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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

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423 Dated 19-6- N. 1868.

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7-12-29

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
19*th June* 1868.

No. 473.

No. 1,732.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

SIR,

Miscellaneous.

I am directed to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter, No. 566, dated the 15th February 1868, forwarding the papers asked for by this Government in regard to the Wards' Institution in Bengal.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, ESQ., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 236, dated the 24th July 1865.)

SIR,

IN reply to Government Order No. 1018, dated 13th March 1865, I am now directed by the Board of Revenue to submit a Report by the Director of Government Wards, No. 38, dated 22nd May, giving an account of the working of the Wards' Institution in Calcutta since it was opened in March 1856.

2. To the Director's Tabular Statement, the Board of Revenue have appended memoranda containing the information that they have been able to obtain from the local authorities concerning each of the Wards who have left the Institution.

3. During the nine years for which the Institution has been opened, twenty-seven Wards have been admitted, of whom one, only, is dead (at the Benares Institution); one has been removed to the Benares Institution; nine are now in the Calcutta Institution; and sixteen have left the place. Before enquiring how far the subsequent career of these sixteen ex-pupils of the School, attest its usefulness, the Board observe that three boys, Nos. 8, 9 and 18, of the Director's list, must be struck out as having been at the Institution but a very short time, and having left it at a very early age; and two others, Nos. 1* and 11, as having entered the Institution too late (17 and 18 years old) and remained for too short a time for it to be possible to rely in any way whatever upon their subsequent conduct as bearing upon the character and efficiency of the Institution.

* Mr. Grote has seen this gentleman at his own house near Berhampore, and was much pleased with him.

4. In judging of the effects of the training which they received at the Institution, upon the remaining eleven boys, it must be borne in mind that some of the peculiar difficulties with which the Institution has to contend were, probably, aggravated at its opening. The Institution must always be prepared to receive boys of *all* ages; of course a boy who, like Nos. 2 and 17, has to enter an infant class at the age of 13 or 14, is not very hopeful material on which to work. It so happens, though, that both these young men are favorable specimens of what may be done, even under such unfavorable circumstances. No. 17 is, at present, one of the most intelligent boys in the Institution.

5. The average age of the boys now in the Institution, on their admission, was twelve years and five months; that of the eleven boys who have passed out of it was thirteen years and six months; so that the age difficulty was, in their cases, aggravated. Among them, too, was one case peculiarly unfavorable, the late Raja of Cooch Behar (No. 10), who was admitted into the Institution at the request of the Foreign Secretary, though his estate was not under the Court of Wards. It is not too much to say that this poor boy had been morally *destroyed* before he reached the Institution. It was found impossible, even then, to separate him wholly from the pandering parasites who surrounded him, and the Institution failed in saving him. For this much only it is responsible.

6. The Board of Revenue do not think that, on the whole, the Reports of the local Officers in regard to the others are unfavorable to the Institution. It requires, indeed, little discrimination to discover that, in many of the cases, it was not possible, from the first, for the Institution to do more than remedy, to some extent, evil already done by neglect or worse. It may be fairly said that only in the cases of Nos. 5, 6 and 14, had the Institution in any sense a fair chance: a chance vitiated by their inevitable contact with such characters as Nos. 10 and 11.

7. No. 5 appears to have been a boy of an unpromising disposition from the first, and he has not turned out better than was expected. He was ruined by the influence of his cousin, the young Raja of Cooch Behar, already alluded to. Nos. 6 and 14 have turned out well, especially No. 6. That a boy, commencing, at nearly twelve years old, to read an easy Primer, should, in eight years, pass the University Entrance Examination, is most creditable to himself and to his teachers. The Board are hopeful that this young man will continue to do credit to his training. They are informed, as this Report is passing through the Press, that he has returned to Calcutta to pursue his studies at the Presidency College.

8. There is one case to which the Board must especially allude, that of No. 4, inasmuch as his untimely death has, it is believed, brought unmerited discredit upon the Institution. Jogendra Narayan Singh was a particularly prepossessing boy while at the Institution. Upon attaining his majority, he threw off the restraints of Hinduism and entered, as the Board are informed, freely, into English Society. A quarrel followed between him and Messrs. Watson and Company, who declined to surrender the farm of a large portion of his property which they had taken from the Court of Wards. Jogendra was, thereupon, outcasted by his newly-found English friends, and, shortly afterwards, he was attacked by malarious fever, of which, after long lingering, he died, at the early age of twenty-one years.

9. Exaggerated rumours were spread about, which the Board verily believe owe not a little of their baneful character to the animosities connected with the disputes above alluded to. It has been said that the boy died of *delirium tremens*. The Board are able to assert, on the authority of his medical attendant, that there is no foundation for this. It may be a subject of regret that he should have outraged the prejudices of his countrymen by breaking his caste, and it is much more to be regretted that there is reason to fear that he was not, even during his illness, strictly temperate in his habits; but it is more natural, to an Englishman at least, to feel sympathy with a poor youth exposed, alone and unaided, at such a period of life, to such temptations, and to such difficulties, than to hold him up to scorn if he did not emerge immaculate. His cousin No. 3, who was not, while at the Institution, nearly so promising, has turned out, it will be observed, on the whole, well.

10. The Board have thus entered, in some detail, into the facts as regards the eleven youths who have passed through the Institution. At the same time, they altogether deprecate the formation of any judgment in regard to its value, at so early a date, and upon such very meagre statistics.

11. It never was, and never can be, expected that such an Institution would be, in the abstract, *absolutely* successful. The elements of failure are, and must, as yet, be, in the case of too many individuals, inevitably present, to make it possible to expect the Institution to turn out boys educated morally and intellectually to the standard that might be expected from a similar Institution in England. As already remarked, boys have to be received at all ages; and it is, unfortunately, a fact that the older a boy is when he is admitted, the less hope there is of any real intellectual or moral improvement; for it is rare indeed to find, that any progress* has been made in his training before he joined the Institution. Nor is this the only evil; for it is notorious in England, as well as in India, that one bad boy will do much to corrupt his fellows. So that the vicious habits of the elder boys are apt to be communicated to the younger ones.

* A marked exception to this general truth is to be found in the minor Zemindar of Dighapati, in Rajshahye, (No. 21) whose education had been well attended to by his father. He is now the most promising boy at the Institution.

12. Again, both before they join the Institution, and when, at too early an age, they quit it, the Wards are subjected too often to thoroughly deleterious influences, if they are not actually initiated into vice in order that they may fall an easier prey to those who look to profit by their ruin.

13. It is plain that the results of the Institution can only be expected to be *comparatively* better than the old system, under which the boys were left, pretty much, to take their chance. The real question is—are the advantages which the Government can reasonably hope and expect to secure for its Wards by maintaining the Institution, sufficient to counterbalance its disadvantages and to make it right to persist in the present policy in the face of the prejudices undoubtedly entertained against it by the Native gentlemen of the interior?

14. Upon the subject of these prejudices the Board will presently enter. Meanwhile I am to say, at once, that they would very decidedly answer the question, as I have just put it, in the affirmative. The Board entirely concur with the Director in his estimate of the old system of training the Wards at the Zillah Schools, and they base their opinion of its merits, not only upon by-gone times, but also upon their present experience of its effects in the case of Wards whose income is not sufficient to pay for their education in Calcutta. These are, almost always, eminently unsatisfactory; the plain fact being that the influences which surround the Wards when with their families are too powerful for the local authorities to overcome.

15. It is a truth—though, doubtless, an unpalatable truth—that a main advantage secured by the Institution is the entire separation of the Wards from family influences. It is rarely, indeed, that, in the Board's opinion, a Ward could, with a due regard to the duty of the Court of Wards, be left, if there was a choice, to be trained at home. As an example of what they mean the Board desire to mention a case which has occurred quite recently, in which the Commissioner and the Collector informed the Board that a boy, under fourteen years of age, could not be sent to Calcutta because he was *living with his wife!!* Of course the Board ordered him down at once. Another boy, now in the Institution, (No. 20), arrived at the Institution so debased, at the age of thirteen, from neglect and the use of opium, that it was, for some time, doubted whether his intellect was not permanently injured. He is now at length, after two years, rapidly recovering, and is in appearance a different boy. He had been nominally, for four years, at the Government School at Midnapore! Two more of the boys, one of them only twelve and a half years of age, were, on their admission, suffering from sexual diseases; and facts even more distressing might be mentioned. But these are enough, the Board think, to justify the assertion that it is all important to separate the Wards from their families.

