

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Insrial* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1633

Press  
~~Mis~~

Dated 12-10-1918

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21/22

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,  
12th October 1867.*

No. 110. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 8th October 1867, No. 2359.

Passing orders on a scheme for revising } (Vide Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 8th October 1867, Nos. 160—168).  
the Village Establishments of the Tanjore District.

No. 111. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1867, No. 1633.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,  
*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Read the following papers :—

No. 160. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th April 1865,  
No. 1,943.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1865, No. 72.

1. I have the honor to solicit the attention of the Board to the subject of the Village Establishments in this district, and to the fact that the scheme framed with a view to placing them on an improved footing, and sanctioned by Government nearly three years ago, has been held in abeyance in consequence of objections raised by the Inspector General of Police, without, however, any definite arrangement being since come to on the subject.

2. In his letter recorded in the Proceedings of Government, under date the 12th September 1862, No. 1,960, Mr. Robinson stated that he would address Government more fully thereafter ; but I am not aware whether he has yet done so or not.

3. I am not called upon to report on the objections brought forward by Mr. Robinson with the concurrence of the then Acting Magistrate in his letter above alluded to, nor do I consider it necessary that I should do so now, inasmuch as the scheme, as laid before Government, was carefully and elaborately matured by competent authorities, and has received the concurrence and approval both of the Board and the Government. I would, however, take leave to call attention to the fact that the objections urged by Mr. Robinson are scarcely applicable to Tanjore, where the office of Pottail or Village Monigar, to which alone his objections refer, forms no part of the ancient " Village Municipality ;" but as has been again and again shown was, as

In 1836.

respects this district, recently created by the Revenue authorities. This office,

however, as it now exists, has proved an utter failure ; a fact of which no one acquainted with the subject has ever entertained a doubt, and the object of the revision proposed by the Honorable Mr. Pelly, in communication with myself, is merely to place it on an improved footing.

4. I would only take leave further to remark that Mr. Robinson's objections apply solely to the re-organization of the office of the Village Monigar, and I see no reason why offices of Kurnum and Vettiyan, which form the remaining portion of the Village Establishment embraced in the proposed scheme, and with which Mr. Robinson's system of Village Police or Magistracy has nothing to do, should not be carried out as already sanctioned, nor why on that account the whole scheme should be held in abeyance.

5. I beg, however, strongly to recommend that the new establishments be introduced in their entirety.

The execution of the Order of Government, dated 9th August 1862, No. 1,697, for the introduction of the revised Village Establishments was, at the recommendation of the Inspector General of Police, with the concurrence of Mr. Morris, (who was then in charge of the district,) deferred for the present by Order of Government, dated 12th September 1862, No. 1,960. As Mr. Morris has, since the date of Mr. Cadell's letter, been appointed Collector of Tanjore, the Board resolve to ask his opinion whether it is expedient any longer to defer the execution of the original

order of Government. The opinion of the Inspector General of Police will also be requested on Mr. Cadell's letter.

No. 161. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th May 1865, No. 2,267.  
Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd April 1865, No. 117.

1. I am in receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th April 1865, in which I am asked to state whether I consider it expedient any longer to defer the execution of the original Order of Government, dated 9th August 1862, No. 1,697, regarding the re-organization of the Village Revenue Establishment of the Tanjore District, as proposed by Mr. Pelly.

2. When I was Acting Collector of Tanjore in August 1862, Mr. Robinson, the Inspector General of Police, visited the district, and begged that I would try whether having a Village Munsiff and Monigar for *each* village would not work satisfactorily both in a Revenue as well as a Magisterial and Police point of view, he being of opinion that the system had never had a fair trial in the district.

3. As I felt that Mr. Pelly's scheme would give a fatal blow to the retention of Village Municipalities in the district, I agreed that it would be as well to give the plan of having a Munsiff and Monigar for *each* village a fair trial, and hence the reason for my concurring with Mr. Robinson that it would be as well to defer Mr. Pelly's scheme for a while.

4. During the two years that I have been away from Tanjore, Mr. Robinson's proposal has had a fair trial, and I have, therefore, now requested the Sub-Collector and the two Deputy Collectors who have been in the district all that time, to favor me with their views on the subject; and on receipt of the same, shall have much pleasure in laying my opinion before the Board.

The Board will await Mr. Morris's further report.

No. 162. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th July 1865, No. 4,192.

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Madras Police, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 1st July 1865, No. 1,272.

1. With reference to Extract Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th April 1865, I venture to offer the following remarks on Mr. Cadell's scheme.

2. The Collector proposes to abandon altogether the village system in Tanjore, and sweep away the existing foundations of Municipal working; to set aside the heads of villages as now constituted by law; with the existing village servants; to resume endowments; and to raise a local Vattum administration on entirely new principles, to be paid by these resurrections. There are 1,186 Vattums; into these the 6,322 existing villages of the district are to be arranged. It is proposed to appoint a stipendiary headman to each Vattum, with a Taliari or Vattum Vetti to carry reports, &c., and aid him.

3. Apart from all other obvious and grave objections to so momentous a change, I entertain grave doubts whether such a scheme can be carried out under

the existing village laws. Can the legal functions and privileges of head of villages be thus taken from them? Then as regards the scheme itself. It certainly does not meet the requirements of the law. It is opposed alike to the spirit and policy of our village administration and to the intention of the Legislature and Government at the time these laws were framed. The law clearly accepted the basis of existing village communities—in fact the village system—and it cannot now be stretched to cover this newly devised Vattum administration.

4. As regards the proposed creation of a headman of the Vattum, I do not see under what law he can be appointed, or can act. He cannot be a Potail; for it is clear that the selection of the head of the village is not left optional. Regulation IV of 1816 distinctly indicates the precise individual, by whatever local designation known, who is by law, head of the village. He must be the principal person in that village and *de facto* the person under whose authority the existing servants of that village act; and he must generally reside within the village itself. He must in short be the Mirasidar of that village. The law has created the office. It can only be abolished by law. It is not dependent on any appointment by an Officer of Government. When doubts arise as to who amongst certain joint Mirasidars is the head of the village, the Collector can interfere to select from amongst them, the person who shall hold the certificate. But only then. No official who might be otherwise nominated, could take any power under the existing village laws. He clearly could not act as Munsiff (Regulation IV of 1816) or as *quasi* village Magistrate (XI of 1816); for such an official could not fulfil the requirements of the legal definition.

5. I think that some misapprehension has arisen in regard to the introduction of the village laws into Tanjore. I write from memory, as it is some years since I studied the subject in the Record-rooms of that district. The Village Regulations of 1816 were introduced into Tanjore very shortly after the policy of Government passed into law; and *Sunnuds* were issued to the Potails in accordance with the law, under peculiarly stringent and perhaps coercive measures of Government, long before 1835. The measures taken in 1835 were supplementary and confirmatory. The early introduction of the system and subsequent measures clearly indicate the intention and spirit of the law. I cannot now see that the proposed change, which is opposed alike to the existing constitution of society, and the policy of Government up to this time, is either necessary or desirable.

6. The Honorable Mr. Pelly remarks that "Influential Mirasidars, willing enough, it is said, to occupy the position of village Judge or Magistrate, will not submit to the call of the Tahsildar for the collection of the revenue." The former are the duties required at their hands by the village law as it now stands. These they are not unwilling to perform. Legally speaking, therefore, there is no equitable ground for depriving the whole body of their legal offices, rights and privileges. The difficulty mainly relates to the collection of the revenue *in due form*—for practically, the revenues are easily and punctually collected under the system which has long obtained in the district.

7. I freely admit that some anomaly attaches to the manner in which the revenue is collected in Tanjore. The Kurnums collect it. But the Kurnums collect it in Godavery, Kistna, and in many other parts of the country, where it would be equally impolitic to overthrow the ancient village system in order to

rectify the technical anomaly. The practice does not work so badly as to call for the radical change proposed; for the revenue is punctually collected. In Tanjore the practice has grown out of the system that had existed from time immemorial, and has since been fostered. The Kurnums were originally, like other members of the Village Establishment, the servants of the Mirasidars; kept by them to manage their accounts and revenue affairs. For this duty they received their share of the crops like other village servants from the Mirasidars. Successive changes have removed the Kurnums of Tanjore from the control of the Mirasidars. Their share of the crops is collected with the revenue; and the Kurnums have become the paid servants of Government. But their functions have continued, and in practice they still manage the entire Revenue demand and collection of their respective charges. The heads of villages never have been associated in this duty, which the Ooloogoo system rendered both intricate and troublesome; indeed the Kurnums themselves have systematically discouraged the heads of villages from taking part in this work. It may, therefore, be difficult now to induce the Mirasidars of Tanjore—who are wealthy men with large private concerns to attend to—to engage in the collection of small arrears and place themselves at the beck of the Kurnum and Tahsildar. But I do not, therefore, admit the necessity for a change, which would involve depriving the principal inhabitant of the village of that position which the law has secured to him as village Judge and Magistrate. I would prefer to leave what works fairly well, as it is; rather than upset ancient village institutions and the village system, in order to rectify what after all is a technical rather than practical inconvenience. Further I am quite satisfied that the appointment of a single Cutcherry volunteer or second-rate Mirasidar to the charge of an entire Vattum, would not cure the evil, if it be one. With him there would be want of power, if not of will; his failure must be complete and hopeless, and the collection of the revenue by the Kurnum must go on as heretofore.

8. But, suppose for the sake of argument, that the proposed arrangement could be carried out under existing village laws. The immediate effect of this measure will suddenly throw out of office all the numerous influential landholders who now take some part in the local administration of the country, and transfer their Municipal duties to a few mere stipendiary functionaries, or members of the community *avowedly* of a much lower or less independent social position. Can the country gain by such a change? We may it is true, obtain the services of a person—perhaps even of a petty Mirasidar of some one of the villages of the Vattum—who will for a stipend of 4 to 7 Rupees, undertake to aid in the collection of the revenue and become the Kurnum's servant—for let the arrangements be outwardly what they may, the Kurnums of Tanjore will never *de facto* give up their lucrative and powerful functions. But the administration of justice and convenience of the community in general, must suffer very grievously; if the functions of village Judge and Magistrate be transferred from the influential persons to whom the law has confided them in each village, to a few non-resident second-rate stipendiaries. The office must inevitably fall in general estimation and consequently in usefulness. Moreover the fiscal end in view will not be attained.

9. Viewed from a Magisterial and Police point of view, the measure must prove ruinous. "The true key to good village administration lies in strengthening the position and influence of the head of the village, and in teaching each village community to take a larger and more active interest in its own affairs." The very

key-stone and fulcrum of Police working is the legal head of the village. Through him alone can any effectual influence be brought to bear on the Taliari or Village Police. And to him must be left the management of the village servants. This objection to the measure applies specially to Tanjore, where the Mirasidars completely control their village servants. But under the proposed change, the village head disappears, and the village community is practically set aside. And the Police not only lose the aid and support of some thousands of the most influential persons in the country; but, with the village heads and influential Mirasidars, they also lose the only persons through whom they can possibly reach their servants, the village Watchers. The Board may be assured that the salaried but feeble Vattum head can never replace the substantial basis of good administration which he is destined to supersede. Why cut off the only possible connecting tie between the General Police and the people's watchmen?

