No. 31. Read the following letter from B. H. ELLIS, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras; dated Bombay Castle, 20th December 1858, No. 4255.

SIR,

Letter to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3149, dated the 21st Sept. 1858.
Reply from Do. No. 2620, dated the 5th Oct. ,,
Government Resolution, No. 3645, dated the 30th Oct. 1858 (communicated to the Revenue Commissioners, Southern and Northern Divisions.)
Memorandum from Rev. Commr., Southern Division, No. 2897, dated the 29th October 1858, with accompaniment.
Government Resolution, No. 4254, dated 20th Dec. 1858, communicated to the Rev. Commrs. Southern and Northern Divisions.)

With reference to paras. 11 to 13 of a letter from Messrs. Brice and Co. addressed to the Madras Government under date the 16th June last, I am directed to forward, herewith, copy of a correspondence marginally noted, which has taken place consequent on the opinion expressed by that Firm that the failure in the American Cotton Cultivation is mainly attributable to the seed having been planted at the Native seed time (August) instead of in April, the time adopted in the United States.

From H. YOUNG, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay; to J. D. INVERARITY, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division; dated Bombay Castle, 21st September 1858, No. 3149.

SIR,

I am directed to forward herewith an Extract paras. 11 to 13 of a letter from Messrs. Brice and Co. dated the 16th June last,* from which it will be seen that they are of opinion that the failure in the American Cotton Cultivation is mainly attributable to the seed having been planted at the "*native* seed time" instead of at the "*natural* time" adopted in the United States.

* *To the address of the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George.*

2. Government are of opinion that the experiment of sowing at the same season as in America might be tried on a small scale in every Collectorate under this Presidency, just as they lately directed the question of irrigating cotton to be submitted to a practical test. Before, however, adopting this measure, His Lordship in Council desires me to request that you will obtain and submit the Reports of Dr. Gibson and Dr. Forbes on the point noticed by Messrs. Brice and Co.

See Government Resolution No. 2069, dated the 19th June 1858.

From J. D. INVERARITY, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division; to H. YOUNG, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government; dated Poona, 5th October 1858, No. 2620.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3149, dated the 21st Ultimo, with accompaniment, and as requested in para. 2 thereof, to subjoin, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the reports of Drs. Gibson and Forbes on the subject of sowing the American Cotton at the same season as in America, viz. in April.

2. "Dr. Gibson writes;

"2nd. I may state that the case of the Malabar Coast and Cochin, where the experiment "of early sowing is described as having been with success tried, is an exceptional one, dissimilar "in circumstances of soil and climate to the other districts of Western India.

"Sloping low hills near the Coast having a gravelly or laterite soil, frequently showers in "April, and most generally a saturating shower or two previous to the middle of May and the "land daily cooled by a sea breeze obtained at first hand, are all of them contingencies likely to "lead to the success of the experiment as made at Cochin.

"In fact, I have no hesitation in offering the opinion which, if I mistake not, I have already "done in some of my former Reports, that Cotton sown in such ground, in any part of the "Malabar Coast, each seed hole having a pot of water poured into it, would give a strong healthy

" plant well calculated to resist the strength of a monsoon which must be fatal to one re-
" cently sprouted.

" 3rd. I have myself seen on the hill seaward of Murmagon, or Moregam Fort in the Goa
" Country, on December 28th 1845, upland Cotton growing in a state then wild and perfectly
" uncared for, nevertheless strong in growth and showing Boles of which any Planter might have
" been proud.

" It cannot however be said that we have any one of these favorable circumstances in other
" parts of Western India.

" Therefore I argue that this experiment, while affording excellent grounds for an exten-
" sion of the cultivation in such situations in Malabar, can lead to no inference in favor of suc-
" cess elsewhere.

" 4th. If my garden report for 1842 (contained in a printed compilation published by the
" Horticultural Society) be referred to, it will be seen that in paras. 9 and 10, I take some pains
" to point out, 'how much injury has often been done and unnecessary expense incurred by hasty
" conclusions drawn from partial premises;' and again in para. 10, I say in relation to this very
" product; 'A person unacquainted with the general features of this country, and with the great
" modification of climate (irrespective of latitude) caused by our North west wind blowing over
" such an extent of Continent, as compared to the Sea it has to pass over might, from the result
" of the above trial, look on the success of American Upland Cotton as certain and recommend
" it accordingly.'