16. A further eminent advantage of the Institution at Calcutta is the association of the boys with their equals, or, at least, with those who will not acknowledge their social superiority. The atmosphere of monstrous adulation which surrounds a Native boy of rank at his own home, especially if he be an orphan, is, in itself, enough to ruin him; and would alone justify, nay, in the Board's opinion, render imperative his removal. As a specimen of this adulation, Mr. Shore desires me to mention that the dependents of the petty Chiefs of Orissa address them as "Do-raja," meaning that their masters are the "incarnation of the Deity." In considering the policy of the Institution this feature is often overlooked.

17. Again, although, from causes already mentioned, the intellectual training of the Wards must frequently, at any rate, be unsatisfactory, the Board have no doubt that it must progress very much better under the superintendence of such a master as the present Director, with all the advantages that experience and the opportunities of the capital can afford, and stimulated by the competition of numbers, than it could do at home or at the Mofussil Schools; and they consider that even the experience already gained shews that it is so. Out of such materials, and under such unfavorable circumstances as they have described, it is no small triumph, they conceive, for the Director to have

trained one boy to pass the University Entrance Examination and to have two or three more who will certainly, if they live, shortly pass it too. One of them will probably obtain University honors.

18. To proceed now to the Memorial purporting to come from the Beerbhoom Zemindars in consequence of which this report has been prepared, the Board observe that the objections which these gentlemen make to the Wards' Institution are three-fold. *First*, that the health of the Wards is endangered by a residence in Calcutta. *Secondly*, that their faith in the Hindú religion is undermined. *Thirdly*, that they are separated from their families.

19. As already stated, the Board of Revenue are decidedly of opinion that the third objection cannot be listened to. It is essential for the interests of the Wards, in the present state of Native Society, that they *should*, if possible, be separated from their families. At the same time the objection, so far as it arises from family affection, is deserving of all respect: so far as it comes from interested dependents, it is only suggestive of the necessity for the present policy.

20. The *first* objection—that the health of the boys suffers in Calcutta—is proved by experience to be a simple prejudice; and the Board find it somewhat difficult to believe that it has any *real* existence, even as a prejudice, in the minds of the Natives of this country. It is, at least, certain that the Native gentlemen of Beerbhoom are perfectly ignorant and careless of the fact, if it is a fact, that the climate of Calcutta is "admittedly unhealthy to Europeans." The truth is that the inmates of the Wards' Institution have always been remarkably robust; their health has, as a rule, materially improved after their arrival here. One boy indeed, died at Benares, having been sent there from Calcutta, dangerously ill; but he arrived in Calcutta from his native province in a state of disease so hopeless that his death was expected immediately. Contrary to all expectations, he rallied and lived for a year; but a relapse came on and he eventually succumbed to his complaint (Dinagepore fever).

21. The real fundamental objection of the Memorialists probably, and that certainly, which merits the greatest attention, is, however, their fear that the faith of the boys in the Hindú religion, and the hold upon them of Hindú customs, will be undermined by a residence in Calcutta. As light of any kind dispels darkness, so education will inevitably shake the faith of boys in Hinduism. Nevertheless, the answer, the Board apprehend, to objections of this nature must be that the Government cannot entertain, for a moment, the thought of withholding education from its subjects because their Hinduism is likely to suffer in consequence; least of all from its Wards who are likely to occupy positions of great influence, and whom it is the sacred duty of the State to prepare for that position in the best manner that it can. If it be true, as the Memorialists seem to think, that Hinduism will suffer less from Mofussil education than from education in Calcuttta, it is only, the Board venture to say, in so far as Mofussil education is very much more imperfect than Calcutta education.

22. All that the Government can do is to take care that the Wards are not, during their non-age, in any way induced or persuaded to abandon their father's faith, and to see that, while in the Institution, they have opportunity to obey its dictates, so far as all rites, forms, and ceremonies are concerned.

23. The Board can aver that this duty is faithfully fulfilled. It has never, indeed, been asserted that the caste of any boy has been injured at the Institution, or his proper ritual observances neglected.

24. It may be well, before concluding this part of the subject, to allude briefly to the particular case in which the Memorial appears to have originated. It is the case referred to in the Board's address to Government, No. 214. dated 27th May 1862. The family of the Hitampore minor have managed, ever since that time, to set at defiance the Court of Wards, and the Courts of Justice of which the Court of Wards have invoked the assistance.

25. That Hindús, generally so obedient to the laws, should have ventured to do this, and succeeded, up to this date, in resisting the measures adopted against them, is due, the Board think, not a little to the unfortunate differences of opinion at the Board itself that the letter above quoted discloses, as well as to the action of the local Civil Court which, participating in the considerations which probably swayed Messrs. Stainforth and Fergusson, took upon itself, without any jurisdiction, to interfere with the Court of Wards and even to stigmatize its proceedings as harsh and unconstitutional. The Judge's orders were immediately reversed by the High Court which endeavoured, as far as possible, to remove their ill effects; but the time during which they were in force was sufficient to enable the family to thwart the Court of Wards in obtaining possession of the boy. They will not, it is believed, be able to do so much longer.

26. The want of a hearty acquiescence by the Officers of Government—even, at times, by the Members of the Board itself—in the policy deliberately adopted by the State in regard to its Wards, has, there is no doubt, been one of the gravest obstacles in the way of its success. After what has been said, it is not difficult to understand how the Officers alluded to have been prevented from appreciating the full scope of that policy, and led to consider the objections to it of more weight than the arguments in its favour. The Board believe, however, that they may assure the Government that the opposition of its own Officers is now rapidly subsiding. They are themselves unanimous in the views expressed in this letter.

27. That such an opposition, however, should have, for so long a time, subsisted, and that Native public opinion should be so undoubtedly opposed to the present policy of the State, in a matter of this kind, makes it right and proper, from time to time, to review the grounds on which that policy is based. This has now, once more, been done: and the Board trust that the Government will agree with them in the conclusion at which they have arrived that the policy adopted in 1856 is sound and should be persevered in. It may not be altogether satisfactory;—it has not been absolutely successful;—but it is, beyond all question, preferable to the former policy of leaving the Wards to take their chance.

28. The Board have now gone, at length, into the specific causes of complaint against the Institution, and into the specific grounds on which they advise its continuance. This letter would be imperfect, however, if it did not contain a statement of what, perhaps, influences their opinion in favor of the Institution as much as any of the arguments heretofore used.

29. It is the special duty of one of the Members of the Board and of its Secretary to visit the Institution; and it is, accordingly, their practice, from time to time, to do so, always without notice or warning. They have never been otherwise than perfectly satisfied with the Institution and its management; more than this, they desire to say that the appearance and manner of the boys is a guarantee to them, that nothing takes place at the Institution that the Director would wish to conceal from them. The improvement in the boys after a short residence in the Institution is always most marked, and, the Board regret to add, their deterioration when they leave it for a time. One of the best boys now there came back, after a short holiday, the other day, with an appearance of debauchery that was disheartening. Undoubtedly the early age at which the minority of the Wards ends is a terrible obstacle in the way of the complete success of the Institution.

30. The Board venture to say that even the most determined opponent of the Institution would be pleased and satisfied by a visit to it. Every possible advantage is secured to the boys in the way of intellectual training, and, which may, perhaps, be thought by some still better, they are encouraged in all manly exercises. They have their horses, their guns, their dogs, their wrestling floor, their swimming, their cricket and so on;—every secular element in

fact, of a healthy School-boy life;—and their appearance and manner shew that they benefit by it. One is looked up to by his fellows as the best rider; another is the most skilful wrestler; a third the most successful artist. All this, surely, is sound and good. The Board are confident, I am to repeat, that, at the Institution itself, nothing takes place, that the wisest or the most prejudiced parent would object to, and, in this, the Board are supported by the unanimous opinions of the Native visitors so far as their opinions are on record. These gentlemen have regularly visited the Institution and the Board expect much benefit from their co-operation. It is a subject of regret to the Board that, notwithstanding the explicit orders of the Government on the point, no single Commissioner, not even the Commissioner of Nuddea, has yet visited the Institution; nor has the Director of Public Instruction, nor any of the Inspectors of Schools.