10. The Taliari Establishment in Tanjore is remarkably complete. It is well provided for and, as Taliari Establishments go, is probably the best managed and the most efficient under the Presidency; for it works to the satisfaction of its employers. There are upwards of 6,000 registered Taliari (with many assistants and fellow caste-men) and each village has one or more. The Taliaries of Tanjore were provided for at the settlement by an assignment (about  $0\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.) on the crops; which is paid with unusual punctuality by the Mirasidars, together with other fees and gratuities which they willingly give for service rendered. The Taliaries are looked after by the Mirasidars, who are the persons most interested in their work; and they are tolerably well in hand; for the villagers' property is certainly not less safe in Tanjore than in other districts, where the Taliaries are less under the control of the village communities. The question whether the Taliari of Tanjore is the *private servant* of the Mirasidars or not, is practically quite immaterial. We do not want the Taliari as a State servant. And wherever we attempt to make him so, we do far more harm than good. So long as the Taliari is a good village servant and does not steal the Mirasidar's property, there is positive advantage in the jealousy of the villagers in regard to his employment by all the many departmental officials, who in other districts claim the services of the village Taliari and interfere with his proper duty. Cutcherry officials and Police Officers naturally enough would prefer to have direct control over the village servants; but it is far better than they, including the Taliari, should be kept to their village work and serve only one master, the Mirasidar; so long as this influential person performs the duties of Potail. The Head of the village and Mirasidars are the only persons of real interest to the Police. And their aid is all the more valuable, when, as in Tanjore, they have the village servants well under their control. It is the interest of the head of the village to prevent crime in his village, and to that end he works his Taliari; and when he is willing to aid the Police in detecting a crime, he consults his Taliari. This modicum of indirect aid of the Taliari, is partially secured by the existing state of things. Alter it, and it must be utterly lost; for he cannot be approached through any other channel. But the proposed change must disserve us entirely from the village servants; and the poor Vattum Vetti could never fill the void which the measure must create in this respect. Experience enables me to predict that as a public servant, this ill-paid functionary will be of little use.

This class of servants has already been tried. When the Constabulary was first introduced in Tanjore, the Visarapugars, who were a kind of stipendiary village Police in the district, were placed in the different Vattum, as Vattum Watchers. They proved inefficient, and when the retrenchment of 1863 came, their services were dispensed with, without any perceptible detriment or increase of crime.

11. I must venture here to make a few remarks on the subject of resumption of Taliari endowments in Tanjore. The remarks apply to all ancient village service endowments. Have we an equitable right to break through a joint arrangement with the people of the country for the support of local institutions; especially in Tanjore, where the Mirasidars faithfully perform their part of the bargain and maintain their village watch, Vetti and other village establishments in fair efficiency? From time immemorial a small share of the gross crops had been set aside for the servants whom the villagers in common, kept to watch their crops, thrashing floors and grain heaps. Sharing the crop as the Government did, it also shared the expense of watching crops in which they had a common interest with the villagers. It is true that revenue in kind has been converted into a rent charge; but the produce of the soil from which this rent charge is paid, is still watched by the Taliari. And it seems to me clear that, so long as their part of the duty is performed, we are not entitled to resume our share of the joint assignment, merely because the direct interest of the Government in the crops in kind has in a measure ceased. So long as the work is done, and the people keep up their contributions, we cannot cancel our engagement. It is likewise open to very serious doubt whether the right of the State to the services of these village servants ever extended beyond that of having the crops, in which they have common interest with the villagers, watched, in consideration of the share of the expenses contributed. Practically such right has never been exercised by the Government, or conceded the people. For other services, the villagers pay other fees according to local customs. And the general Police of the country was conducted under the *Men Kavilgars*, whose fees and endowments, quite distinct from the Watcher's fees, were resumed when the system was superseded in 1814.

12. I think this matter must be viewed in broader way altogether. It is expedient or necessary to adopt a policy of paying the proper heads of the village for the ordinary discharge of their municipal and legal duties and obligations. To take the lowest, a financial ground, it is and ever must be impossible. No Funds, Imperial or Local, could stand the drain. We must either abandon the policy and not attempt to pay for ordinary village administration, or we must abandon the village system and accept the kind of expedient proposed for Tanjore; that is, sweep away an integral part of our administration and adopt a stipendiary system on a very contracted scale. But this will not cure even the financial difficulty. It will only aggravate it; for the local requirements of society are daily increasing, and we dare not hope that, while prices are rising and the wealth and intelligence advancing as they now are, men in any respect worthy of the position will be found to accept the duties for a pittance which is less than the earnings of an ordinary laborer. The difficulty will inevitably recur. But I do not think it is either generally necessary or politic to pay for such services. The law confers the office of village head on a class of persons who ordinarily have sufficient wealth and leisure to devote some of

their time to the gratuitous service of their fellow villagers. If they are not willing to do so without stipend, no stipend that can be offered will induce them; and a stipend only lowers the dignity of such service, while the absence of fee and reward prevents unworthy men from aspiring to the office. Of course, gratuitous services are never very zealously performed; but the heads of villages will improve, as wealth and intelligence of the people advance. And I think that we should be very careful not to touch the existing germs of the most valuable kind of service, viz., the gratuitous service rendered by the wealthy and independent to the society in which they live.

13. It will be said that I sketch what should be, not what is. There is some truth in this. But the fault does not lie exclusively with the Mirasidars; nor is the remedy proposed the right and effectual one. Village institutions and the sound policy of enabling the people to do something for themselves in their own way, never have had a fair chance in Tanjore. The country has, from the commencement of rule, been overlaid by enormous official establishments; everything has been done by employés; and the measures taken from time to time have had a bureaucratic direction. When the village laws first gave to these communities some status, and to their headmen some power the measure was opposed by the then Collector and his officials. An opposition which was only overcome, if my memory serves me rightly, by actual or threatened suspension. When the measure was introduced therefore it was in a manner least likely to ensure success. The position and influence of the Mirasidar was lowered, and some of his important duties practically removed from him, when the Kurnum of the people was replaced by a Government employé. In fact, the administration of the country has been unfavorable to the growth of the spirit of self-help amongst village communities. The remedy does not, however, lie in now cutting off this improveable branch of administration and casting it away as profitless; but in comforting and encouraging the Potails and people and strengthening their hands in the management of their own institution and services. The number of district functionaries has been reduced, and the Revenue system has been simplified; and we may well trust to time, and to growing intelligence and self-respect, to bring the heads of rural society to appreciate the importance of the interests confided to them and to lead them to greater activity in exercising all their functions.

Communicated to the Collector of Tanjore, who will lose no time in forwarding the report promised in his letter of the 22nd April 1865, No. 117.

No. 163. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1866, No. 1,228.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellam, 17th August 1865, No. 247.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings noted in the margin, I have

Dated 13th April 1865, No. 1,943.

" 5th May " " 2,267.

" 20th July " " 4,192.

the honor to submit my opinion on the scheme of the revised Village Establishments for this district which has been objected to by the Inspector General of Police.

2. The only part of the proposed scheme to which the objections urged in Mr. Robinson's letter refer, and indeed the only part which appears at first sight likely to break up the system of village Municipalities, supposing such to exist, is that which places a vattum, or circle of villages under one headman, instead of having a headman for each so-called village. It is this part of the scheme, therefore, which requires to be considered, for nowhere is the nomination to each vattum of a stipendiary headman in the sense in which Mr. Robinson uses the term, viz., a mere paid servant unconnected with and having no Mirasi holding in the village, contemplated, nor is the doing away with the useful functions of the present Taliaer ever thought of.

3. As regards the placing of more than one village under one headman, I must first state that evidently considerable misapprehension appears to exist as to how many villages properly so-called really exist in Tanjore. In the first place, the number of villages is not 6,332 as is supposed, but only 4,853, this being the number of Tariff or Government villages which alone come within the scope of the proposed Village Establishments. The remaining 1,474 are Zemindary, Inam, and Mokassa villages, which will be left, as they are under their present village Munsiffs. In the second place, out of the 4,853 Government villages, 792 are hamlets without any houses or habitations whatsoever, and the remaining 4,066 can be classified as follows:—

|                                         |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Villages which have each a single house | ... | ... | ... | 75  |
| Do. do. 2                               | do. | ... | ... | 75  |
| Do. do. 3                               | do. | ... | ... | 65  |
| Do. do. 4                               | do. | ... | ... | 66  |
| Do. do. 5                               | do. | ... | ... | 83  |
| Do. do. 6 to 10                         | do. | ... | ... | 390 |
| Do. do. 10 to 25                        | do. | ... | ... | 934 |
| Do. do. 25 to 50                        | do. | ... | ... | 985 |
| Do. do. 50 to 100                       | do. | ... | ... | 809 |
| Above ... 100                           | do. | ... | ... | 581 |

again classified with reference to area of cultivation, the 4,066 villages above specified, stand thus:—

|                                           |     |     |       |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Villages containing five velies and under | ... | ... | 271   |
| Do. above 5 up to 10                      | ... | ... | 540   |
| Do. do. 10 do. 15                         | ... | ... | 567   |
| Do. do. 15 do. 20                         | ... | ... | 459   |
| 2,229 { Do. do. 20 do. 50                 | ... | ... | 1,514 |
| Do. do. ... 50                            | ... | ... | 715   |

4. From the above classified lists, it appears, that the number of villages in the district containing more than twenty-five houses is 2,378, and the number which have more than twenty velies of land attached to them is 2,229. Now as the Board are well aware, the land in this district is for the most part cultivated by Porakudies and not by the Mirasidars themselves, and I am sure I am within the mark when I say, that the greater part of the inhabitants of villages containing twenty-five houses and under, are these laborers and their families.

5. Mirasidars of wealth and standing very seldom live in these villages, even though they may possess land there; and the selection of the Pattamaniyam has,

therefore, been restricted to either a large Mirasidar's agent, or some petty Mirasidar who has but little property and less intelligence. The consequences have been that but few heads of villages are really competent men, and fewer still really perform any of their duties properly. They are in many instances unable to collect the revenue, because other Mirasidars have no confidence in them, and will not pay their monies into their hands. They do not decide any petty suits, because they either do not know how to do so, or the people would rather go some distance to a District Munsiff's Court, or the Court of Small Causes, than have recourse to them. Whilst as to their Police and Magisterial functions, we have the evidence of authorities most competent to pronounce an opinion as to how they are performed. The Superintendent of Police, Captain Rolland, states "Almost without an exception throughout the district, the duties of the village Magistrates are carried on in a most perfunctory manner." "I can," he adds, "state from personal observation and from reports made by Inspectors, that the provisions of Sections 8 and '9, Regulation XI of 1816. are never carried out." The Assistant Superintendent of Police, Lieutenant Trotman, states, "I am of opinion that the village Munsiff as at present constituted is of little or no use to the Police." Again all the Revenue authorities of experience and standing in the district, whom I have consulted on the subject, viz., the Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Plumer, and Deputy Collectors, T. Muttusami Aiyar, and Ramachendra Row, all concur in expressing their decided opinion that the office of Village Munsiff and Pattamaniagar as at present constituted, has been a complete failure, and they all join in stating, as they do also the Police Officers abovementioned, that the proposed arrangement of having a well selected and well paid Officer for each vattum or small circle of villages, would be a decided improvement.

6. The arrangement which was proposed by Messrs. Cadell and Pelly, and sanctioned by Government, with a view to re-modelling the office of Pattamaniagar, was to form into 1,186 vattums or circles, the present number of what are called villages, but are, as far as more than half are concerned, only so in name; and to place each vattum under a well-qualified head selected from among the Mirasidars, assigning to him a monthly salary varying from Rupees 4 to 7, according to the importance of his vattum. Under the proposed arrangement, the largest vattum was to contain

|                       |     |     |                   |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| An area of            | ... | ... | 10½ square miles. |
| Extent of cultivation | ... | ... | 472 Velies.       |
| Number of landholders | ... | ... | 144               |
| Revenue, Rupees       | ... | ... | 10,878            |
| Population            | ... | ... | 3,052, and        |
| Houses                | ... | ... | 597               |

The smallest

|                       |     |     |                |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----------------|
| An area of            | ... | ... | ½ square mile. |
| Extent of cultivation | ... | ... | 45 Velies.     |
| Number of landholders | ... | ... | 18             |
| Revenue, Rupees       | ... | ... | 935            |
| Population            | ... | ... | 241, and       |
| Houses                | ... | ... | 49             |

On an average the area of a vattum was to be 2.2 square miles.

