

Letter
FROM

Mr. EDWARD COTSFORD.

TO The

PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL
FORT SAINT GEORGE

Reporting on the
Revenues of HAVALI, SEA AND RIVER CUSTOMS
in the DISTRICT



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LETTER

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MR. EDWARD COTSFORD

TO THE

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REPORTING.

ON THE

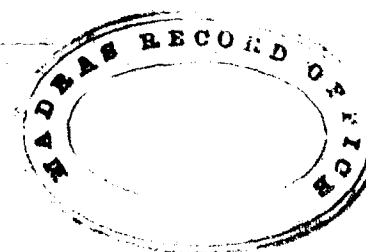
RENTS OF HAVALI, SEA AND RIVER CUSTOMS

IN THE

DISTRICT

IN THE YEAR,

DATED 1ST APRIL 1771.

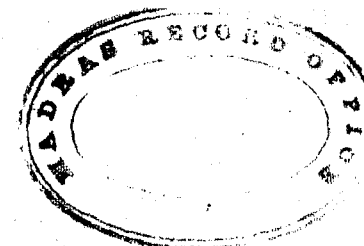


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TO THE HON'BLE JOSIAS DU PRE' ESQR.,
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR &CA., COUNCIL
AT FORT SAINT GEORGE.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

I have received your letter of the 12th ultimo.

I regret much that I was not more particular with respect to the sums offered for the rents of the Havelly and Sea and River Customs in this district for the present year. Shamsunder Choudery who rented the havelly lands last year could not make his rents good from the produce, the inhabitants of the different purgunnahs having sustained a loss of between 7 and 8000 Rupees, which has been made good by Hautmaram, who was his security. For the present year the principal inhabitants of the different purgunnahs have given notes to Hautmaram amounting in the whole to near 1,45,000 Rupees which exceeds the rent offered by 3,000 Rupees, I did all in my power to increase the rent of the havelly lands to 1,45,000 but neither Shamsunder Choudery would accept it on those terms or Hautmaram by his security, in consideration of the loss which was sustained the last year.

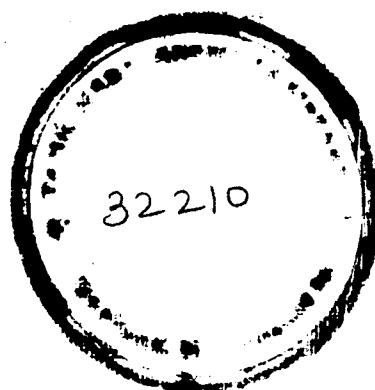
This district is but of small extent, with respect to the havelly lands, the value can be very nearly ascertained from the Crops on the Ground and agreements made with the principal inhabitants in every purgunnah for the payment of their proportions of the Revenues. this method I have hitherto followed and it is on this Condition that the security has been given by Hautmaram for the person by whom the country has been rented, and indeed I do not see a better way of collecting the Revenue for there is not a single man of property as a renter in this Country, or a Soucar to be security for the sums that might be offered for the rent of the Havelly Lands; I therefore judged it to be for the advantage of the Company to appoint a man of good capacity and fair Character (such is Shamsunder Choudary) to receive the accounts from the principal inhabitants and prepare them for my inspection. Hautmaram receives these accounts by his own people likewise and becomes security for the renter. by this your honor &ca., may observe, the renter has it not in his power to oppress the inhabitants and the company have the rents secured. this method appears to me better calculated for the present state of this country than the receiving sealed proposals and leaving the entire management to any one who may be the renter, who does not produce good security for the payment of his rents, for I must observe to you that the principal motive of Hautmaram in becoming security for the renter of the havelly lands is to free the inhabitants from being oppressed by the renter after the terms are settled them. With respect to the Sea and River Customs at S. napour, Barou, and Mansurootah, it was with the greatest difficulty I could find any one who was

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inclined to accept them at all, every one observing that the customs would be reduced by the merchants carrying their vessels to Ganjam in future. Many were willing to collect the Customs for the company as Conicopies, but that I rejected not only as being contrary to your orders, but moreover as giving too great a latitude for fraud. I am convinced the sums offered for the rents of the present year will appear to be adequate to the value of the Country on the nicest examination of the matter which together with the years being far advanced, and good security offered for payment of the money induces me to recommend to your honor &c. that Snamsunder Choudery and Jugga-bundoo may have it on the terms I have already laid before you for the present year. I am informed by many who have lived long in this Country that there is not a single instance within their remembrance of so large a sum being collected in one year from the havelly lands as 1,67,000 which is nearly what will be received this year including the Customs at Ganjam in the years 1746, 1747, 1754 and 1756 the Jummabundy has been fixed at a higher rate but the sums received have not exceeded 130,000 Rs. at the highest.

On the 15th of next month I shall cause publick notice to be given in all the purgunnahs that sealed proposals will be received for the rents of the havelly lands and Sea and River Customs for the year 1771 to be given in by the 15th of June. there is no one man who has property sufficient to be responsible for the rents of the whole of the havelly lands when left immediately under his own management, the Business therefore will I imagine be better looked after and with less risque if it is divided into 9 parts one of which for the Sea and River Customs at Sonapour, Barouah, and Mansurcotah and the remaining 8 for the purgunnahs of Ganjam, Pubbacunda, Aska, Kurla, Mansurcotah, Montredi, Itchapour, and Barona which include the whole of the havelly lands.

I am

Honorable Sir and Sirs

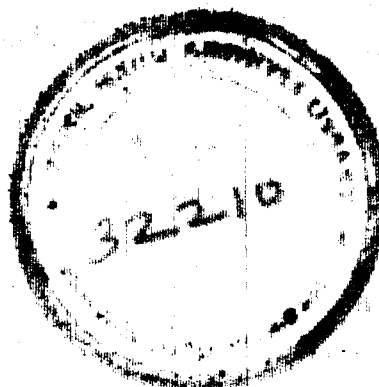
with the greatest respect

Your most dutiful Servant

EDWARD COTIFORD.

Ganjam

April 1st 1771.



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