31. It is right to mention that the Government have recently authorized the Board to send minors, who are natives of the Hindustani portion of Bengal, to Benares rather than to Calcutta, and there are now several Wards of the Bengal Courts there.

32. The Board have not entered, afresh, into the question, often mooted, of removing the Institution into the Mofussil. They refer, upon this question, to their letter No. 393, dated 9th December 1862, and the connected papers. It will not fail to strike the Government that many of the advantages dwelt upon in the present letter would be imperilled by the step; and the Institution would lose valuable superintendence. Nevertheless, but for the expense, (which he considers an insuperable difficulty,) Mr. Trevor would still prefer to see the Institution moved to Kishnaghur, and Mr. Grote although he prefers the present position of the Institution, has now for some time withdrawn his opposition to the transfer, if its abolition is to be the alternative.

33. Mr. Trevor took part in the deliberations that have preceded this letter and though he has not, owing to his absence, had an opportunity of seeing its text, it is believed that it embodies his opinions.

34. In conclusion I am desired to state that the Board of Revenue are perfectly satisfied that the distinguished Director, Baboo Rajendra Lálá Mittra has, from first to last, amidst not a little obloquy, performed the duties of his office with honorable fidelity, and with all the success that it was in his power to command. He is a gentleman in every respect well suited for the position. It would be vain to expect to find a Hindú concerning whose orthodoxy his fellow-countrymen have no suspicion, who is, at the sametime, a scholar of such education, intelligence, and breadth of view as to be fit to be placed at the head of such an Institution.

From Baboo Rajendra Lall Mittra, Director of Government Wards, to R. B. Chapman, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(No. 38, dated the 22nd May 1865.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 151 of date the 22nd of March last, and in reply to submit the following report on the several points indicated in Mr. Junior Secretary Bayley's letter No. 1018 of date the 13th idem.

2. The first subject noted in Mr. Bayley's letter is the present state of the law and the practice of the Revenue Authorities as regards the guardianship and education of State minors. That law is founded upon Regulation X. of 1793. In it provision was made for the guardianship of minors by the nearest of kin, leaving their estates to be managed by the Court of Wards. In a subsequent law (Regulation XXII. of 1793,) the period of minority was extended from the 16th to the end of the 18th year, to afford sufficient time to the landed orphanage of the country to complete their education.

3. But the operation of these laws did not prove satisfactory. The want of efficient control on the part of Collectors over the persons of the minors and the conduct of the guardians, was found to be the chief cause of failure. Although the law provided that the superintendence of female relatives was not to be allowed after the Ward was five years old, it was found that the mother, grand-mother, or some other near female relatives, though in every way unfit, could not, owing to personal considerations and her natural right, be re-placed by a stranger in the guardianship of minors, and, even in cases where other than such an individual

was appointed as guardian, her influence which the law was expressly formed to exclude, exercised a powerful and most injurious effect upon the proceedings of the guardian and the moral and mental condition of the Ward. In many instances the estates of minors were not adequate, singly, to defray the price of competent tutors, and, in others, the intrigues of old family servants rendered it impossible for guardians to enforce the necessary restraints; while interested relatives and Amlahs tried their utmost to seduce opulent minors to habits of idleness and dissipation. Promises, likewise, of rewards on the attainment of majority, often purchased to such minors perfect liberty to follow their own whims and fancies.

4. Thus circumstanced, and recognising at the same time "the obligation which lies upon the Government to give the best education it can command to those youths whose worldly interests have fallen under its care and the direct benefit such a measure was likely to convey to the Districts in which the Wards may, in after-life, be placed," the late Lord Dalhousie was of opinion "that nothing short of direct interference on the part of Government would be sufficient to ensure due provision being made for this purpose, and that such interference ought to be sanctioned by law" (*vide* Mr. Beadon's letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 46, dated 28th January 1854). Act XXVI. of 1854 was accordingly passed, and the Commissioners of Revenue were called upon to report on the arrangements they proposed to make for the care and protection of the minors of their respective Divisions. In compliance with this requisition the late Mr. Samuells suggested the opening of a Boarding School for the education of the minors of Cuttack and the Tributary Mehals, and the Board of Revenue, improving upon that idea, established in 1856, with the sanction of Government, the Wards' Institution for the benefit of all the minors under their control.

5. That this step was rightly taken cannot be better proved than by the facts tabulated in the accompanying statement. They shew that of the twelve boys who were admitted into this Institution soon after its establishment, eight were ignorant of even the first elements of reading and writing, though their ages ranged between nine and seventeen years, two being above the age of sixteen years and five between eleven and fifteen. Of the other four boys two at the sixteenth year of their ages read the Reader No. III, and the other two the Reader No. IV. In subsequent years fifteen other boys were admitted, of whom thirteen, though mostly above the age of twelve years, knew nothing beyond the English and the Bengali alphabets, and only two could read easy books in English, one the Reader No. II and the other the Reader No. V. Thus out of a total of twenty-seven boys twenty-one had, at the time of entering this Institution, no knowledge whatever of the art of reading and writing and only six had acquired but the barest rudiments of learning, though they were mostly above the thirteenth year of their age, and some had completed their sixteenth year.

6. It is worthy of note that seventeen of these boys had become Wards of Court long before their admission into this Institution, and most of them had read in the Zillah Schools or at their homes from a few months to three or four years, under the control of the Collectors of their respective Districts, but few of them derived any benefit therefrom, No. 1, of the Statement for instance, became a Ward in 1852 and read at the Moorshedabad College for three years, and yet in 1856, in the seventeenth year of his age, he had to commence with the Reader No. I at this Institution. No. 2 was a Ward of ten years standing, and at the thirteenth year of his age he began his studies here in the last class of the Hindú School. No. 3 became a Ward in 1846 and was sent to School for a long time by the Collector of his District; still when he came to Calcutta on the fifteenth year of his age he could not take up a more difficult book than the *Easy Primer*. No. 6 was obliged, after a year's study at the Beauleah School, to begin here with the same book. No. 20 found himself in the same predicament in this Institution after four years' reading at the Midnapore School.

7. In quoting these instances it is the farthest from my wish to find fault either with the District Schools or the Collectors under whom the minors were placed. I know, from personal experience that some of the Zillah Schools are, as far as they go, quite as good as any in the Metropolis, and that the Collectors have generally done all they could to watch the progress of their Wards. All I wish to observe is that, under the present state of native society, it is impossible for an Englishman, place in charge of the fiscal and the Magisterial duties of a large District, to have sufficient opportunity to exercise that healthy control which is absolutely necessary as much to force a boy through the labors of study, as to check the intrigues of interested domestics and overcome the supineness of indulgent relatives. And as long as such shall be the case, it is futile to expect that the orphan sons of opulent landholders left in their own homes will submit to any education.

8. The Zemindars of Beerbhoom in their Memorial to his Excellency the Governor General state that "the great body of parents and guardians throughout the country, including the wealthiest landed proprietors, send their boys to the District Schools." But they are evidently mistaken as regards the higher classes of Zemindars. The bulk of the alumni of our Schools proceed from the middle classes, who are represented in the Mofussil by the Amlah of Courts, small jotedars and well-to-do tradesmen. With them the large Zemindars have no kindred feeling and therefore cannot be expected to follow their example. As a general rule they

do not send their children to School, and this is evident as regards Beerbhoom from the fact that of the sixty-two Zemindars and Capitalists who have signed the Memorial, only two persons have been able to write their names in English, the rest being obliged to have recourse to the vernaculars in attesting an English document. As the intellectual condition of the large Zemindars of most of the other Districts of the Bengal Presidency is in no respect better, it must follow that the Wards of Court can have no education whatever if they be left at home or removed only to the Sudder Stations of their Districts until a great change should take place in the social state and feeling of the native community.

9. With reference to the operation of the Wards' Institution, I beg to state that since its establishment in 1856 there have been admitted into it twenty-seven pupils as per memorandum in the margin giving an average of three per year. The withdrawals, during the same period, have been seventeen, or at an average of 1½ per annum.

Year.	Admission.	Withdrawals.
1856-57 ...	12 ...	2
1857-58 ...	2 ...	3
1858-59 ...	1 ...	0
1859-60 ...	1 ...	3
1860-61 ...	1 ...	0
1861-62 ...	0 ...	1
1862-63 ...	2 ...	1
1863-64 ...	6 ...	3
1864-65 ...	2 ...	4
	27	17

10. Of the seventeen boys who have left this Institution two were expelled for misconduct; two retired on their estates being released from the Court of Wards; three were sent back to their homes as their annual net profits proved insufficient to defray their expenses; two were withdrawn by their guardians; one was transferred to the Wards' Institution at Benares for change of air, where he has since died; and eight left on attaining their majority.