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of cultivation ... .. | 127 Velies. |
| Number of landholders ... .. | 94          |
| Revenue, Rupees ... ..       | 3,423       |
| Population ... ..            | 1,066       |
| Houses ... ..                | 205         |

7. It will be thus seen that the Vattums were in point of size, and other features of importance, no more than what villages in other districts are. It is true that their component parts were divided into so-called villages more or less detached from each other, though not always so, but such detached places were generally within a short distance of each other, and consisted mostly, as shewn before, of mere laborers' huts. Leaving Tanjore out of account, the district in the whole of the Madras Presidency which contains the largest number of villages is Salem, and there, the average area of a village is a little less than 1.9 square mile. The district which contains the smallest number of villages is Madura, and there the average area of a village is four square miles. In Tanjore, the whole area of Government villages distributed over 1,186 Vattums, gives an average of only 2.2 square miles.

8. After careful consideration of the subject, I am of opinion, that the proposed arrangement is not calculated to do away with village Municipalities properly so-called, but will on the contrary consolidate, and, if possible, form into real Municipalities, those small detached villages, where no municipal action has as yet taken place in this district. I willingly confess that this is not the view I took of this subject in 1862, but I was not then aware, as I am now, that 2,480 villages out of 4,858 in the district were villages only in name containing twenty-five houses or less, and inhabited for the most part by laborers and their families.

9. I would, however, propose to modify the scheme, so as to increase the number of Vattums to 1,446, appointing to each of the Vattums thus added to the number proposed by Mr. Pelly, a Kurnum, a Pattamaniagar, and a Vettiyan, at an annual additional cost of Rupees 53,040, calculated at the rate of Rupees 17 per mensem, or Rupees 204 per annum for each Vattum; Rupees 8 per mensem being for the Kurnum, Rupees 6 for the Pattamaniagar, and Rupees 3 for the Vettiyan. By this means we shall have more than enough Vattums, to allow of every village having fifty houses and upwards, being in a separate and distinct Vattum; and shall reduce the average area of each Vattum in the district to 1.8 square mile.

10. The surplus of Rupees 53,760 left out of the assets now available for the remuneration of the Village Establishments, as shewn in Mr. Pelly's Report to Government, and to which the district is most justly entitled, will cover this additional charge, and leave a surplus of 720 Rupees. If this proposal is acceded to, I purpose to do away with the Nat Kurnum Establishment altogether, as their services will not be required, when once the Village Establishment has been made thoroughly efficient.

11. With this modification, the proposed scheme of Village Establishments will, I feel confident, work satisfactorily. It will not only facilitate the collection of the revenue, which with our enlarged talooks and reduced establishments, is at

present attended with difficulty; but will also ensure the due performance of the duties of the village Magistrate and Munsiff. The sphere of selection being enlarged, the individual selected will be more fitted for the office in point of intelligence, social position, and general respectability. His emoluments, as likewise his local jurisdiction being also increased, the loss of office will no longer be a matter of such indifference as it is now with nominal charge of a nominal village, and with a salary of a few annas.

12. Mr. Robinson deprecates the system of paying a remuneration for the services of heads of villages. I cannot, however, agree with him, and consider that when men do purely Government work such as the collection of the revenue, they should be paid for it. From Sir Thomas (then Colonel) Munro's Report,\* dated the 8th February 1817, it appears

\* Selections of India Papers, Vol. II., pages 815 and 816.

that the Mirasidars of Tanjore when they were first called upon in 1816 to undertake the office of Potal, particularly claimed† a remuneration, and further that in the

† Paragraph 10.

old Nattamagar system, it was the practice for the Mirasidars to pay the Nattamagar an allowance as a remuneration for his services as such. Indeed, in the case of village services a pecuniary remuneration is considered a peculiar privilege.

‡ Paragraph 5.

Mr. Kindersley in his letter‡ to the Board, dated the 23rd February 1832, states "the pecuniary remuneration is a badge of authority understood by all and "carrying weight with all."

13. Mr. Robinson in paragraph 7 of his letter, dated 1st July, No. 1,272, would allow the Kurnum to continue collecting the revenue in this district. This is, however, directly opposed to the sentiments expressed in his letter to Government, communicated in the Board's Miscellaneous Circular No. II., 14th January 1864, where he strongly deprecated the practice of separating the duty of collecting the revenue from the Civil and Criminal functions of the head of the village. To collect the revenue was, in his opinion, a legal prerogative which attached to the office of the head of the village, and separation of it from him involved abuse, weakened and divided the authority which should be concentrated in one village head, and introduced confusion and frequently antagonism into the management of the village.

14. The undue influence and power of the Kurnum has always been felt as an evil which required to be remedied in Tanjore. At present his authority is without any local check or control, and the consequence is that much mischief is done. An intelligent and duly qualified Pattamaniagar will be able to collect the revenue, to bring to light the tricks and intrigues of the Kurnum, and generally to keep him under some sort of control, instead of being as at present completely controlled by him. So long, however, as the collection of the revenue remains in the hands of the Kurnum, it is useless to expect that the Pattamaniam can have any influence, or authority over the other Mirasidars of the village, and can efficiently perform his duties of village Munsiff and Magistrate. Further, the additional work thus devolving on the Kurnum renders him unable to properly perform his

Dated 7th December 1861, No 1,117, paragraph 30.

own legitimate duties, which consequently are at present discharged in such a slipshod way, that very little reliance can, as a rule, be placed on the accuracy of his returns, which are frequently filled up by mere guess. Mr. Kindersley in his letter already adverted to, observes (paragraph 2) "To say nothing of the undue influence and unchecked authority thus enjoyed by the Kurnum, who in the Revenue Department should be a mere Accountant, and in the Police and Judicial, only the assistant of the Munsiff, the multifarious duties required of him rendered their due performance impossible, and the extensive corruption of these officers rendered their removal so frequent, that instead of being able to afford detailed information of the state of the village and its inhabitants, the Kurnum was generally a perfect stranger, or if of long standing, had only retained his situation by conniving at the frauds of the Mirasidars, and thus preventing them from bringing forward his own."

15. Mr. Robinson also lays much stress on the requirements of the law as to the qualifications which the village Munsiff and Magistrate ought to possess, but he loses sight, I think, of the fact, that these requirements are no more violated by the proposed scheme, than by the existing arrangement, under which mere paid agents of the Mirasidars who do not "generally reside" in the villages hold the appointment. Very many of the present so-called villages have no Mirasidars' houses in them, and the rest of the inhabitants being mere coolies, an agent of the Mirasidar is appointed, and told to live in the village: a direction which he never obeys. Having regard to the spirit of the law, its requirements are, it appears to me, more nearly followed by the proposed scheme, under which the person that holds the office will be better qualified in point of substance and position, than the present headman, though he may not have a Mirasi holding in every one of the small so-called villages of which the Vattum is composed.

16. As to the objections urged by Mr. Robinson regarding the resumption of the endowments of village servants, it is only the Taliar's emoluments which it is at all necessary here to notice, for the Doctors, Nirankums and others have nothing to do with the Police and Judicial administration. The Taliar's fixed emoluments consist of a swatantrum, or grain fee of half per cent., deducted from the gross produce, but this allowance being insufficient, it is largely supplemented by the Mirasidars by payments in other shapes. What is now proposed, is to resume a moiety of the grain fee which forms the contribution of Government, and the result of this resumption will be, it is to be borne in mind, not in any way to curtail the emoluments of the Taliars, but to add to the demand on the Mirasidars the sum of about Rupees 23,000 in the aggregate for the whole district. The effect of this additional demand on each individual Mirasidar is so extremely small that it will be unfelt and in many instances unknown, and so far from being made a ground of complaint, will be readily and cheerfully acquiesced in, on account of Government giving up all claim to the services of Taliars, who will thus become the absolute servants of the Mirasidars: an arrangement which Mr. Robinson admits works admirably well.

17. In conclusion, I beg to forward the reports of the Revenue and Police Officers in this district, on the subject referred to in this letter, for the perusal of the Board.

From the Acting Sub-Collector of Tanjore, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatam, 27th April 1865, No. 95.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, No. 418, with its enclosures.

2. Three years ago, when the Inspector General of Police was here discussing the village Munsiff question, I expressed my apprehension that the present system would not answer, either in a Police or Magisterial point of view. The working of the system, for the past three years, has, I consider, shewn that that apprehension was well grounded. There is no doubt that the system is an entire failure. The Inspector General started with the erroneous impression that the village Munsiff would, in every case, be, *de-facto* as well as *de-jure*, head of the village. In this district, whatever it may be in others, such is not the case. The appointment carries with it no association of dignity or honor, and, as there is not the alternative of fixed emolument, the result is that a most inferior class of men hold the appointment. The larger landholders actually select the smaller Mirasidars for the appointment, they themselves being unwilling to hold it. The men selected are quite ignorant of the nature of the duties which their office entails upon them; consequently these duties are neglected.

3. I am convinced that the proposed plan of a *paid* village Munsiff and Moniagar for each Vattum, appointed by Government, and directly responsible to the Magisterial and Revenue Officers, would be found to answer the requirements both of the Police and the Magistracy much better than the present plan of having an unpaid Munsiff for each village. The former, drawing a fixed salary for fixed duties, would be, of course, selected entirely with regard to his fitness to perform those duties, the due performance of which would thus be ensured; being appointed by Government the Government Officers would have a far stronger check upon the Vattum Munsiff than can be exercised over the present village Munsiffs, who have their own affairs to manage, and who naturally do pretty much as they like.

4. I would therefore with Mr. Cadell, most strongly recommend that the new Village Establishments proposed by Mr. Pelly should be introduced in their entirety without further delay.

From the Deputy Collector of Tanjore, Mannargudi, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Camp at Talanayer, 13th May 1865, No. 36.

1. I have the honor to submit the report called for in your letter of the 22nd ultimo, No. 420, relative to the working of the system of having a village Munsiff in every village.

2. The system may be said to have had a fair trial, notwithstanding the introduction of the Village Sessions in my division from 21st of October 1863.

3. A full report as to the result of the working of the Village Sessions was submitted by me last year,\* in which I represented that the system proved a failure, and solicited its immediate discontinuance. To this, however, I was not favored with any instructions, and the system is nominally in existence to this date.

4. The present question, however, may be answered with certainty, from a general view of the individual operations of each village Munsiff in his village. I would submit that the system of having a single Munsiff for each village has proved a failure, much more so, when the extent of Mirasi held by the incumbent was made an essential qualification for the post. The advantages† adverted to by the Inspector General by a strict maintenance of the "Village Municipality" are little more than nominal in a district like Tanjore, where it had been but recently‡ created by the Revenue authorities.

\* To Magistrate of Tanjore, 11th July 1864, No. 32.

† Paragraph 4 from Inspector General of Police to Government, 3rd September 1862, recorded in Government Proceedings, 12th September 1862, No. 1,960.

‡ From Collector to Board, 10th March 1865, No. 62, paragraph 2.