" 5th. Now the whole of the land in our Cotton Districts is, as is well known, by the middle
" of April cracked and burned up by the fierce heat of the sun, and this continued heat is not
" dissipated, nor is the soil formed again into a homogeneous mass until it has received the
" heavy rains of June and July.

" I therefore maintain,

" 6th. That to attempt to sow Cotton in April even were the space destined for it, flood-
" ed with water by artificial means, is hopeless; a stunted plant may be obtained, but it will be
" burned up at its leaves and roots and will never become healthy.

" 7th. It is for this reason that I do not advise even a general experiment in the measure,
" as respects the Cotton Districts of our Presidency. Indeed, I am under the impression, in as
" far as an imperfect recollection of the events which occurred 26 years ago can assist me, that the
" plan was tried in the experimental Cotton Farm at Danda in the Broach Collectorate, and that
" Mr. Martin, the Superintendent, had a well dug and built for this very purpose. It is possi-
" ble that the records of Government may furnish some information on this subject.

" 8th. In case that Government should determine in trying the experiment on a small scale,
" I have, in the ground at Hewra, some fields of brown soil, which can be irrigated, and thus
" to give the experiment rather a better chance of success than it could have in the regular black
" cotton soil. The experiment also would have this advantage that no expense need be incurred
" in carrying it out.

3. Dr. Forbes writes: " I have at present, under observation samples of early Cotton con-
" sisting of Egyptian, American and Native varieties sown at Hooblee in the month of May last.
" I examined the plant a few days ago and found pods forming upon both the Egyptian and
" Native plants, and I have had sent me today a small supply of Cuppas, the first produce of the
" American variety. The staple is not longer than that of the usual crop, and the fibre is appa-
" rently weaker. It is scarcely possible, however, to form an opinion from so small a specimen,
" nor indeed until the whole of the crop has been picked; after which I shall have the plea-
" sure of forwarding samples for comparison with others of the usual produce.

" 2. I may mention, however, that the present small experiment will not be conclusive,
" whatever the result may be. At the time of sowing, I was absent on other duty, and the
" spot of land selected was in a more sheltered situation than I could have wished. Moreover,
" it is by no means certain that the Carcoon in charge did not indulge the plants with a little
" water, allowing such however to have been the case, as the season (with regard to rain) has been
" most unfavorable, I consider the appearance of the plants when I last examined them was suffi-
" ciently satisfactory to encourage a repetition of the experiment upon a larger scale, and I
" should be glad to obtain permission to undertake it next season."

4. As bearing on the subject of this reference, I beg also to subjoin an extract from a communication No. 725, dated 25th ultimo, from Mr. Seton Karr, Collector of Belgoon. He writes: " Early planting from the middle of April to the end of May, I scarcely need tell you " has never been tried. Those months in the cotton plains are perhaps the hottest of the year; " and the seed might as well be put into an oven as into the ground at that time. When I re-" ceive the next supply of Egyptian seed, I will endeavour however to persuade the Ryots " to sow it a month earlier (say in July) than the usual period."

5. From the foregoing, it would appear that the early sowing of Cotton seed must, to give satisfactory results, be dependent on an early fall of rain and on the soil being in a sufficiently moist and cool state to receive it.

No. 3645 of 1858.

BOMBAY CASTLE,
30th October 1858.

* *Communicated to the Revenue Commissioners, Southern and Northern Divisions.*

Copy of the resolution* passed by Government on the foregoing letter.

Government are satisfied that it is hopeless to expect that as a general rule cotton seed in this Presidency can be put in the ground in the month of April with any prospect of success.

2. But so far as His Lordship in Council has the means of forming an opinion, it would appear very desirable that the sowing of American Cotton should take place as early as the ground is in a fit state to receive the seed, and it is possible that where means of irrigation exist, the ground may be brought to such a state a little earlier than where the natural fall of rain is alone depended on. The attention of the local officers may be directed to this point.

3. The experiment suggested by Dr Gibson in the 8th para. of his letter should be tried, and the result reported to Government.

4. Dr. Forbes should also be requested to renew his experiment as proposed by him.

(Signed) H. YOUNG,
Chief Secretary to Government.

From G. F. FORBES, Esq., Superintendent Cotton Gin Factory; to J. D. INVERARITY, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division; dated Dharwar 25th October 1858, No. 98,

SIR,

I have the honor to state that having recently paid a visit to the experimental cotton fields alluded to in my letter of the 30th Ultimo, No. 91, I found the produce had suffered to such an extent from the late fall of rain, that probably any repetition of the experiment may be deemed unnecessary, and the question submitted by Messrs. Brice and Co. as to the benefit which might be expected to result from earlier sowing, may be considered or disposed of in as far as this part of the country is concerned.