11. Of those who have left this Institution none remained here for a sufficiently long period to complete his education. The average time of their stay has been not more than three years and eight months. Only one boy lived here for seven years and ten months, and, in course of that time, he ascended from the last to the first class of the Hindú School, passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, and read in the first year's class of the Presidency College for several months. The others all acquired tolerable proficiency in reading and writing in English and Bengali, and a fair knowledge of Arithmetic, Geography, and Indian History.

12. I have not had sufficient opportunity of judging of the conduct of these young men in their native Districts, but, from what I have heard from friends and Government officials residing in the Mofussil, I believe, they have, with two exceptions, acquitted themselves well. But on this subject the Board will obtain more reliable information from the Revenue Commissioners than I am in a position to give.

13. In judging of these boys, however, it should be borne in mind that a plain elementary education is all that they have had, and more should not be expected of them. The Hindú School, as now constituted, embraces nine classes and four sections, making altogether thirteen steps which a boy must pass before he can qualify himself for the Entrance Examination, and as, at an average, boys do not get more than three or four double steps in the course of their School life, a period of at least eight years is absolutely necessary to prepare a boy for the matriculation test, and four years more for degrees, honor.; and that, on the supposition that there will be five double promotions, and no failure at any of the successive twelve annual examinations to which he has to submit. The Wards of Court commencing, in the most favourable instance, at nine years of age, can never command, under the present law of minority, this long period to complete their education. Most of those who have retired from this Institution read from two to five years, and their education was consequently, to a great extent, imperfect.

14. It might be asked since the education afforded by the Wards' Institution is of an elementary character, what is the utility of keeping it up at a heavy cost? But this question is easily met. The Government, having assumed the guardianship of a certain class of minors, is bound to provide them with education. It would be a gross dereliction of duty to neglect that important function of a guardian. Such neglect cannot even be palliated by the excuse that because the minors come to the charge of Government at an advanced age, and cannot learn much during the remaining period of their non-age, therefore they need have no education at all. Such a maxim pressed to its legitimate conclusion would prove subversive of all modern principles of education and lead to the closing of all our Mofussil, Village, and Anglo-Vernacular Schools, where nothing can possibly be taught beyond the merest rudiments of knowledge. If the necessity of giving some education to the Wards of Court be once admitted, it would follow that they should have the best means available placed at their disposal, and their success should not be left to depend upon their own exertions and opportunities; the accident of advanced age cannot be provided against by Government, and therefore, should never enter into its calculations. The Government has, long since, acknowledged this principle, and assumed it as its duty to compel the proper education of its Wards. It has also given a fair and protracted trial to the first and most obvious course of placing the Wards at the Zillah Schools and under private tutors, and since that has proved ineffectual, the only alterative left is to remove them to a Boarding School.

15. As to the place where such an Institution should be located, Government has asked for no opinion. But as the Memorial of the Landholders of Beerbhoom dwells largely upon it, I crave permission to say a few words on the two reasons assigned by them against keeping the Wards' Institution in Calcutta.

16. The most important argument of the Memorialists is founded on the insalubrity of Calcutta as evidenced "by the admitted disagreement of its climate with the European constitution." But as the Institution is intended for the Natives of Bengal, the argument is by no means apposite; while the experience of the last nine years has proved that, on the score of health, no Ward has yet had to complain of his residence in Calcutta. If reference be made to my last Annual Report (paragraph 17th quoted in the Board's Revenue Administration Report for the year 1863-64) it will be seen that near one-third of the Wards from the Mofussil came here in a miserable condition, suffering from serious organic complaints of long standing, and utterly incapable of commencing their studies; but that they all recovered their health soon after their arrival here and never since have had to complain of any serious illness. Those who have visited this Institution will, I have no doubt, bear me out when I say that in robust healthy appearance its inmates are by no means inferior to any given number of boys in any part of Bengal. Were the fact, however, otherwise, still the inference would be that the Institution should be removed to a healthy locality, and not altogether abolished, as suggested by the Memorialists.

17. The other argument of the Memorialists refers to the immoral influences to which the Wards are exposed in the Metropolis; but, inasmuch as the boys are kept here under the strictest surveillance, never allowed to mix in any society except that of their form fellows at School, and have particular attention paid to their moral training, it cannot be applicable to this Institution.

18. As regards the religion of the boys, they are allowed to follow the precepts of their Shasters without any let or hinderance; every convenience is afforded them to perform their periodical *Shrads* and ceremonies, and nothing is permitted either in food on the mode of living which would be in contravention of the canons of their scriptures. I beg to observe, however, that English education is antogonistic to the Hindú religion, and no amount of public opinion and social anathema can overcome the irresistible force with which the first page of a Primer Geography dispels all faith in the thousand-headed dragoons and titanic tortoises which form the corner stones of Pauranic Cosmogony. Whether it be in the Metropolis or in the Mofussil, the result will everywhere be the same; Hinduism will invariably yield to the light of English education, and well-educated Native gentlemen can never be thorough adherents of the popular creed.

19. The operation of the new Rules for the management of this Institution has been found to be in every respect satisfactory.

Statement shewing the Names of the Wards admitted into the Wards' Institution since its foundation, their ages, the names of their Native Districts, the dates of their arrival and discharge, the period of their stay in the Institution, and the advantages they derived therefrom.