5. The most influential Mirasidars in my division, as is the case I suppose in several other parts of the district, do not reside in the villages in which or near which they have their respective Mirasi lands. A lowly paid and very often ignorant and sometimes illiterate agent is placed on the spot, to look after their agricultural concerns; and this class of people has been invested with the powers of the village Magistracy merely on the belief that their influential

position in the village would go far to render the local Police and Magisterial administrations effective. But this has not produced the desired result. Petty village factions, the uncertainty of the tenure of office as Mirasi agent, or perhaps, what is oftener the case, the calls of urgent private duty in other villages, or even in other talooks on behalf of his master, has rendered the village Munsiff a useless officer, and a mere shadow of a headman within his village.

6. Where the resident Mirasidar himself has been the Munsiff, the results have been equally unsatisfactory. The requisite qualification has been found much wanting, and where this deficiency was not apparent, the party was found unwilling to burden himself with the duties of the office, without any prospect of suitable remuneration. I have accordingly had several resignations from Mirasi Village Munsiffs, whom I consider pretty competent to discharge their trust; and much has been the inconvenience thereby to the service. Many villages to this day are without a Munsiff, the duties appertaining to them being temporarily placed in the hands of the officers of the adjoining villages.

7. I would, therefore, advocate the nomination of "Vattum Moniagars" with village Munsiff's powers over the villages included in the Vattum: their jurisdiction being the same as that of the Kurnums in all cases, where the distance from the principal station does not exceed four miles. The pay, if such a measure be adopted, would be something to the party to live upon. The condition that the incumbent should hold Mirass should be done away with altogether. A good knowledge of revenue affairs and accounts, with fair business-like habits are all that should be looked to. Where the possession of Mirasi lands besides these qualifications could be secured in the same individual, the advantage no doubt would be great.

From the Deputy Collector of Tanjore, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 5th June 1865, No. 124.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 419, of the 22nd April 1865.

2. From what I have seen of the working of Munsiffs selected from Pattamaniagars during the last two years, I must say that the experiment initiated in 1862 has proved nearly a failure. Their inefficiency, as a body of Pattamaniagars, has been complained of by most of the Tahsildars in the district, and it would have unmistakably shewn itself in large balances had it not been for the agency of Nat Kurnums, Huzur Kurnums, and especially of Kurnums whose other duties are numerous and heavy. In several of the Kadarambam villages, the headmen can neither read nor write at all, and in many they cannot read or write well, and complaints of extra collections have been more numerous than ever, and Katchats have not been correctly and regularly issued. They have neither, as far as I can see, acquitted themselves well as village Munsiffs, and wherever grave crimes have been committed, their sympathies have in many cases been found to lie more on the side of the village criminals than of public justice, and they are only the leading men of a rural population, among whom it is a received opinion that fraud upon Government, or upon public justice, is a commendable act, provided the criminal has caste, property, or some social position to secure sympathy in the village.

3. The registers they are expected to keep, under Regulation XI of 1816, have been neither regularly nor correctly kept, and a reference to them is generally found to be no aid in detecting crime. Whilst on the one hand they are inefficient, they are positively mischievous on the other by abusing their power to serve their own ends. It is not the love of small pay that attaches to the office of village Munsiff, or the recognition of respectability their nomination implies, but it is the power to do mischief, and the opportunity, their position in the village offers, to use it to their own advantage, that renders the appointment valuable in their opinion, and during my tour through the talooks under me I have heard general dissatisfaction expressed at their administration.

4. The experiment was introduced under an impression that the Village Municipality which once existed, though now nearly extinct, has still sufficient vitality to be revived, and that it only needed the fostering care of Government to be restored to a healthy state; but I altogether miss the traces of municipal spirit in most of the Nirarambam, and in many of the Kadarambam villages, and what I see in the latter class of villages, which are peopled chiefly, if not

wholly, by Kallars, is a combination against justice, and a combination to shelter criminals of their own caste. As a striking instance of want of corporate spirit, I would point to the mismanagement that prevails in Pagoda affairs; and sensitive as the people are, almost superstitiously so, to the neglect of the interests of pagodas by the trustees, there has been no union, no community of action, to secure efficient management. It is often a subject of complaint that they cannot agree amongst themselves about repairing a small tank in their village at a small outlay, which, if repaired, would protect them from a comparatively large amount of annual loss, and I believe that it is a mistake to suppose that municipal spirit has only to be encouraged, and not to be created amidst great difficulties.

5. The system of Vattum Moniagars and Inspectors seems to me to be well adapted for securing efficiency both for Revenue and Police purposes; that it will answer well for the collection of revenue is generally admitted; but with strict supervision it will also answer, I think, well for Police purposes. In order that the system may work well, it seems to me to be essential that the functions of Vattum Moniagar and Vattum Inspector should be united in one and the same individual: as division of authority in villages amongst a number of petty officials is likely to create party feelings so as to induce the one to work against the other. They may have no doubt to serve two masters: the Collector, in the capacity of Vattum Moniagar, and the Superintendent, in the capacity of Vattum Inspector: but no difficulty will be felt in dealings with misconduct or neglect of duty on their part, as Magistrates will always cordially co-operate with Superintendents, as they now do in the case of the present Munsiffs, in improving the efficiency of the village Magistracy.

6. The chief objection that may be taken to the above arrangement is that the resident proprietors of villages will withhold their aid in the detection of crime; but it must be borne in mind that their chief men will no longer have opportunities of giving effect to their sympathy with the people, and effectually throwing obstacles in the way of detecting crimes, as Vattum Moniagars must at all events be free from those local prejudices and temptations which have brought the administration of the former, during the last two years, into bad repute. It is not, however, to be denied that the pay of Vattum Moniagars being small, there may be occasional instances of corruption; but with effective supervision it can be reduced to a minimum, as has been done in the case of Kurnums, and at any rate, to a much less extent than now obtains in villages; as chances of detection in the one case are larger than in the other. It is no doubt highly desirable that Municipal institutions ought to be revised, if possible; but their introduction should follow and not precede an appreciation of the value of Municipal action on the part of the people in general; and the progress of education, and the introduction of Municipal institutions, in the first instance in towns, where their effect will be first felt, and their gradual extension to villages, seem to me to be the only available means of reviving those institutions.

The enclosures\* to the letter under reply are herewith returned.

\* Mr. Pelly's Report to Government, No. 1,117, dated 7th December 1861, and Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 9th August 1862, No. 1697.

From the Superintendent of Police, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 21st June 1865, No. 104.  
Your letter No. 632, of the 12th instant.

Almost without exception throughout the district, the duties of the village Magistrates are carried on in a most perfunctory manner. In many instances there is unnecessary delay in making report (to nearest station house) of crime in outlying villages; in many cases the report, instead of being sent to the station-house officer, goes direct to the Sub-Magistrate. I can state from personal observation, and from reports made by Inspectors, that the provisions of Sections 8 and 9 of Regulation XI of 1816 are never carried out; the observance and carrying out of these would be of the most material assistance to the Police.

2. As to the proposition to abolish the present Village Munsiff and Pattamaniem, and to substitute in his place a Vattum Munsiff and Pattamaniem, I would observe that nothing could be worse than the system now in vogue; it ought to work well, but is, in my opinion, a failure; the plan would be a successful one if the present Village Magistrates would but take an interest in

their work; they do not work with the Police, and seldom if ever render assistance when necessary.

3. I am positive that unless the system, as it now exists, is not brought into better working order, it will always, as it is now, remain a failure. I consider that Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates can make the present Village Magistrates do their work; matters could not be worse than they now are, by substituting the Vattum Munsiff; an improvement might take place, in fact I am inclined to the belief that it would work better; the only question is, can we get men to undertake the work on a salary of from 5 to 7 Rupees per mensem? Influential and respectable men only should hold the appointment. To enable a Vattum Munsiff to aid the Police in reporting and suppressing crime, the village watchers should, to all intents and purposes, be under his control; until this is done, I do not think that the proposed plan would be more successful than the present system.

4. I regret the delay that has taken place in replying to your letter, but it could not be helped, as the letter was late in reaching me out in the District.

From the Assistant Superintendent of Police, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Camp Valamalai, 30th June 1865, No. 23.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 631, received on the 18th instant.

2. I am of opinion that the Village Munsiff, as at present constituted, is of little or no use to the Police.

3. Lately on two or three occasions I have been compelled to bring Village Munsiffs to the notice of both the Joint Magistrate, and Head Assistant Magistrate, for the extreme dilatoriness with which they report crime.

4. With reference to the change proposed in paragraph 2 of your letter, I entertain no doubt that a paid official, such as you describe, will certainly be more, as he cannot possibly be less, efficient in the discharge of his Magisterial duties, more especially in the ensuring of an early report to the Police of the occurrence of crime.

From the Collector of Tanjore, to the Member of the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 30th January 1866, No. 16.

1. With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, I have the honor to observe that 6,332 is the aggregate number of villages in this District, including Shrotriam, Mokhassa and Zemindari villages, which do not fall within the scope of the proposed scheme of Village Establishments. The actual number of old Government villages, to which alone the

scheme refers, was 4,858,\* as shewn in detail in paragraph 11 of Mr. Cadell's

Memorandum of the 27th August, and these have been grouped into 3,460, (and not 3,470 as specified in your letter)

which represents the correct total of the Statement submitted with Mr. Cadell's

letter of the 13th June 1863, No. 220.

2. In Mr. Cadell's letter of the 22nd January 1861, No. 18, as also in the Statements which accompanied it, the

number of old Government villages is shewn to be 4,859, and that of the new,

formed by grouping them together, to be 3,459. The former has since been reduced to 4,858, by the transfer of one village† to the head of Jungle Conservancy, and the latter increased to 3,460, by the

† Kodiakadu.

correction of a mistake made in the Statement sent in January 1861 in adding up the new villages of the Munnargudi Taluk, and in which one village was left out.

3. I must here add, that the number of old and new Government villages has been still further reduced to 4,810 and 3,438 respectively, in consequence of the assignment to Native religious institutions, in lieu of ready money allowances, of forty-seven old villages, which in the new arrangement were grouped together as twenty-one, as also by certain other minor changes of classification which have since taken place as detailed below:—

|                                                                                                                                                          | Old Villages. | New Villages. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total number of Government villages as they stood when the scheme of Village establishments was framed                                                   | 4,858         | 3,460         |
| <i>Deduct</i>                                                                                                                                            |               |               |
| Villages transferred to Pagodas entire                                                                                                                   | 47            | 21            |
| One village transferred to the head of Inam in consequence of the same having been settled by the Inam Commission as such                                | 1             | 1             |
| One village transferred to the head of of Suttappal, or desolate, on account of its having long been entirely waste, and paying no revenue to Government | 1*            | 22*           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | 49            | —             |
| Remainder...                                                                                                                                             | 4,809         | 3,438         |
| <i>Add</i>                                                                                                                                               |               |               |
| One village from out of Suttappal, on account of its having been taken up on Dhurkast                                                                    | 1*            | —             |
| Total                                                                                                                                                    | 4,810         | 3,438         |

4. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter under acknowledgment, I beg to state that the number of Vattums, or village circles, proposed is 1,148, and that 1,186 is the number of Kurnums proposed, the difference arising by more than one Kurnum being assigned to some Vattums which are too large to be managed by one Kurnum, as also by two Kurnums being allowed to two Moturpha towns, to be presently noticed, and which are not included amongst the Vattums. The number of Vattums to which extra Kurnums are thus allowed is thirty-one, and as each consists of a single village, they cannot be divided, so as to correspond with the number of Kurnums, without deranging the number of villages and producing some confusion. These thirty-one Vattums have been provided with sixty-seven

|                 | Number of Vattums. | Number of Kurnums and Pattamonigars. | Excess. |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| At two for each | 29                 | 58                                   | 29      |
| At four do.     | 1                  | 4                                    | 3       |
| At five do.     | 1                  | 5                                    | 4       |
|                 | 31                 | 67                                   | 36      |

Kurnums and Pattamonigars, in all as shown in the margin, and the additional number of thirty-six thus allowed, with two more given to the towns of Nagore and Negapatam for collecting and accounting for the Moturpha tax, makes up the difference of thirty-eight between the number of Vattums and the number of Kurnums.