2. As a specimen of the article will best exemplify the damage which unpicked cotton sustains from rain, I have taken the liberty of forwarding to your address by Bangy Parcel a few pods which I picked for that purpose.

3. I have also enclosed in the same packet a sample of the early sown American Cotton (picked before the rain fell), and along with it a specimen of the same variety sown at the usual period. A comparison will decide the superiority of the latter, more especially as regards strength and soundness of fibre, and from this it may be inferred that the season at present resorted to, is (with respect to quality also) best suited to the culture of the plant in this country.

4. Contrary to the expectations formed on my previous visit, I found that the early sown Egyptian Cotton has also ripened, and that its produce had suffered from the rain in the same manner, as will be seen from the sample I have sent; and I may mention that not only was this the case in both instances with respect to the pods which had burst, but also with those which had only partially filled. The moisture appeared to have soaked through the Capsules and strained the contents of even the smallest bols.

5. The native cotton sown at the same time as the above (viz. on the 11th May) was more backward, only a few of the plants having flowered. It appears to require a longer period to come to maturity, and for this reason is not open to the same objection as regards early sowing. It will yield its crop about December, a season at which there is very little chance of rain falling, and it remains to be seen what the quantity and quality of the produce will be as compared with that sown at the usual period. The advantage of early sowing with this variety would be that the crop could be cleaned and exported before the ensuing rains set in, which is not the case at present.

No. 2897 of 1858.

POONA DISTRICTS,
Revenue Commissioner's Camp "Nimbool,"
29th October 1858.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of the Revenue Commissioner's letter, No. 2620, of 5th Instant. The samples of Cotton alluded to by Dr. Forbes will be transmitted on receipt.

2. With the view of noting the result of early sowing as regards the indigenous variety, Dr. Forbes has been requested to report at the proper time on the quantity and quality of the crop adverted to in his concluding para.

(Signed) J. D. INVERARITY,
Revenue Commissioner, S. D.

No. 4254 of 1858.

BOMBAY CASTLE,
20th December 1858.

Copy of the Resolution passed by Government on the foregoing documents.

Copies of the correspondence may be forwarded to the Madras Government, in reference to the letter of Messrs. Brice and Co. to their address.

2. Copies may also be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce at Bombay for their information.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) B. H. ELLIS,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, No. 92; dated 24th January 1859.

Ordered that the correspondence forwarded by the Bombay Government with this letter, be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information; together with copy of the letter from Messrs. Brice and Co. dated June 16th 1858, to certain paras. of which (11 to 13) the correspondence has reference.

2. The Board will also be informed that the remainder of the letter, viz. those parts which refer to the Port of Tuddry and the means of improving the approaches to it from the interior, still forms the subject of a correspondence between Government and the Chief Engineer; which will be communicated to the Board at a future date.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Revenue Departt.

No. 92

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 24th January 1859

Read the following
letter from the Acting Secretary
to the Government of Bombay.

(Here enter 20th Dec. 1858 No. 4255)

Ordered that the correspondence forwarded by the Bombay Government with this letter, be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information, together with copy of the letter from Messrs. Brice & Co. dated June 16th/1858, to certain paras of which (11 to 13) the correspondence has reference.

2 The Board will also be informed that the remainder of

of the letter, viz: those
parts wich refer to the Port
of Saddrys and the means
of improving the approaches
to it from the interior, still
forms the subject of a correspon
dence between Government
and the Chief Engineer,
which will be communi-
cated to the Board at a
future date.

3 Copies to the Bds of Revs Dated 25th
with Inspr Price's Letter

Bill 27th to Comr 13th Lady 58 1/2 pc

Rec'd 1859 Dec 28

Dy. to Comr: 26th January

Copy in a Letter to E.
D/25th March 1859 No. 4.

No. 92.

Extract Mins. of Comrs:
D/24th Jany/59.

Communicating to the Bd
of Rev: for their information
the Correspondence forwarded
by the Romney Govt, together
with copy of the letter from
Messrs Price & Co, and desiring
them to be informed of the Reports
of the letter which refer to the Port
of Ludderg, and the means of
improving the approaches to it
from the interior, & still forms
the subject of a Correspondence
between Government and the
Chief Engineer -

No. 31 of 92.