Nos.	Names of Wards.	Districts.	Date of arrival.	Date of discharge.	Ages at the time of admission.	Period of stay in the Wards' Institution.	Remarks.	Commissioner's Remarks.
					Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.		
1	Narendranarayana Ráy ...	Moorshedabad ...	14th March 1856	7th Dec. 1857 ...	16 9 0	1 10 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 29th May 1852. Read at the Moorshedabad College for three years, but made very little progress. At the Metropolitan College, Calcutta, he commenced his studies with the Reader No. I and Spelling No. II. When he left the Wards' Institution he had acquired considerable proficiency in Bengali and could read and understand short letters in English. He is very well spoken of as a Zemindar and Gentleman by his neighbours.	Neither the Collector nor myself happen at present to have any personal acquaintance with this gentleman, but from enquiries which have been made from trustworthy sources, it appears that he is held in great respect by the neighbouring Zemindars and by his Ryots, and that he thoroughly understands the management of his Estates, and does manage them well.
2	Krishnamohan Bose ...	Cuttack ...	17th „ „	6th June 1863 ...	13 0 0	7 2 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 25th October 1846. Had read for a year in the Government School at Cuttack, before coming to this place, commenced his studies with the Easy Primer here in the 13th or last Class of the Hindoo School. He was in the Fourth Class when he attained his majority. He is a strict Hindoo and generally liked in his country.	Baboo Krishnamohun Bose left the Institute in April 1863. He lives in his Estates, bears a fair character, and attends sufficiently to his duties as a Zemindar, but shows little aptitude for mixing with his equals in native society. I am not personally acquainted with him, but understand he is of a silent, reserved disposition, and somewhat deficient in intellect. He does not seem to have been the worse any way for his Calcutta education; nor, on the other hand, to have derived much benefit from it.
3	Pareshnarayan Ráya ...	Rajshahye ...	24th „ „	17th April 1860	14 6 0	4 0 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 30th March 1846, studied at the Beauleah School for two years. Entered the last Class of the Hindoo School at the 15th year of his age and commenced his studies with the Easy Primer. When he left this Institution he was in the Seventh Class. He took charge of his Estates during the height of the Indigo disputes which involved him into many law suits, but he conducted them with great tact, and has since greatly improved his property without forfeiting the respect and affection of his tenantry.	Pareshnarayana Ráy obtained his majority in April 1860 and immediately became involved in litigation with his relatives and others, the management of his affairs being in the hands of a very unscrupulous set of Amlahs. His education seems to have been but little attended to and his knowledge of English is almost nil. After about three years he took courage and dismissed the old Amlah, placing the entire supervision of his property in the hands of a trustworthy Dewan who has not only succeeded nearly in paying off a heavy debt, which his employer had incurred but has raised the rental of the Estate by nearly one-half. So far as I have learnt, Pareshnarayana is not dissipated. He is manly, fond of riding, and field sports, and is a tolerably fair specimen of an uneducated Bengalee gentleman. I imagine he owes but little to the Wards' Institution. He is courteous and obliging and he is held in respect both by his neighbouring landlords and his tenantry. He has established a School near his place of residence, the entire expense (exclusive of the Government Grant in-aid) being defrayed by him. He took the warmest interest in the late Agricultural Exhibition at Rajshahye and gave me the greatest assistance in that matter.
4	gendr anarayana Ráya ...	Rajshahye ...	26th March 1856	7th Feb. 1860 ...	15 1 13	3 10 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 27th March 1852 and read at the Beauleah School for three years. At the Wards' Institution he commenced his studies with the Reader No. III., and in three and half years ascended to the First Class of the Hindoo School, could read and write with ease in English and speak with great fluency; was a remarkably smart intelligent and well behaved young man. Took to English mode of living after learning the Wards' Institution which made him unpopular amongst his countrymen; managed his Estate very ably. but died within two years of protracted jungle fever and high living.	
5	Chandra Shekhar Ráya ...	Rungpore ...	16th April „	21st „ 1862 ...	13 0 0	5 10 5	Entered the Court of Wards on the 12th December 1855, commenced his studies in the 13th or last Class of the Hindoo School with the English Alphabet, and was in the Fourth Class when he left, was dull, heavy and stubborn. Not given to business and easily led by his dependants.	Chandra Shekhar Ráya. I have yet no personal acquaintance with this man but the Reports from the District Authorities shew that he bears the very worst of characters, and is held in no respect by any class of society. He is much addicted to drink, and during the fits of intoxication is some times guilty of brutal acts. On a late occasion such conduct was brought judicially to the notice of the Sub-Divisional Officer at Jalpigooree, who fined him Rs. 200, and seriously warned him for the future. Since then it is supposed some improvement has taken place. He entertains a number of worthless characters who encourages him in dissipation.
6	Kishorilala Ráya ...	Rajshahye ...	13th Aug. „	6th June 1864 ...	11 6 7	7 10 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 10th September 1855, and read at the Beauleah School for about a year but had made no progress in his studies. Commenced with the Easy Primer in the Hindoo School; passed the University Entrance Examination and read for some months in the first years Class of the Presidency College. He is a strict Hindoo, exemplary in his conduct, esteemed and respected by his neighbours and well spoken of by the officials of his District.	
7	Prosunna Kumar Choudhary	24-Pergunnahs ...	24th „ „	1st May 1858 ...	15 8 0	2 8 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 7th March 1843; read in the Howrah Government School for some time before coming to Calcutta; commenced his studies here with the Reader No. III. was removed from the Institution on account of the profits of his Estate not being sufficient to cover his expenses.	
8	Ram Chand ...	Bogra ...	27th „ „	17th Dec. 1856 ...	13 0 0	0 5 0	Entered the Court of Wards in 1856, commenced his studies here with the Bengali Alphabet. Left the Institution within five months after admission, his Estate having been removed from the charge of the Court of Wards.	
9	Lakshmna Giri ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9 0 0	0 5 0	Ditto ditto ditto ...	

Nos.	Names of Wards.	Districts	Date of arrival.	Date of discharge.	Ages at the time of admission.	Period of stay in the Wards' Institution.	Remarks.	Commissioner's Remarks.
					Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.		
10	Narandranarayana Bhupa	Cooch Behar ...	29th Aug. 1856...	10th July 1859...	14 0 0	2 10 0	ad at the Krishnagor College for five years ...ore coming to Calcutta. Was removed from the Hindoo School for misconduct and placed in the Doveton College where he read for near two years. Was very smart and intelligent, but very viciously disposed which rendered it necessary to remove him from this Institution.	
11	Kashiprasad Bakshi ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Oct. 1857 ...	18 0 0	1 1 0	This young man came with the preceding and was the son of his minister. He was expelled from the Institution for misconduct within thirteen months after admission.	
12	Gajendranarayana Raya ...	Midnapur ...	1st March 1857...	„ ...	8 4 0	.....	Entered the Court of Wards on the 30th November 1854, and read at the Midnapur School for two years before coming to Calcutta. Commenced his studies at this Institution with the Easy Primer and is now reading in the Fourth Class of the Hindoo School.	
13	Raghunath Mansingh ...	Cuttack ...	11th June 1857...	6th June 1863...	13 0 0	6 0 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 8th January 1857, and commenced his studies with the English and Bengalee Alphabets; made fair progress in his studies. When he left this Institution he could write with great facility in Bengalee and Ooriah, and also write short letters in English, I have heard nothing against his character since his leaving this place.	Raghunath Mansingh is the Rajah of Dompora, an Intra-Regulation Tributary Estate. He left the Wards' Institute in April 1863. His people, when he came amongst them, were extremely dissatisfied, declared he had become a regular Bengallee, and complained that they could neither gain access to him nor get him to attend to his affairs. Matters have somewhat improved since then; but I fear the young Rajah is not likely ever to do credit to his education.
14	Niladri Sing ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10 0 0	6 0 0	Came under the jurisdiction of the Court of Wards on the 8th January 1857, and commenced with the Alphabets; made fair progress in his studies for the time he was in School; was removed from School by his brother long before attaining his majority.	
15	Nanda Kishor Bhupati ...	Sukindah ...	3rd Sept. 1858 ...	July 1862 ...	15 9 0	3 10 0	Came under the jurisdiction of the Court of Wards on the 23rd December 1858, and commenced with the Ooriah, Bengalee and English Alphabets in the sixteenth year of his age, read for three years and ten months. I have heard nothing against his charater since his leaving Calcutta.	Nanda Kishor Bhupati, Rajah of Sukindah, left the Institute in July 1862. He was in it about four years, seemed to have made good use of his time, and was undoubtedly, when he returned to Cuttack, wonderfully improved in mind and manners. But I am told that he is by degrees relapsing into the indolent habits to which the Tributary Rajahs are prone, and leaves the care of his killah to his subordinates. He however like the other Rajah resides in his Estates, and bears a good character.

(12)

								Remarks of Collector Mr. G. A. Peper submitted without Commissioner's comment.
16	Nobin Kishor Choudhary ...	Bhuluah ...	22nd Jan. 1859 ...	16th June 1864...	13 0 0	5 6 0	Entered the Court of Wards in 1857, and read at the Bhuluah School for two years. Commenced his studies here with the Reader No. I, ascended to the Fifth Class in five years; was very well behaved and honest at School and has not belied his character since.	Nobin Kishor and Chunder Coomar Roy, the former of whom has attained his majority, and has come in possession of his Estate in August last. From enquiries I learn that his general behaviour has been satisfactory during the short time he has left the Institution and in tenants speak well of him, but it remains yet to be seen what effect his education may have had.
17	Baidyanath Pándit ...	Cuttack ...	21st Mar. 1861 ...	„ ...	14 0 0	.....	Entered the Court of Wards on the 29th February 1860 commenced his studies in the last Class of t... Hindoo School on the fourteenth year of his ag... and is now reading in the Fourth Class.	
18	Chandra Kumar Choudhary	Bhuluah ...	27th Sep. 1862 ...	„ ...	8 0 0	1 9 0	I... d the last Class of the Hindoo School on th... 7th September 1862 and was in the Ninth Cla... n June 1864, whence he retired with his bro... n the tenth year of his age. He is now stu... g in the Bhuluah School.	
19	Wumesh Chandra Ráya ...	Moorshedabad ...	9th Feb. 1863 ...	„ ...	11 0 0	.....	Entere... the Court of Wards on the 12th January 1854, ...nd read on the Moorshedabad College for four years before coming to Calcutta. On admission to this Institution entered the Seventh Class of the Hindoo School, and is now studying in the Fourth Class.	
20	Prithavinath Mandhata ...	Midnapur ...	6th May 1863 ...	„ ...	13 0 0	.....	Lost his father and came under the Court of Wards in 1855, but his Estate was soon after released. On the 26th August 1862, his Estate was for the second time sent to the Court of Wards. He had read for three years at the Midnapur School, but made no progress whatever. Commenced here with the Easy Primer in the last Class of the Hindoo School and is now reading the Reader No. II. in the Eighth Class.	
21	Pramathanath Ráya ...	Rajshahi ...	30th May 1863 ...	„ ...	15 0 0	.....	Commenced his studies at the sixth year of his age in his father's School at Deghaputty. Entered the Court of Wards on the 16th May 1862 and read at the Beauleah School for a year. Entered the Third Class of the Hindoo School in 1863, and is now reading in the First Class.	
22	Hemanath Dutt ...	24-Pergunnahs ...	23rd Sep. 1863 ...	„ ...	11 0 0	.....	Entered the Court of Wards on the 12th February 1862, and came to this Institution in September 1863. He began his studies in the Ninth Class of the Hindoo School, and is now reading in the Seventh Class.	
23	Surendranath Dutt ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ ...	9 0 0	.....	Entered the Court of Wards on the 12th February 1862, and came to this Institution in September 1863. He began his studies in the last Class of the Hindoo School, and is now reading the Reader No. II.	
24	Padmanath Choudhary ...	Dinagepur ...	21st Nov. 1863 ...	November 1864...	14 0 0	1 2 0	Entered the Court of Wards on the 2nd May 1863, and commenced his studies here, with the English Alphabet. Died at Benares in December last.	