5. The towns of Nagore and Negapatam have not been included in the number of villages because they pay no land revenue whatever, they are included in

\* Merges in another by grouping.

the number of what are termed "Moturpha towns," shown as a separate item in paragraph 11 of Mr. Cadell's letter of the 27th August 1861. As the Moturpha tax has since been abolished, the Kurnums allowed to these two towns, for the purpose of collecting and accounting for the said tax, are now unnecessary, and the aggregate number of Kurnums must, therefore, be reduced to 1,184.

6. What has been said as to the number of Kurnums applies to the number of Pattamonigars, as the arrangement proposed is the same in regard to both these classes of village servants. In like manner, therefore, with the number of Kurnums the number of Pattamonigars must be reduced also to 1,184, the latter being equally unnecessary for the two towns above-mentioned, in which there is no revenue to be collected, and no other revenue functions to be performed. As to Judicial and Magisterial duties, the presence of a Small Cause Court at Negapatam, and the municipality about to be formed for both the towns of Nagore and Negapatam, for purposes of Police and Conservancy, under the 'Towns' Improvement Act, renders the appointment of a separate village officer unnecessary.

7. In conclusion, I beg to add, that the plan and constitution of Vattums, or village circles formed in 1861, as also their classification as to the rates of salary, have been considerably affected by the assignment of villages and parts of villages to the Native religious institutions in lieu of money allowances, some of the Vattums being thereby wholly done away with, and the amount of revenue to be collected, and the quantity of revenue work generally to be performed in others by the Kurnum and Pattamonigar having in many cases been materially diminished. Besides the forty-seven entire villages already mentioned, whose revenue amounted to Rupees 21,761, parts of numerous other villages have been thus assigned over, and the total amount of revenue given up, inclusive of that of entire villages, is Rupees 1,23,027. In addition to this, lands to the extent of Rupees 11,268 yet remain to be made over to the Managers of certain Pagodas out of those already sanctioned by Government to be so made over, and arrangements are in progress for a further assignment of land revenue, to the extent of Rupees 36,284, being given to institutions under the charge of the senior widow of His Highness the late Rajah, and which are now in receipt of annual money payments from the public Treasury. On the whole, therefore, since the proposed plan of Vattums was framed, changes have taken place in the state of things by which the extent of cultivation, for which the village officers are to keep accounts, is reduced by no less than 34,770 acres, made up of sixty-five entire villages, and parts of seven hundred and sixty-nine other villages scattered over the whole District, and the amount of revenue which they are to collect, by no less than Rupees 1,70,579.

8. From the foregoing facts it will at once be seen that the plan of Village establishments, submitted with Mr. Cadell's letter of the 22nd January 1861, cannot be considered to be quite suited to the present state of things, and that its re-arrangement is unavoidable. It moreover appears to me that the number of villages can be further reduced with advantage by grouping together such small villages as those named in the following Statement, which, for the most part, are mere outlying gardens or hamlets, but which in the present arrangement have been left as they are, and so form each one village out of the 3,460 specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. While, however, I consider it advisable thus to reduce the number

of villages, I am not prepared to recommend any reduction in the number of Vattums. In my letter to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th August 1865, No. 247, (paragraph 9), I have recommended that the number of Vattums should be increased to 1,446, and I still think that this number should be kept to, notwithstanding the diminution in the amount of revenue work above detailed; for the combined effect of a reduction in the number of villages, and an augmentation in the number of Vattums, will be to bring about a nearer correspondence between the number of villages and the number of Pattamonigars, thus removing the objections so strongly urged by Mr. Robinson to more than one village being placed under one headman.

| Names of Villages.               | Extent of cultivation. | Revenue. | Houses. | Population. |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|                                  | Velies.                | Rupees.  |         |             |
| 1. Sembodai ... ..               | 2                      | 81       | 15      | 81          |
| 2. Parathai Ukkadai ... ..       | 2                      | 151      | ...     | ...         |
| 3. Kovil Teppunmandlore ... ..   | 2                      | 70       | ...     | ...         |
| 4. Palaiyur Ukkadai ... ..       | 5                      | 220      | 2       | 5           |
| 5. Palaiya Sattiamungalum ... .. | 1                      | 41       | ...     | ...         |
| 6. Teruvalanjuli Tottam ... ..   | 1                      | 30       | 1       | 5           |
| 7. Nelasetti ... ..              | 3                      | 73       | ...     | ...         |
| 8. Vellaimangalum ... ..         | 2                      | 47       | ...     | ...         |
| 9. Kaundar Kolali ... ..         | 1                      | 29       | ...     | ...         |
| 10. Manikapuram ... ..           | 2                      | 99       | ...     | ...         |
| 11. Vadakupulavanattam ... ..    | 3                      | 117      | 5       | 29          |
| 12. Kaunaam Kottagam ... ..      | 3                      | 136      | 1       | 2           |
| 13. Alvar Kovilpat ... ..        | 4                      | 135      | 1       | 3           |
| 14. Tariya Kadi ... ..           | 5                      | 156      | 9       | 36          |
| 15. Kilavijapuram Ukkadai ... .. | 5                      | 150      | ...     | ...         |

N. B.—There are several hundreds of villages of this kind out of those not interfered with.

9. Should you concur with me as to the advisability of revising the plan framed in 1861, I shall, on hearing from you to that effect, at once set about the work, and submit a revised plan as speedily as possible.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. PELLY,  
Member.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,  
Madras, 13th February 1866.

1. Before disposing of the foregoing papers, the Board resolve to communicate them to the Inspector General of Madras Police for any further remarks he may wish to offer, as the reduction in the number of villages, for which the Government have to make provision, and the proposed increase in the number of Vattums may materially affect the considerations on which Mr. Robinson rested his opposition.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
3th October 1867.*

2. It appears that the formerly stated number of villages, viz., 4,858, was thus distributed:—

|                      |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Containing no houses | ... | ... | ... | 792 |
| Not more than 5      | „   | ... | ... | 364 |
| Do. 10               | „   | ... | ... | 390 |
| Do. 25               | „   | ... | ... | 934 |
| Do. 50               | „   | ... | ... | 985 |
| Do. 100              | „   | ... | ... | 809 |
| Above 100            | „   | ... | ... | 584 |

3. This number of villages has since been reduced to 3,460, and it is proposed to increase the number of Vattums to 1,446, so that at least every village containing fifty houses and upwards will form a District Vattum with a separate establishment, and only smaller villages will be grouped together. Meanwhile, the Collector of Tanjore will submit to the Board a distribution list of the reduced number of villages, shewing the number of houses, area, &c., as he has done for the larger number.

No. 164. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th April 1866, No. 2,516.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 15th March 1866, No. 52.

As directed in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, dated the 21st ultimo, No. 1,228, I have the honor to annex a list of the reduced number of villages in this District, distributed with reference to the number of houses, and the area of cultivation:—

*Distributed with reference to the number of houses.*

|                                    |     |     |     |       |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Villages containing no houses      | ... | ... | ... | 2,226 |
| Do. which have each a single house | ... | ... | ... | 31    |
| Do. do. „ 2 houses                 | ... | ... | ... | 33    |
| Do. do. „ 3 „                      | ... | ... | ... | 29    |
| Do. do. „ 4 „                      | ... | ... | ... | 27    |
| Do. do. „ 5 „                      | ... | ... | ... | 37    |
| Do. above 5 up to 10 „             | ... | ... | ... | 204   |
| Do. „ 10 „ 25 „                    | ... | ... | ... | 616   |
| Do. „ 25 „ 50 „                    | ... | ... | ... | 776   |
| Do. „ 50 „ 100 „                   | ... | ... | ... | 808   |
| Do. above 100 „                    | ... | ... | ... | 673   |
|                                    |     |     |     | 3,460 |

*Distributed with reference to the area of cultivation.*

|                                        |     |     |     |       |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Villages containing 5 Velies and under | ... | ... | ... | 182   |
| Do. above 10 up to 15                  | ... | ... | ... | 353   |
| Do. „ 15 „ 20                          | ... | ... | ... | 355   |
| Do. „ 20 „ 50                          | ... | ... | ... | 1,335 |
| Do. „ 50 „                             | ... | ... | ... | 902   |
|                                        |     |     |     | 3,460 |

1. The Board do not understand how Mr. Banbury arrives at his results.
2. Mr. Morris stated in paragraph 3. of his letter to the Board, dated 17th August 1865, that of the 4,858 Government villages in the District, 792 contained

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no houses at all; and in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings of 21st February last, the Board noted the distribution of the entire number, with reference to the number of houses in each village.

3. In his letter to Mr. Pelly, dated 30th January 1866, Mr. Morris stated at paragraph 2, that the number of Government villages had been reduced by grouping to 3,460, and at paragraph 3 he mentioned that the assignment of certain villages as Inam in lieu of cost payment to Pagodas, &c., had still further reduced the number to 3,438.

4. The Board requested the Collector to furnish a distribution list of the reduced number according to the number of houses in each, and this Mr. Banbury now submits as follows:—

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
|                      | No.   |
| Containing no houses | 2,226 |
| Not more than 5      | 157   |
| Do. 10               | 204   |
| Do. 25               | 616   |
| Do. 50               | 776   |
| Do. 100              | 808   |
| Above 100            | 673   |
| Total                | 5,460 |

5. There is evidently some gross error in the statement, and the Acting Collector will be good enough to explain it without delay.

No. 165. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th June 1866, No. 4,188:—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Combaconum, 18th April 1866, No. 84.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 12th instant, No. 2,516, this day received, I have the honor to state that two clerical errors made in fair copying my letter therein referred to, have produced all the confusion with regard to the classification of the reduced number of villages.

2. In the table shewing the distribution of villages with reference to the number of houses, 2,226 instead of 226 have been put in as the number of villages containing no houses, and in that shewing the distribution with reference to the area of cultivation, one entire line shewing the number of villages containing above 5 and up to 10 Velies has been omitted, this number being 333.

