the higher rates of salary, Rupees 126, suggested by the Collector be adopted, the payment as heretofore being made not in money, but in rice." It is, however, not clear whether the sum of Rupees 126 is intended to be the total charge on account of all the four Karanies, or on account of each.

6. The Governor in Council apprehends that there must be some mistake in the 35th paragraph of the Proceedings, where the cost of the whole establishment of the Company's Islands is given at Rupees 500 per mensem, whilst the revenue is stated in the quotation from Mr. Robinson's report in the 38th paragraph to be only Rupees 8,000 per annum. He desires to have some explanation on this subject and a statement showing the total monthly expense to enable him to judge of the propriety of applying for sanction to the increased charge for the Karanies proposed to be stationed on each island. The Board will not fail to furnish likewise, as desired in paragraph 6 of Extract Minutes of Consultation, 12th April 1847, an application in the prescribed form for the increased charge on account of the Karanies.

7. The Governor in Council concurs in the views expressed in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, and directs that the deduction in the weight of coir delivered under the term of Sand Kusser be at once abolished.

8. In regard to the portion of the group of islands held by the Beebee of Cannanore, which are referred to in the seventh and subsequent paragraphs of the Board's Proceedings, the Governor in Council is of opinion that there are no valid grounds for demanding their cession or restoration to the Government; and as this lady appears to have insurmountable objections to any such arrangement, and even protests against any further interference with her islands on the part of the public officers, the only questions which remain to be considered are whether her application for remission should be acceded to, and if so, to what amount, and on what conditions it should be granted.

9. Some difficulty has been experienced in deciding on the amount of the remission owing to the somewhat conflicting opinions contained in the various reports as to the extent of the Beebee's revenue in prosperous times, as well as her actual recent losses, but the most favorable accounts demonstrate the necessity for liberality, not merely

for the present, but for a series of years until her islands shall have gradually recovered the ravages of the hurricane of April 1847.

10. The Beebee pays at present to Government on her possessions in the islands and upon the coast a peishcush of Rupees 15,000, of which it appears from Mr.

Paragraph 45, Board's Proceedings.  
In letter from Collector of Malabar, dated 3rd February 1849, No. 3.

Robinson's memorandum on her application for remission that Rupees 10,000 appertain to the islands. The Governor in Council resolves accordingly to apply to the Government of India for authority to remit one-third of this latter amount, or Rupees 3,333½ annually, for ten years, to commence with the current fusly 1259, on condition that the Beebee will give effect to such reforms in the management of her islands as the Government shall deem advisable on a further report from the Collector of Malabar.

11. The Governor in Council is not prepared to say that the reforms should be carried to the full extent suggested by the Board of Revenue in the 46th paragraph of their Proceedings under review, but those suggestions may form the bases of Mr. Conolly's communications with the Beebee, and he desires that in making these communications the Beebee may be assured that Government have no object at heart beyond the prosperity and good of the islands and the concomitant increase of her revenue.

12. The Governor in Council sanctions the expenses incurred by the Collectors of Canara and Malabar in affording relief to the inhabitants of the Company and of the Beebee's Islands, amounting to Rupees 5,772-14-9. Of this amount, Rupees 1,369-4-2, being value of supplies furnished to the Canara islanders, it is expected will be recovered; of the remainder, Rupees 4,403-10-7, the sum of Rupees 2,346-8-0 is represented to have been disbursed on account of the Beebee's Islands.

13. The Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue that there is no use in making any claim on the Beebee of Cannanore for the share of the disbursements incurred on account of the people of her island. He cannot, however, by any means subscribe to the opinion offered by the Board, "that in the event of the islanders still requiring aid beyond the will or power of the Beebee to furnish, it should be supplied by Government, and arrangements made for the gradual recovery hereafter of such part of the charge as it may be deemed proper to be borne by the islanders." Even had the Beebee been willing to make over her islands, the Governor in Council should have considered the smallest amount of advances proposed to be made to the inhabitants in coin to be out of all proportion to their numbers or importance, and whatever interest he may have for their welfare and relief from their impoverished condition, it must not be overlooked that Government are liable to equally urgent calls on their benevolence, which in this

instance has been exerted (including the proposed remission to the Beebee) to the utmost admissible bounds.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

(Signed) H. C. MONTGOMERY,  
*Secretary to Government.*

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1,007.

To

F. J. HALLIDAY, Esq.,  
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

SIR,

With reference to the letters noted in the margin, I am directed by the

From Government of India, 3rd July 1847, No. 557.  
From do. do. 14th Aug. do. " 720.  
Extract Minutes of Consultation, 12th April do. " 470.  
From Collector of Malabar, 12th August 1847, " 18, encls. 1.  
To do. of Canara, 20th do. do. " 337.  
Extract Procs. Board of Rev., 12th do. do. " 375, do. 1.  
Extract Minutes of Consultation, 24th Aug. 1847, " 948.  
From Collector of Malabar, 20th September do. " 23, do. 3.  
From do. of Canara, 22nd do. do. " 10, do. 1.  
Extract Minutes of Consultation, 16th Oct. do. " 1,146.  
From Collector of Malabar, 9th March 1848, " 7, do. 1.  
Extract Minutes of Consultation, 15th April do. " 392.  
From Collector of Malabar, 23rd June do. " 19.  
Extract Minutes of Consultation, 10th Nov. do. " 1,225, with  
Memorandum by the Right Honorable the President.  
From Collector of Malabar, 3rd February 1849, No. 3, encls. 2,  
with order.  
From Collector of Malabar, 20th June 1849, No. 15, with order,  
encls. 1.  
Extract Proceedings Board of Revenue, 2nd Aug. 1849, No. 349,  
encls. 11.  
Minute by the Right Honorable the President, 10th September 1849.  
Extract Minutes of Consultation, 19th October 1849, No. 1,006.

Right Hon'ble  
the Governor, on  
Council to  
quest that you  
will submit, for  
the considera-  
tion and orders  
of the Govern-  
ment of India,  
copy of a corre-  
spondence with  
the Collectors  
of Malabar and  
Canara and the  
Board of Re-  
venue regard-

ing a hurricane which occurred in April 1847 on the Laccadive Islands, attended with most disastrous results, involving great loss of life and property, especially in two of the islands belonging to the Beebee of Cannanore.

2. The nature and extent of the relief afforded to the suffering inhabitants both in the Beebee's islands and on those belonging to the Company, and the arrangements made for promoting their welfare, are entered into at considerable length in the reports of the local officers and in the orders passed thereon, and need no notice in this place beyond the expression of the hope of this Government that those measures will receive the concurrence and approbation of the Government of India.

3. The Governor and Council requests the attention of the Government of India to the views recorded by this Government in respect of

the islands forming the possession of the Beebee of Cannanore. It has already been stated that two of these islands have suffered greatly from the hurricane, and as the Beebee has on that account applied for a remission of one-half of her tribute for 15 years, the Governor in Council has, upon mature consideration of her losses, come to the determination of recommending an annual remission from her peishcush of Rupees 3,333½ for ten years, to commence with the current fusly 1259, on her consenting to give effect to such reforms in the management of her islands as, on further communication with the local officers, may be deemed advisable, and he now solicits that authority to that effect may be granted by the Government of India.

(Signed) H. C. MONTGOMERY,  
*Secretary to Government.*

FORT ST. GEORGE,  
19th October 1849.