(13)

Nos.	Names of Wards.	Districts.	Date of arrival.	Date of discharge.	Ages at the time of admission.	Period of stay in the Wards' Institution.	Remarks.	Commissioner's Remarks.
					Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.		
25	Baidyanath Choudhary ...	Dinagepur ...	21st Nov. 1863 ...	November 1864 ...	8 0 0	.....	Entered the Court of Wards on the 2nd May 1863, and commenced his studies here with the Bengali and English Alphabets. Now living in the Benares Wards' Institution.	
26	Rajendra Kishor Choudhary	Mymensing ...	15th Dec. 1864 ...	„ ...	15 0 0	.....	Lost his father seven years ago; had a private teacher at home, but could barely recognise the Bengali and English letters at the time of admission to this Institution on the fifteenth year of his age. He is now reading the Reader No. I.	
27	Surryakanth Achargya ...	Ditto ...	30th Jan. 1865 ...	„ ...	16 0 0	.....	Was adopted by his mother nine years ago; came under the Court of Wards in 1864. Had a private teacher at home, but at the time of admission into this Institution could not spell words of one syllable. Is now reading the Reader No. I.	

Wards' Institution,
The 22nd May 1865.

Rajendralala Mitra,
Director, Government Wards.

Exd. C. Barlow.]

REVENUE.

FROM

THE SECY. TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE

L. P.

D. 24th July.

R. 7th Aug.

No. 236.

PROGS. FOR OCTOBER 1865.

Nos. 37-38.

IN reply to orders No. 1018, dated 13th March last, submits with Boards remarks a report by the Director of Government Wards, giving an account of the working of the Ward's Institution in Calcutta, since it was opened in March 1856.

Memorandum from T. B. LANE, ESQ., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—
(No. 451A., dated the 8th February 1867.)

SUBMITTED to the Government of Bengal, with a suggestion that it be published in the supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette*.

From BABOOS ROMMANATH TAGORE, DEGAMBER MITRA and HURENDRA KRISHNA, Visitors of the Wards' Institutions, to T. B. LANE, ESQ., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,—(dated the 21st January 1867.)

SIR,

WE have the honor to submit the following report on the progress of the Wards' Institution for the official year 1865-66:—

Number of Boys.

2. The total number of boys who have been in the Institution during the year under report was twelve, of whom one has been sent to his native district, the profits of his estate, greatly reduced by certain recent adverse decision of the High Court, being insufficient to defray the expenses of his stay in Calcutta, and another to the Benares Wards' Institution by order of the Board of Revenue, leaving 10 names on the rolls at the close of April last. The accessions during the year were three.

Age, caste, and birth place.

3. The ages of the boys now in the Institution range between 7 to 18 years, four of them being under the 13th and six above the 15th year of their age. They belong to the several castes of Brahmins (4), Kabetreas (1), Kayasthoo (2), Tili (1), and Jugis (2). Two of them are from the district of Mymensing, one from Cuttack, two from the 24-Pergunnahs, two from Dinagepur, one from Rajshahye, and two from Midnapoor.

Course of Instruction.

4. The course of instruction followed by the boys continues the same as heretofore. They read at home for two hours in the morning and evening, and attend the Hindoo School for six hours during the day. The reading at home is carried on under the Director aided by three English Tutors and a Pundit. The routine followed appears to us in every way judicious. Sufficient opportunities are given to the boys both in the morning and in the afternoon for relaxation and healthful recreation, without any encroachment upon their proper time of study.

General progress.

5. The advantages derived under this course of tuition have been marked. All the boys got their promotion at the last annual examination of the Hindoo School, and one successfully passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University. At the 1st quarterly examination of 1865 Promothanath Roy stood 7th in a class of 50, and Baidyanath 4th in a class of 30, and they maintained those positions to the end of the year. At the annual examination Baidyanath Pundit Umesh Chunder Roy, Hemanath Dutt, and Rajendrakishore Chowdhury obtained more than half the number of marks attainable in their respective classes,* one-third being considered sufficient for promotion. The result of the first quarterly examination of the current year was equally favourable to the boys. It shewed Hemanath to be the 12th in a class of 38, Soorendra 20th in a class of 35, and Rajendra Kishore 10th in a class of 31. The most unsuccessful on that occasion were Prithninath Roy, Brindabun Chunder Chowdhury and Juggut Chunder Chowdhury. They stood 22nd and 30th in classes of 35 and 32, respectively. Juggut proved the most backward, but he is young and smart, and has every prospect of improving, but his brother, Brindabun, the Director reports, is a big, stubborn, stupid boy, never likely to learn any thing.

* *Memorandum of Marks obtained.*

	Number obtained.	Number obtainable.
Gajendranarayana Roy	29	80
Umesh Chunder Roy	51½	0
Baidyanath Pundit	53½	0
Hemanath Dutt	27½	50
Soorendranath Dutt	18	40
Prithninath Mandhata	16	0
Rajendrakishore Chowdhury	22	35
Soorjokanto Acharjee	17	0
Brindabun Chowdhury	10	0

Drawing class.

6. The progress made by the boys in drawing appears to us to be perfectly satisfactory. The time devoted to this branch of their study is limited to two hours a week.

Library.

7. We are glad to notice that the Director has placed a small library of Juvenile books at the disposal of the boys, with a view to encourage in them the habit of reading for entertainment, and they freely make use of the same. The library should be extended by the addition, from time to time, of books of *fairy tales* and the like, so that the boys may always be attracted by variety and novelty.

8. The Director reports the conduct of the boys to have been generally good. The Order Book kept by him shows only a few cases of corporal punishment and those only for boyish faults, which, however much requiring correction, do not imply habitual or serious misconduct. Considering that most of the boys come to the Institution at an advanced age and very much spoilt by overindulgence, it is satisfactory to know that their official guardian has so little to complain of them.

Conduct.

9. Every encouragement is afforded to the boys to betake themselves to active out-door exercise. A teacher of gymnastics attends on them every day, opportunities are allowed them to indulge in such games as cricket, quoits, hoops and trapbat; horses are placed at command for riding, and walking and swimming are daily enforced. We have often noticed that the boys take to these exercises with alacrity and have derived much benefit from them.

Exercise.

10. The sanitary condition of the Institution continues perfectly satisfactory. The boys look cheerful and in good health, and we understand that none of them had to complain of any serious illness. In our visits during the year under report, we did not notice any case of sickness.

Health.

11. In an Institution kept up for rich youths who are permitted to retain each a separate establishment of his own, and have guns and saddle horses, the average cost per boy must be heavy. But it was not much more so in the last than in former years. The total of the general charges amounted to Rupees 17,014-10-10 against Rupees 16,177-4-1 of 1864-65, shewing an increase of Rupees 737-6-9. A part (Rupees 299) of the increase is due to additional teachers having been retained from the beginning of the year, a part to the interest due to Government for advances received from the General Treasury having increased to Rupees 1,008-4-6 from Rupees 859-5-4 of 1864-65, and a part (Rupees 289-3-10) to increased cost of lighting and contingencies.

Expense General.