3. These two clerical errors corrected, the total of the two tables will be found to tally with the aggregate reduced number of villages, viz., 3,460. I annex, below, tables thus corrected:—

*Distributed with reference to the number of houses.*

|                                    |     |     |     |       |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Villages containing no houses      | ... | ... | ... | 226   |
| Do. which have each a single house | ... | ... | ... | 31    |
| Do. do. 2 houses                   | ... | ... | ... | 33    |
| Do. do. 3 „                        | ... | ... | ... | 29    |
| Do. do. 4 „                        | ... | ... | ... | 27    |
| Do. do. 5 „                        | ... | ... | ... | 37    |
| Do. do. above 5 up to 10 houses    | ... | ... | ... | 204   |
| Do. do. „ 10 „ 25 „                | ... | ... | ... | 616   |
| Do. do. „ 25 „ 50 „                | ... | ... | ... | 776   |
| Do. do. „ 50 „ 100 „               | ... | ... | ... | 808   |
| Do. do. „ 100 „                    | ... | ... | ... | 673   |
| Total                              | ... | ... | ... | 3,460 |

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*Distributed with reference to area of cultivation.*

|                                           |       |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Villages containing 5 Velies and under... | 182   |
| Do. above 5 up to 10 „                    | 333   |
| Do. „ 10 „ 15 „                           | 353   |
| Do. „ 15 „ 20 „                           | 355   |
| Do. „ 20 „ 50 „                           | 1,335 |
| Do. „ 50 „                                | 902   |
| Total                                     | 3,460 |

4. The foregoing tables, it will be seen, refer to the number 3,460, to which the villages have been reduced by grouping, this being the number with reference to which the Board, in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings of the 21st February 1866, No. 1,228, called for the distribution list. The assignment of villages in lieu of ready-money payments to Pagodas, &c., by which the total number of villages is still further reduced to 3,438, has not yet been completed, there being still some more villages to be thus handed over. As it, however, appears, from the Board's present order, that it is their wish that the distribution list should be furnished with reference to the number of villages last mentioned, I beg to append a return shewing the 3,438 villages distributed with reference to the number of houses. Information for furnishing a similar distribution list with regard to the area of cultivation is not at hand just now; but should the same be required, it will be submitted hereafter:—

|                                    | Number of<br>villages. |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Villages containing no houses      | 233                    |
| Do. which have each a single house | 32                     |
| Do. do. 2 houses                   | 32                     |
| Do. do. 3 „                        | 29                     |
| Do. do. 4 „                        | 27                     |
| Do. do. 5 „                        | 36                     |
| Do. do. above 5 up to 10 houses    | 202                    |
| Do. do. „ 10 „ 25 „                | 610                    |
| Do. do. „ 25 „ 50 „                | 771                    |
| Do. do. „ 50 „ 100 „               | 807                    |
| Do. do. „ 100 „                    | 669                    |
| Total                              | 3,438                  |

5. I much regret that these two very careless mistakes, made in the fair copy of my former letter as shewn above, should have caused a further reference, and I trust such will not recur again.

1. The Board await the reply of the Inspector General of Police to their Proceedings, dated 21st February 1866, No. 1,228, which they hope to receive at an early date.

2. The Collector will submit the further list promised in paragraph 4, as soon as he is able to do so.

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No. 166. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th September 1866, No. 6,996.

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kotagherry, 16th June 1866, No. 934.

1. With reference to Proceedings of Board of Revenue, No. 1,228, dated 21st February 1866, I have the honor to state that I do not think anything more can be said on the subject.

2. The Board and the Government have both sides of the matter before them, and a decision is all that is wanted. If the Collector's scheme be adopted, nothing will be wanting on my part, and that of my Officers, to make it succeed so far as the Village Police is concerned.

1. Communicated to the Collector of Tanjore, who will be good enough to send up his finally revised distribution list of villages, shewing number of houses, area of cultivation, and proposed number of Vattums.

2. The Board trust to receive this at an early date, to allow of their disposing of the matter finally.

No. 167. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th July 1867, No. 4,250.

Read again the following papers.

Letter from Collector of Tanjore, dated 10th March 1865, No. 72, recorded in Board's Proceedings, 13th April 1865, No. 1,943.

22nd April 1865, No. 117, „ „ 5th May 1865, No. 2,267  
 „ Inspector General of Police, 1st July 1865, „ 1,272, „ „ 20th idem, „ 4,192.  
 „ Collector of Tanjore, 17th Aug. „ „ 247, „ „ 21st Feb. 1866, „ 1,228  
 „ „ „ 15th March 1866, „ 52, „ „ 12th April „ „ 2,516.  
 „ „ „ 18th April „ „ 84, „ „ 19th June „ „ 4,188.  
 „ Inspector General of Police, 16th June „ „ 934, „ „ 23rd Sept. „ „ 6,996.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 7th January 1867, No. 6.

1. As directed in the Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd September 1866, No. 6,996, I have the honor to submit, here-

\* All marked A.

with, nine Statements,\* (one for each Talook,) shewing the revised distribution list of Government villages in this district, as well as the proposed number of Vattums into which they are to be divided, with the area, population, number of houses, revenue, and other necessary statistics for each village.

2. The total number of Government villages, which, as shewn in my letter of the 17th August 1865, No. 247, was 4,858, has since been reduced to 4,776; thus—

|                                                                                                      |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Villages which do not exist, but which have been hitherto taken into calculation by a clerical error | 19       |
| Transferred to Pagodas, &c., entire, in lieu of ready-money allowances                               | 62       |
| Do. to the head of Inam in the Inam Settlement                                                       | 1        |
| Do. to the head of "Suttappal" or entirely waste                                                     | 1        |
|                                                                                                      | <hr/> 83 |

Deduct taken from out of "Suttappal" on account of having been taken up on Darkhast

Net Decrease ... 82

3. The actual number of villages above-mentioned has been reduced to 2,352 by clubbing all such as are villages only in name. To this number, however, must be added fifty-nine extra villages, obtained by dividing, on account of their inconvenient size, twenty-eight large villages into eighty-seven, as well as four hitherto not included in the number of villages but classed as towns; together with one "Ardhamaniam," or half-assessed village, for which, though it has hitherto been included under the head of Inam, it has now been found necessary to provide an establishment, on account of its extending over a length of ten miles, and being liable to the payment of a large amount of quit-rent, besides water-tax, by a large number of landholders. The total number of Government villages, therefore, as now revised and distributed, amounts to 2,416.

4. The total number of villages which have merged in those adjoining by the system of clubbing is 2,424, and of these, 686 are without any houses or habitations, and have, in point of fact, hardly any existence, the one or two acres which constitute the aggregate area of cultivation in each being cultivated by laborers living in adjoining villages; 75 contain each a single house; 267 from two to five houses; 361 above five to ten; 609 above ten to twenty-five, and only 426 above twenty-five.

Again considered with reference to revenue, these 2,424 villages consisted of—

|     |                         |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 69  | paying under Rupees 10, |
| 224 | " " " 50,               |
| 263 | " " " 100,              |
| 632 | " " " 250,              |
| 783 | " " " 500, and only     |
| 453 | " above " 500.          |

5. For a more particular description of all those so-called villages within the minimum limit above specified, I beg to refer the Board to paragraph 9 of Mr. Cadell's letter to the Honorable C. Pelly, dated the 22nd January 1861, No. 18, and to add that the list therein given is not complete, there being many more villages of that kind. With regard to those containing the maximum number of houses, and paying the maximum amount of revenue, I must state that they are in most cases parts of villages, and only appear as whole villages in our accounts, not being so in reality in any way. For instance, in several instances, portions of a

village occupied severally by a Pagoda, by Brahmins, or by Vellalars, are each numbered and dealt with as a distinct village, with the word "Kovil" prefixed or affixed to the first, "Agaram" to the second, and "Pundaravadai" to the third. In others, again, a detached portion with a few Pallars' huts in it, is numbered as a separate village, with the word "Ukkadai" (hamlet) affixed to the name of the village of which it forms an outskirt. In most of these cases, I have no hesitation in stating that these different names are generally known only to our Revenue Officers, the inhabitants only giving one name to what are entered in our accounts as five or six distinct places.

6. In clubbing together these villages, great care has been paid with regard to their relative position and distance from those to which they have been added. It is only in comparatively few cases, that the distance between the villages clubbed together exceeds one mile, while in most it is less than half, and in many within a quarter of a mile. In fact, it frequently happens that those thus clubbed together, are integral parts of the main village in which they have now merged. Where the distance exceeds one mile, the villages connected together are mostly outlying hamlets or small patches called gardens, received in exchange from the late Rajah.

7. As regards the sub-division of certain villages which has formed a set-off against the process of clubbing, I enclose a Statement marked B, shewing the villages which have been so divided, with the area and other statistics of each division which has now been formed into a separate village. A glance at this statement will be sufficient to shew the necessity which exists for these villages being sub-divided, and it is indeed curious to observe that whilst such small patches of land as those above described, were numbered as so many distinct villages, several most populous places which in reality formed distinct villages, and have been always so known among the community, should have been entered in the accounts as one village. Some of these places comprise, under the present arrangement, several Vattums (one as many as eight), with as many Kurnums and Pattamonigars; and in sub-dividing them, existing local sub-divisions and sections have been followed as far as possible.

8. In the case of some of these large villages, however, in consequence of the arrangement of holdings and other local circumstances, it has been found most inconvenient to sub-divide them, and as one Kurnum and Pattamaniam could not possibly do the work required, it has been proposed in these cases to provide more than one set of establishments, the work being divided among them in defined shares, as indeed exists at the present time. Another Statement marked C. is, therefore, enclosed shewing the number of villages thus provided with more than one set of establishment.

9. Having thus explained how the villages have been dealt with, I will now proceed to explain how the Vattums have been formed.

10. The actual number of villages as now reduced, viz., 2,416, has been divided into 1,423 Vattums; but of these Vattums, eighteen have, for the reasons stated in paragraph 8, been provided with more than one set of establishment. The extra establishments thus allowed are altogether twenty-three, and being added to the

number of Vattums raise the total number of the sets of Village establishments to 1,446. Out of the total number of Vattums, 656 comprise one village, 560 two villages, 188 three villages, and 19 four villages.

11. In forming Vattums of more than one village, great care has been taken to unite into one Vattum only neighbouring villages, and attention has also been paid to such circumstances, as one and the same set of Mirasidars holding shares in two or three villages, or more than one village being the Yekabhogam or sole property of one Mirasidar. Again, villages intersected by rivers, which under the existing arrangement are included in one Vattum, have been separated, except where it happens that the same individuals hold lands in both, or that lands situated on one side of the river are cultivated by tenants living on the other side. The distance between one village and another included in one Vattum, is, as before stated, generally within a mile, and it is only in a few exceptional cases in the up-land parts, which are thinly inhabited and poorly cultivated, that villages more than that distance apart have been united together in forming one and the same Vattum.

12. The 1,446 sets of establishment are divided into four classes, thus—

|                  | RS. |
|------------------|-----|
| 1st Class ... .. | 19  |
| 2nd „ ... ..     | 632 |
| 3rd „ ... ..     | 782 |
| 4th „ ... ..     | 13  |

Each set, as the Board are aware, consists of one Pattamonigar, one Kurum, and one Vettiyan. The monthly salary assigned to each class is as follows:—

|                  | Pattamonigar. | Kurum. |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
|                  | RS.           | RS.    |
| 1st Class ... .. | 7             | 9      |
| 2nd „ ... ..     | 6             | 8      |
| 3rd „ ... ..     | 5             | 7      |
| 4th „ ... ..     | 4             | 6      |

The salary of the Vettiyan has been fixed at one uniform rate of Rupees 3 per mensem. The scale of salary is the same as that already approved; such is also the case with regard to the number of the sets of establishments included under each class, with the exception of the second, under which have been placed the 260 Vattums now added by me to the number originally proposed, viz., 1,186.

13. As regards the classification of Vattums, I have thought it best to take into consideration all the different circumstances connected with their situation and condition, and not to be guided merely by the amount of revenue collected; for even if two different scales for wet and dry villages is adopted, as was done in the scheme originally framed, no fair criterion can be formed of the relative importance of the several Vattums and the amount of work devolving on the Village officers. For instance, in the delta alone, in a village of moderate size, where the land is well irrigated, richly cultivated, and held by a half-dozen Mirasidars, and where the revenue amounts to Rupees 5,000, the work of the Village officers is very light compared with that which must be done in a larger village held by a hundred ryots, but who pay a revenue of only Rupees 2,500, on account of its being poorly cultivated and dependent on precarious means of irrigation, thus rendering annual remissions after detailed examination of fields necessary. This point is clearly

exemplified in the subjoined table, in which two wet and two dry villages are compared together:—

|                                       | Total area. | Number of houses. | Population. | Number of holdings. | Extent of cultivation as per Jam. in 1275. | Revenue including quit-rent and water-tax on sundry Inams. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wet. { Malattuturu Pirandal, Comba-   | Velies      |                   |             |                     | Velies.                                    | RS.                                                        |
| conum Talook ... ..                   | 76          | 142               | 712         | 5                   | 65                                         | 2,918                                                      |
| { Radhamangalam, Negapatam Talook     | 237         | 238               | 956         | 73                  | 51                                         | 1,647                                                      |
| Dry. { Madigai, Tanjore Talook ... .. | 172         | 65                | 495         | 99                  | 94                                         | 939                                                        |
| { Adanur, Tritrapundi Talook ...      | 309         | 166               | 765         | 172                 | 66                                         | 490                                                        |

These are not by any means extreme cases.