12. The personal expenses for boarding, clothing, tuition, saddle horses, and private servants for (12) twelve boys for 124 months amounted to Rupees 24,588-7-10 against Rupees 18,905-10-8 for 14 boys for 111 Months in 1864-65. The apparent increase is Rupees 5,682-13-2, or Rupees 27-15-7 per boy per month; but if a rateable allowance be made for the difference in the number of months during which the boys lived in the Institution in the two years, the actual increase would amount to Rupees 3,468 10-6½. Nor is that a fair index of the actual increase on account of the wards generally, for out of Rupees 3,468-10-6½, Rupees 1,920 are due to the cost of Arab horses purchased for three of the rich boys, and Rupees 959-13-3 for stabling, leaving Rupees 488-13-3½ to be placed to account of the recent heavy rise in the cost of food and clothing. The highest cost for any one boy during the year amounted to Rupees 4,353-12-6, and the lowest to Rupees 1,187-4-8, the average being Rupees 2,049-0-7. In 1864-65 the highest was Rupees 2,692-4-3 and the lowest Rupees 1,219-8-9, the average being Rupees 1,636-1-10. Some of us have examined the lists of daily ration and clothing allowed to the boys, and are of opinion that the Director exercises judicious discretion in checking extravagance, without in any way denying the boys any of the comforts and conveniences which they would have enjoyed had they remained at home.

Personal expense.

13. We give in the margin the names of the Gentlemen who visited the Institution during the year under report. The remarks made by them in the Visitors' Book are uniformly satisfactory. His Excellency the Viceroy, with his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and the Honorable W. Grey, visited the Institution in November 1865, and were, we understand, perfectly satisfied with every thing he saw.

Visitors.

Names of Visitors.	*No. of times visited.*
His Excellency the Viceroy ...	1
His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor ...	1
Honorable W. Grey	1
R. N. Shore, Esq.	1
R. B. Chapman, Esq.	3
Baboo Romanath Tagore	3
E. T. Trevor, Esq.	1
Kumar Hurendra Krishna Bahadoor ...	2
C. T. Buckland Esq.	1
Baboo Degumber Mitra	1
Baboo Chunder Mohun Chatterjee ...	2

14. In conclusion we have to add that we have had every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the Director, Baboo Rajendralala Mitra, conducted his duties in connection with the Institution during the period under review.

Director.

T. B. L.

REVENUE.

FROM

THE SECRETARY, BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.

D. 8th
R. 14th } Feb.

No. 451

PRODA. FOR FEBRUARY 1867

No. 137

Submits a Report on the progress of the Wards' Institution for 1865-66, and suggests that it be published in the supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette*.

From T. B. LANE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated the 27th February 1866.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 1566 of the 24th April 1865, and subsequent reminders, to the address of Mr. H. Woodrow, Pundit Ishwar Chunder Surma, and myself, I have the honor to forward three reports containing the views of the Committee then appointed to consider the constitution and management of the Wards' Institution.

2. The Committee met on several occasions, and after their receipt of the replies of the district authorities, who had been addressed with regard to the after-career of those wards who had left the Institution, I drew up in July last the report which is now submitted under my signature.

3. I believed that this report, with perhaps some slight alterations, would represent the opinion of the Committee on the whole subject; but I regret to say that my colleagues have expressed their entire inability to sign it, and have preferred to submit reports altogether separate.

4. It is necessary that I should explain briefly why I have been unable to concur with my colleagues on two important points, on which they have especially dwelt.

5. Mr. Woodrow, in his 3rd paragraph, expresses his conviction that I have not "fully represented the causes of the general distrust respecting the Institution," and he here refers, I believe, to my silence regarding the personal influence of the Director on the wards under his charge. I must therefore distinctly state that I have never received from any one any information which could justify me in suspecting that the present Director has, in the slightest matter, offered an injurious example to the wards under his charge. On the contrary, when on hearing from my colleagues that they had received reports to that effect, I asked them to enable me to satisfy myself on such an important point. They replied, as Mr. Woodrow has now stated in his 3rd paragraph that their informants would not consent to have any use made of their knowledge, I have thus actually no grounds whatever for representing to Government that the personal character of the Director has had any detrimental effect on the wards.

6. I have also been unable to concur in the objections raised by Pundit Ishwar Chunder Surma to the infliction of corporal punishment on the wards in any case. If this means of discipline were taken out of the hands of the Director, there would virtually be no power of control left for the worst cases, that is for those in which it is alone efficacious. Mere confinement or extra tasks are far more objectionable, as shortening the hours of relaxation and exercise, and perhaps causing ill-health. I have not therefore proposed to take away from the Director the power of corporal punishment now exercised by him in exceptional cases, being assured that the wards will not in the least degree be exposed to any risk of receiving indiscriminate severity of treatment.

From H. Woodrow, Esq., M. A., Officiating Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated the 24th February 1866.)

Sir,

On the 24th April 1865, I was honored by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in being appointed a Member of a Committee to report "on the whole question of the constitution and management of the Wards' Institution." The Committee consisted of Mr. T. B. Lane, Pundit Ishwar Chunder Bidyasagar and myself, and we were directed to report on three points. First, the expediency of transferring the Institution to Kishnaghur; secondly, on the management, education, and conduct of the wards from the time of arrival to the time of their return to their homes; and thirdly, on the practical working of the present system, as evidenced by the after-career of young men brought up in the Institution.

2. The Committee unfortunately have not been able to agree on a report Mr. T. B. Lane has prepared, one embodying his own views of the case, and Pundit Ishwar Chunder Bidyasagar refers to his report of the 11th January 1865, as Visitor of the Institution, for an exposition of his opinions. I regret that I cannot entirely agree with either of them, and am therefore obliged to submit my own views separately.

3. Mr. Lane in his report has considered the subjects for investigation seriatim, and it will only waste the time of Government if they are again to be discussed at length. I shall therefore confine my observations chiefly to the points on which I differ from Mr. Lane, or on which he has decided to make no remarks. My objections to Mr. Lane's report proceed not so much from dissent to what he has said, as from my conviction that he does not fully represent the causes of the general distrust respecting the Institution; causes, which if well founded, explain why its results have been unsatisfactory. It would have saved me much pain had I never been appointed on the Committee, or had I been able to subscribe to Mr. Lane's report. As it is, I do not know whether a notice of the after-career of some of the young men brought up in the Institution, or a free discussion of the whole question of the management, may not necessitate remarks so disparaging to the parties concerned as to be libellous even though true; and I do not understand how far a privileged communication, as this is, may be allowed to cover an expression of the views of a public officer. Native gentlemen also have given me their opinions in private, but will not allow me to use their information publicly. This is another cause of reluctance in submitting my report. Still the letter of the Government of Bengal appears to me to call on the Committee to go to the root of the matter, and to shirk nothing that is unpleasant. We are expressly told to consider "the *whole* question" and to notice the "practical working of the present system, as evidenced by the after-career of young men brought up in the Institution."

4. The first point submitted for our consideration is the expediency of the removal of the Institution from Calcutta to Kishnaghur. As regards the place in which the Wards' Institution should be located, difference of opinion exists. Calcutta has advantages in facility of supervision and in its exhibitions of engineering skill, which the Moffusil does not possess. On these advantages the Board of Revenue and the Director of Wards fix their attention. But the country is believed by the great landholders, for whose sons the Court of Wards is established, to be healthier than Calcutta, and to be freeer from temptations to vice. Zemindars of Bengal think of Calcutta, as Tacitus did of Rome, that "everything bad on the earth finds its way thither and is practised." The Board of Revenue looks chiefly at the advantages of Calcutta, the zemindars at its disadvantages.

5. I am of opinion that Benares, rather than Calcutta or the Mofussil, would be the place of all India most acceptable to Hindu zemindars as the residence of the wards. The objection to it on the ground of Bengalee not being the vernacular language there, is partly met by the consideration that a large Bengalee population is resident at the Bengaleetollah, and that multitudes of Bengalee widows long to live and die at Benares. It is seen from the Hatimpore minor's case that Benares is infinitely preferred to Calcutta. The fine physique of the Raja of Vizianagram is an example of the beneficial effects of the climate of Benares on school boys.

6. If it should be considered that the Institution must be placed where the Bengalee language is spoken, the choice lies between Calcutta and the country. It cannot be said that Calcutta is healthier than London; yet in England the question of town or country for the locality of a school has lately been considered, and settled in favor of the country. The Wellington College for the sons of officers of the army is not fixed near London.