14. The total annual cost of the Village establishment as now proposed, comes to Rupees 2,76,048, thus—

|                                                         |  | Per mensem. | Per annum. |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------|
|                                                         |  | RS.         | RS.        |
| For 91 first class Establishments, at Rs. 7+9+3=19 each |  | 361         | 4,332      |
| For 632 second class do. at Rs. 6+8+3=17 do.            |  | 10,744      | 1,28,928   |
| For 782 third class do. at Rs. 5+7+3=15 do.             |  | 11,730      | 1,40,760   |
| For 13 fourth class do. at Rs. 4+6+3=13 do.             |  | 169         | 2,028      |
| Total ...                                               |  | 23,004      | 2,76,048   |

• Vide the Hon'ble Mr. Pelly's letter to Govt., 7th Dec. 1861, No. J, 117, p. 30.

and this sum being deducted from the amount of assets available, viz., Rupees 2,76,678, \*leaves a surplus of Rs. 720.

15. In forming the new Vattums, I have found it necessary in some cases to alter the limits of the present sub-divisions of Talooks termed "Mahanams." These as they now exist, are, in several instances, very irregularly formed; some of the villages belonging to one being thrust most awkwardly into another, and others again being so scattered here and there, as to be surrounded on all sides by villages belonging to a different Mahanam. After careful inquiry I have not been able to discover that the original divisions into Mahanams had reference either to irrigation or any other arrangement of local convenience. Apparently, the Mahanams were formed only for the purpose of sub-dividing the territorial jurisdiction of the Officers of Government. It is, moreover, to be observed that the Mahanams are also not now even what they were originally; the exchange of a number of villages with the late Rajah which took place in 1827, and the recent assignment of a further number to Native religious institutions in lieu of ready-money allowances, having in several instances, materially altered the size of the Mahanams, and rendered them anything but equal.

16. The only change which the alteration of Mahanams will cause in the existing arrangements of other Departments of administration, will be in the limits of the local jurisdiction of the District Munsiffs and Sub-Registrars of Assurances; but these can be easily and with advantage re-adjusted to the Mahanams as now altered, since the local jurisdiction of these officers will thereby be more clearly defined. I must add that the present arrangement of Munsiffs' and Sub-Registrars' divisions was not based on any independent plan, but that their limits were fixed

with reference to existing Mahanams merely because they were the only known sub-divisions of Talooks.

17. I have taken this opportunity also of making, subject to the approval of the Board and the eventual sanction of Government, some slight alterations in the limits of Talooks which have been found necessary for the convenience of Revenue and Magisterial administration. These alterations, while they are calculated to promote the convenience of the public service, do not produce any perceptible change in the size or revenue of the Talooks, and, therefore, do not affect their present classification. It is only in cases of villages belonging to two Talooks and lying near their boundaries, which are so intermixed as to render the boundary line anything but clear or definite, and also where the transfer of two or three villages from one Talook to another, will render a river the boundary line between the Talooks, that the necessary alterations have been made.

18. As the Board are aware, the present talooks were formed in 1860 by merely dividing the Mahanams of the old talooks which were done away with, amongst the talooks which were retained, without reference to any other circumstances; and considering, therefore, the description above given of the existing Mahanams, it is not to be expected that the boundaries of the talooks could be very clearly defined.

19. I enclose a list shewing the names of villages thus transferred from one talook to another, in order that, in the event of the alterations now proposed being sanctioned, it may be published in the "Fort Saint George Gazette." From this list, it will be seen, that the villages transferred are sixty-five as at present numbered; and that of these, fifty-five including one hamlet are Government villages; seven are Inam, and three are Shrotriem. Under my classification these sixty-five villages are reduced to twenty-three in number.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 12.—Statements.

1. In their Order, dated 9th August 1862, No. 1,697, the Government summarized the Honorable Mr. Pelly's proposals for the revision of the Village Establishments in Tanjore and sanctioned their introduction, but on the representations of the Inspector General of Police, who stated that the then Collector Mr. Morris concurred in his views, they in their Proceedings, dated 12th September 1862, No. 1,960, consented to postpone action on their order.

2. In submitting his request to Government, the Inspector General stated that he would shortly address them at length on the subject, but after the lapse of two and a half years the question was again brought forward by the late Collector of the district, Mr. Cadell, in the first letter recorded above. Mr. Cadell had prepared the scheme which had been approved by the Honorable Mr. Pelly and the Government, and he was anxious to know whether its introduction need any longer be delayed, as, in his opinion, the objections which had been raised to it by the Inspector General, being based upon his desire to maintain the Village Municipalities in their integrity, did not apply to the Tanjore District, when in fact such institutions did not exist.

3. As Mr. Morris had in the meantime been appointed Collector of Tanjore, the Board deemed it advisable to refer the matter for his consideration, and took

the opportunity of requesting the Inspector General to inform them of his present opinion on the subject.

4. In his letter, dated 22nd April 1865, Mr. Morris replied to the Board that, when acting as Collector of Tanjore in 1862, the Inspector General had visited the district, and had expressed a wish to him that the system of having a Monigar and Munsiff for each village should be given a fair trial before adopting the new scheme, which he considered calculated to give a fatal blow to the retention of Village Municipalities in the district, and that on these grounds he had then concurred in proposing that the introduction of the new system should be deferred.

5. In a subsequent letter, dated 17th August 1866, Mr. Morris stated that all the Officers of the district were unanimous in considering that the plan advocated by Mr. Robinson had proved a failure after a trial of some three years, as it had been found that the persons available as headmen were quite unfit for the post, being generally mere agents of the Mirasidars who do not themselves reside in the outlying villages in which their lands are situated.

6. In his letter, dated 1st July 1865, No. 1,272, the Inspector General of Police brings forward numerous arguments against a measure which he considers will put an end to village institutions in Tanjore, but his opinion of the proposed arrangements was probably, like Mr. Morris's original opinion, formed in ignorance of the fact that such a very large number of the so-called villages of Tanjore are in fact merely collections of a few houses, where the cultivators of the Mirasidars' lands reside, and which it would be quite impossible to convert into separate Village Municipalities.

7. As it appeared from Mr. Morris's letters that the circles of villages or Vattums, which had been proposed by Mr. Cadell, were not exactly suited to the present circumstances of the district, the Board requested Mr. Morris to submit a revised scheme on the same plan as had been approved by Government, and this Mr. Morris has done in the last letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings.

8. Under Mr. Morris's present plan the 4,776 Government villages to which the scheme will apply are reduced to 2,416, though twenty-nine villages of inconvenient size are sub-divided into eighty-seven. In the newly created villages there will thus be merged 2,424 of the old villages which will become hamlets or dependent villages, but of these 2,424 no less than 686 are without houses or habitations of any kind, and 1,437 contain less than twenty-six houses.

9. These 2,416 villages will again be so amalgamated as to form 1,423 Vattums, viz., 656 Vattums of one village each, 560 of two villages each, 183 of three villages each, and 19 of four villages each. Mr. Morris gives the average extent of each Vattum at 1.8 square miles, and he states that the new scheme has been prepared with great care upon the same principles as Mr. Cadell's original scheme, so it is presumed that the Vattums have in no case been enlarged. Indeed, as the number of Vattums have been increased, while the number of villages dealt with has been diminished, it may be fairly inferred that the Vattums of Tanjore will not be of greater extent than the villages of many other districts. Under Mr. Cadell's scheme the average area of each Vattum was 2.2 square miles, and the largest was only 10 square miles in extent, whereas the average size of a village in Madura is 4 square miles, and the average size of each village in Salem, which

contains a longer number of registered villages than any other district (Tanjore excepted), is 1.9 square miles.

10. Mr. Morris has submitted with his letter nine statements giving the lists of the Vattums in each talook with the number of villages comprised in each, and the area, population, and revenue. From these statements the subjoined abstract has been prepared, exhibiting this information for each talook:—

| Talooks.              | Particulars of Vattams in each Talook. |                         |             |           | Average per Vattam.   |              |          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|
|                       | Num-ber.                               | Extent in square miles. | Population. | Revenue.  | Area in square miles. | Popu-lation. | Revenue. |
|                       |                                        |                         |             | RS.       |                       |              | RS.      |
| 1. Tanjore ... ..     | 232                                    | 419                     | 2,63,575    | 5,68,351  | 2.2                   | 1,305        | 2,814    |
| 2. Combaconum ... ..  | 225                                    | 288                     | 2,36,280    | 7,51,741  | 1.2                   | 1,050        | 3,341    |
| 3. Mayavaram ... ..   | 177                                    | 263                     | 1,84,982    | 5,61,912  | 1.5                   | 1,045        | 3,175    |
| 4. Sheali ... ..      | 83                                     | 154                     | 81,575      | 2,66,531  | 1.8                   | 1,019        | 3,211    |
| 5. Tritrapundi ... .. | 136                                    | 505                     | 1,13,918    | 3,37,899  | 3.7                   | 833          | 2,485    |
| 6. Munnargudi ... ..  | 135                                    | 256                     | 1,19,849    | 3,97,634  | 1.9                   | 888          | 2,945    |
| 7. Pattucottah ... .. | 100                                    | 167                     | 41,319      | 99,146    | 1.6                   | 413          | 991      |
| 8. Neganatam ... ..   | 135                                    | 208                     | 1,46,291    | 3,99,475  | 1.5                   | 1,083        | 2,959    |
| 9. Nuntalam ... ..    | 230                                    | 287                     | 1,76,851    | 7,03,029  | 1.2                   | 763          | 3,083    |
| Total...              | 1,423                                  | 2,582                   | 13,67,640   | 40,91,718 | ...                   | ...          | ...      |

11. As Mr. Morris found it impossible to divide some of the largest villages into conveniently sized Vattums, in consequence of the arrangement of holdings and other local circumstances, he proposes in these cases eighteen in number, (detailed in Statement C. attached to Mr. Morris's letter,) to employ more than one establishment; as it would be impossible for the single Vattum Establishment to perform their duties properly. The number of Vattum Establishments is thus increased from 1,423 to 1,446, as it is considered necessary to employ five establishments in Merattur in the Tanjore talook, and three each in the villages of Valaungiman and Haridwaramangalam in the Combaconum talook.

12. These 1,446 establishments are divided into four classes as already approved, and Mr. Morris has carefully classified the Vattums to which they are to be attached with reference to their several local circumstances, and not only in regard to the amount of revenue paid by each. The total cost of the Vattum Establishments will be Rupees 2,76,048 per annum against Rupees 2,23,008, as sanctioned in the Government Order, under date 9th August 1862, No. 1,697. This amount can, however, be met from the assets detailed in the Order of Government referred to, credit being taken for the Taliari emoluments.

13. The Board concur with Mr. Morris in considering that the system now proposed by him is not calculated, as supposed by the Inspector General of Police, to do away with Village Municipalities properly so called, but will on the contrary consolidate, and, if possible, form into real Municipalities those small detached villages where no municipal action has ever hitherto taken place, and they accordingly resolve to recommend it to Government for adoption.

14. The Board do not see the force of the legal objections raised by the Inspector General of Police in his letter, dated 20th July 1865. Regulation IV

of 1816 nowhere defines a "Village," and there can be no question that it is as competent to the Government to unite villages together, especially when the very object of the Regulation, their proper administration renders such a measure necessary, as to sub-divide them when they become too large for efficient management by a single set of Village Officers. This principle is acted on in the Village Cess Act. The "Vattums" or groups as now arranged will henceforth be the villages of the district, the absorbed places taking the position of hamlets; and they will be so designated in the district accounts.

15. Similarly as regards the legal position of the new Munsiff and village Head, Regulation IV. of 1816 merely enacts that where there may be more than one headman, "the person who collects the revenue, and under whose authority the village servants act, shall be considered as the head of the village." The new Munsiffs, who will be selected from the Mirasidars, will in future collect the revenue, they will control the village servants, and they will reside in their village. The present Munsiffs it is known do not fulfil these obligations.

16. The Board would also point out that in his letter Mr. Robinson ignores some very important local considerations. He writes of the office of Pottail, as if it had existed in its present form from a period at least anterior to 1816. In fact, however, it was only created in 1836, and has been a salaried one ever since.

17. Mr. Robinson describes the district as comprising 6,332 villages; the number, however, of Government villages, to which alone the present scheme applies, is only 4,776; even of these 686 do not contain a single habitation of any kind, 75 contain each a single house, and 623 have from two to ten houses each. In several instances different streets of the same village form different villages in the Government accounts, though not in the estimation of the residents. It is these petty hamlets which are now to be absorbed, and it is, the Board submit, unreasonable to characterize a scheme which sets aside such absurdity as a measure which subverts the Municipal institutions of the district; such institutions in fact having no existence.

18. It is admitted by all the Officers of the district, Police and Revenue and Magisterial, that the present system, which Mr. Robinson would continue, has been a complete failure; while that now proposed, (which in fact amounts to no more than retaining a smaller number of better paid officials,) is the result of the most careful consideration of two Collectors, (Messrs. Cadell and Morris,) who have had the longest experience of the district. The scheme is also strongly supported by the two able and experienced Deputy Collectors of the district, whose letters are printed in the Board's Proceedings of the 21st February 1866.

19. It may be that the measure now recommended may admit hereafter of improvement, but experience alone can shew this. Meanwhile nothing can be worse than the present state of the Village Establishments, and as no improvement has manifested itself during the five years of inaction conceded in deference to Mr. Robinson's objections, and no signs significant of the desire or will of the people to revert to their primitive forms of self-government are apparent, it is time that the effect of this measure, recommended by Officers possessing local knowledge and experience in a very high degree, should receive a fair trial. Village service is no sinecure, and its obligations are too responsible to expect that it will be efficiently

contains a longer number of registered villages than any other district (Tanjore excepted), is 1.9 square miles.

10. Mr. Morris has submitted with his letter nine statements giving the lists of the Vattums in each talook with the number of villages comprised in each, and the area, population, and revenue. From these statements the subjoined abstract has been prepared, exhibiting this information for each talook:—

| Talooks.              | Particulars of Vattams in each Talook. |                         |             |           | Average per Vattam.   |              |          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|
|                       | Num-ber.                               | Extent in square miles. | Population. | Revenue.  | Area in square miles. | Popu-lation. | Revenue. |
|                       |                                        |                         |             | RS.       |                       |              | RS.      |
| 1. Tanjore ... ..     | 232                                    | 419                     | 2,63,575    | 5,68,351  | 2.2                   | 1,305        | 2,814    |
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performed gratuitously. It is, however, impossible for the State to maintain an establishment in every so-called village of Tanjore on anything like adequate remuneration, and there is, therefore, no alternative between adopting such measures as are now proposed, and leaving matters in their present state of hopeless inefficiency. It must be borne in mind that the reductions in the number of talooks and the District Establishments were founded on the presumption that the Village Establishments would be revised and placed in an efficient condition. The continuance of the present state of affairs, therefore, re-acts unfavourably on the general administration of the district.

20. In making his arrangements for grouping the several villages into Vattums, Mr. Morris explains that he has found it necessary in some cases to alter the limits of the Mahanams or sub-divisions of talooks. It seems that these sub-divisions were fixed many years ago, not on any fixed plan, but merely for the convenience of the Officers of Government. The distribution into new talooks, which was made a few years back, and other territorial alterations, have also made these sub-divisions inconvenient, and the Board recommend that the changes found necessary by Mr. Morris be adopted, the requisite alterations in the jurisdictions of the District Munsiff and Sub-Registrars of Assurances being made.

21. Mr. Morris also proposes some slight alterations in the present arrangement of the district as to talooks, suggesting that transfers be made in the cases of sixty-nine villages, of which he forwards a list. This arrangement, as being a part of his general scheme, will also be recommended for the favorable consideration of Government.

No. 168. ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1867, No. 2,359.

**Land Revenue**

1. The Government concur in opinion with the Board that there is no sufficient reason why their Order of 9th August 1862, No. 1,697, for the revision of the Village Establishments in Tanjore, should be any longer held in abeyance.

2. The annual charge now proposed to be incurred is Rupees 2,76,048, to meet which the following assets are available:—

|                                         | RS.             |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Potails' salaries ... ..                | 69,191          |
| Kurnums' do. ... ..                     | 1,03,429        |
| Do. fees ... ..                         | 15,622          |
| Vetties' do. (a moiety) ... ..          | 12,681          |
| Doctors' and Patakarens' do. do. ... .. | 6,500           |
| Niranikums' do. do. ... ..              | 5,895           |
| Taliaries' do. do. ... ..               | 22,829          |
| Do. land assessment ... ..              | 776             |
| Nat Kurnums' cess ... ..                | 34,845          |
| <b>Total...</b>                         | <b>2,76,768</b> |

3. In the original scheme it was proposed to group the existing so-called villages—many of which do not contain a single residence, while in others the opposite sides of streets constitute distinct villages—into 1,186 Vattums or Townships, each having a set of fairly paid Village Officers of the class of Maniakaren or Potel Kurnum and Vetti.

4. In the interval that has elapsed since this scheme was sanctioned, the above grouping has been very carefully revised with reference to certain objections raised to the first plan, and the present proposals provide for 1,446 sets of Establishments, of which

|     |                |
|-----|----------------|
| 91  | are 1st Class. |
| 632 | „ 2nd do.      |
| 782 | „ 3rd do.      |
| 13  | „ 4th do.      |

each class being composed as follows:—

|               | Maniakaren,<br>No. 1.<br>RS. | Kurnum,<br>No. 1.<br>RS. | Vettiyan,<br>No. 1.<br>RS. monthly. |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Class ... | 7                            | 9                        | 3                                   |
| 2nd do. ...   | 6                            | 8                        |                                     |
| 3rd do. ...   | 5                            | 7                        |                                     |
| 4th do. ...   | 4                            | 6                        |                                     |

5. The number of grouped village circles to be formed under the present scheme is 1,423, but owing to the size of some of the existing villages it has been found necessary in eighteen cases to sub-divide them into two or more Townships, raising the ultimate number to 1,446, as above stated.

6. Of the total number of Townships,

|       |                                          |
|-------|------------------------------------------|
| 656   | comprise only 1 village.                 |
| 560   | do. 2 villages.                          |
| 188   | do. 3 do.                                |
| 19    | do. 4 do.                                |
| 1,423 |                                          |
| 23    | extra Townships created by sub-division. |
| 1,446 |                                          |

7. The distance between the grouped villages in few cases exceeds a mile, and in those the villages are mostly outlying hamlets or isolated “gardens.”

8. In the majority of cases the distance is less than half a mile, and in many less than a quarter.

9. Frequently the so-called separate villages are integral parts of the main village in which they are now merged, the village having been originally sub-divided in name with reference to the caste of the indwellers.

10. The 4,776 nominal villages entered in the accounts were reduced to 2,416 by absorbing 2,424, of which

686 consisted only of a few acres of cultivation, but were destitute of habitations.

|     |                        |
|-----|------------------------|
| 75  | included each 1 house  |
| 267 | do. from 2 to 5 houses |
| 361 | do. 5 to 10 do.        |
| 609 | do. 10 to 25 do.       |
| 426 | do. above 25 do.       |

11. The resulting 2,416 villages have been grouped into 1,423 Townships as above stated, and 23 additional Townships have been formed by the sub-division of villages of excessive sizes.

12. The Government see nothing to object to the proposed grouping, and concur in the Board's remarks as to the difficulties raised by the Inspector General of Police. The "Vattums" or Townships, or grouped villages, will become the "villages" of the district for all public purposes. The arguments adduced against the legality of the measure would, if admitted, equally bar the absorption of a single hamlet into its mother village, if it had ever hitherto been distinguished by the name of village, and in fact might preclude the extinction of so called villages devoid of inhabitants. The general objections, grounded on the inexpediency of disturbing a rude but tolerably efficient Village service, are clearly not applicable to Tanjore, where it is admitted by all that the existing system is as bad as it could possibly be. The Revenue and Police Officers of the district concur in this unfavorable opinion.

13. As regards the available assets to meet the proposed charge, it is observed that in the Government Order of 9th August 1862, sanctioning the scheme which has since been held in abeyance, it was directed that the resumed portion of the Taliari emoluments should be credited to the new Police Department; but this asset has been included in the amount available, and required to meet the now proposed charge for the revised Village Establishments; and, on re-consideration, the Government see reason to modify their former instructions for its appropriation to other purposes.

14. The Inspector General of Police has admitted "that any attempt to utilise the Taliari body would be fruitless and unpopular," and the present scheme contemplates the relinquishment of their services to the Mirasidars who have in fact hitherto appropriated them. Mr. Robinson himself says, "We do not want the Taliari as a State servant," but it is only so long as he is a State servant, at least in part, that Government are in any way bound to contribute to the fund for maintaining this Village Police Force.

15. The Swatantrams or fees, of which a moiety is now to be resumed, are in fact deductions from the produce of the land previous to its distribution between Government and the Ryots, and as the Police Department waive any claim on the Taliaris' services, and make no special provision to supply their place by a Village Police, it does not appear that that department is entitled to credit for their resumed emoluments, while the employment of these emoluments for remunerating Village service is quite consonant with the intention of the original assignment, viz., that Government should bear a certain proportion of the cost of Village service.

16. The appropriation of this asset in the manner now proposed will still be a relinquishment of a portion of the Government dues for this general purpose.

17. On the whole, the Government see every reason to anticipate that the proposed change of system will effect a very decided improvement over the existing state of affairs in Tanjore, and they accordingly resolve to sanction the carrying out of the plan in the revised form now submitted.

18. The transfer from one talook to another of the villages included in the list marked D., submitted by the Collector, will be notified in the "Fort Saint George" and "District Gazettes."

19. It does not appear that any order of Government is necessary on the altered limits of the sub-division of talooks or "Mahanams;" but the Collector can report further on this point if he sees reason to do so.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,  
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.  
„ the Judicial Department.  
„ the Inspector General of Police.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Re*  
8th October 1867.

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*[Signature]*  
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.  
.. the Judicial Department.  
.. the Inspector General of Police.

high 15 Oct

Judicial Dept

20

Pres Govt Revenue Dept

No 2559

2/8 } Oct  
2/10 }

630/12

A.S.C.

No 2170

Feb 25 1869

Passing orders on a  
scheme for revising the  
Village Establishments  
of the Tanjore District.

12<sup>th</sup> October 1867 No 1632

- Recorded -