7. If the known objections of Mofussil zemindars to Calcutta as the residence of wards are allowed to have any influence, I should recommend Beerbhoom in preference to any other Mofussil station. Kishnaghur and Hooghly have of late years become unhealthy, and on this account must now be left out of consideration.

Beerbhoom has these advantages: it is healthier than Calcutta, and is believed by zemindars to be so.

It is freeer than Calcutta from drinking and other fashionable vices, and is believed by zemindars to be so.

It has an excellent school, quite good enough for the wards, and those who pass the entrance could read higher subjects with the Director himself.

It is accessible in a few hours from Calcutta, for the Members or the Secretary of the Board of Revenue could visit and inspect it, and in 24-hours return to Calcutta.

8. The letters and documents forwarded by Government for the information of the Committee regarding the management of the Wards' Institution are numerous, but the most important are the memorials of the zemindars of Rajshahye against the Institution, and the report of the Board of Revenue on the working of the Institution since its establishment. This last report is dated 24th July 1865, and was forwarded to us on the 5th February 1866. It contains a statement prepared by Baboo Rajendro Lal Mittra of the names of the wards admitted into the Institution, and of the advantages they have derived therefrom. The opinion of the Director concerning his wards is naturally more favorable than that of the Commissioners of Revenue, whose remarks on the ex-wards are quoted, and the Commissioner's opinion is more favorable than that of the public.

9. Of the twenty-seven wards named in the list, nine were in the Institution, and their progress I note in an appended Statement. Six were removed before the completion of their course, or after staying but a few months in Calcutta, and the Institution cannot be held responsible for their future conduct. Eleven only resided more than one year and left the Institution on attaining majority. It is by the conduct of these eleven that the practical working of the Institution is, as required by Government, to be evidenced.

10. But it is not an easy matter in some cases to determine whether the after-career is, or is not, creditable to the Institution. The description of the after-career of the Rajshahye wards, Jogendro Narayan, and Purush Narayan, given by Baboo Rajendro Lal, differs widely from that given by the sixty landholders of Rajshahye. The former describes them as excellent, with the single drawback that Jogendro Narayan died withing two years of "protracted jungle fever and high living." On the other hand, sixty landholders of Rajshahye and adjacent districts headed by the Raja Chunder Shekur Roy, whose beneficial influence and noble conduct were lately mentioned publicly by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor with high commendation, presented to Government a petition against the Wards' Institution based on the results of its operations. The petitioners state that "so far as their *observation extended*," they were forced to conclude that the Institution, instead of promoting the development of the mental and moral faculties of the wards, was calculated in their judgment to undermine the foundation of their morality and religion. They go on to say that this fact is "painfully exemplified in the case of certain young men who have received their training in the Institution," * * and who in Calcutta "contracted habits of intemperance, which have impaired their physical and moral health." The local authorities at Rajshahye in 1862 arrived at the same conclusion as the zemindars, expressly stating that "the Wards' Institution in Calcutta had not gained much in the estimation of the 'Native community in these parts' by the *recent examples* of the pupils it had sent out." The only examples at that time being Jogendro Narayan and Purush Narayan; the remarks of the zemindars apply to them. Jogendro Narayan died of drunkenness and debauchery, and Purush Narayan is remarkably ignorant both of English and the Vernacular, and could not have been worse brought up had his training in boyhood been confided entirely to amlahs and the zenana. The Commissioner, however, says that he is a tolerably fair specimen of an *uneducated* Bengalee gentleman, and that he owes little to the Wards' Institution.

11. Then, again, differences of opinion exist in the estimation of the character of other ex-wards. The Director says of Krishna Mohun Bose, of Cuttack, that he is generally liked in his country; but the Commissioner states that he shews "little aptitude for mixing with his equals in Native society; that he is of a 'silent, reserved disposition, and somewhat deficient in intellect,' and that he has derived no benefit from his Calcutta education."

12. The ex-wards at Bulloooah is said by the Collector, in a letter to Mr. Lane, to be "reserved and morose, and to evince no public spirit;" the Director says he was well behaved and honest at school, and has not belied his character since.

13. Raghunath Mansingh, the Raja of Domessara, is said to seclude himself and to "take no interest in his affairs," and that he is "not likely to do credit to his education." Mr. Shore told me that immediately after returning to Cuttack the Raja broke up the school that had been held for some years in his village of Doompar, and banished education from his estates. The Director observes that he has heard nothing against Mansingh's character since his leaving Calcutta.

14. In the case of the Raja Nundo Kissore Bhupati, the good received in the Institution seems to be evaporating. He is "relapsing into the indolent habits to which the Tributary Rajas are prone, and leaves the case of his territory to his subordinates." The Director states that he has heard nothing against his character since he left Calcutta.

15. Narendro Narayan Roy is highly spoken of by the Commissioner as a good landlord. From my own knowledge I can declare that he does nothing whatever for education, nor for roads. Mr. Hand, the Principal of the Berhampore College, has tried hard to procure from him even a small contribution towards the College building, but has been unsuccessful.

16. Kishori Lal Roy, of Rajshahye, has left the Institution but a short time, and the Commissioner makes no report concerning him. Baboo Rajendro Lal says that he is esteemed and respected by his neighbours, and well spoken of by the officials of his district.

This lad may be allowed as yet to be a favorable example of the training of the Institution. I have heard that he is as fond of low buffoons and of flatterers as an uneducated zemindar could be. But I do not wish to say anything against a young man just starting in life, further than that his example has not yet led his neighbours to alter their opinion of the Institution.

17. These are the eight ex-wards whose career is noticed by the Director in terms implying that they bring credit to the Institution. The remaining three are allowed on all hands to be a discreditable set. They are the Raja of Cooch Behar and one of his dissolute companions; and the Rajah of Julpigooree. The poor Raja of Cooch Behar killed himself, as is well known, by drunkenness and debauchery; but the Rajah of Julpigooree had a much worse character. Baboo Rajendro Lal says of him merely that "he was dull, heavy, and stubborn, not given to business and easily led by his dependants." But the Commissioner says that the Julpigooree Raja "bore the very worst of characters," and was "held in no respect by any class of society," and was "much addicted to drink," and "during fits of intoxication was sometimes guilty of brutal acts." I have been informed that in one of his beastly orgies he stripped his wife naked and pelted her with knives. It is a relief to the country that he is dead, but is no credit to the Institution that he is the third ex-ward who has killed himself by debauchery and drunkenness.

18. The after-career of the ex-wards, as shewn by the above statements, may thus, in my opinion, be summed up: one is good; one is fair; three do not bring discredit on the Institution; three do bring discredit on the Institution; and three have killed themselves by drunkenness and debauchery.

Hence the after-career of six out of the eleven is bad. A clear majority of the results are discreditable. The practical working therefore of the present system, so far as it is evidenced by the after-career of young men brought up in the Institution, is most unsatisfactory.

19. The Director, however, may object to have his labours judged of by results. He may dispute the justice of allowing the practical working of the system to be evidenced by the after-career of the wards. It is therefore fair to say something concerning the wards while under his charge.

20. The training of the wards at the Institution may be considered under the usual heads of physical, mental, and moral. The physical training is much better than in other schools, partly because the wards are able to pay for horses, guns, &c., and partly because the special attention of the Director is given to the matter. On my visits to the Institution I have been glad to see the case given to riding, swimming, and other means of exercise.

21. The mental progress of the boys is as much as perhaps can be expected. In July last when I visited the Hindu school to see the progress of the wards, I found that Promotha Nauth, of Rajshahye, was about 8th in the first class, but at the entrance examination he was beaten by twenty boys in that class, though he had the advantage of a private tutor all the time. I think that he has been somewhat declining during the year.

22. Boidya Nauth Pundit, of Cuttack, at the Christmas examination came out 4th in Section A. of the fourth class. To stand fourth among thirty boys is very creditable. He has done better than any other boy in the Institution. In Section B. of the same class, containing also thirty boys, Womesh Chunder and Jogendro Narayan stood 8th and 20th, respectively.

23. Hem Chunder Dutt was 12th among the thirty-five boys of the fourth class, and Rajendro Kissore Roy was 9th among the twenty-seven boys of the last class.

Shurindo Nauth Dutt, Prithibee Nauth Sing, Soorgy Kanto Achargee, and Bindabun Chunder Chowdry, stood very low in their respective class. Private tutors and private pundits are entertained for the boys out of school hours, so that the amount of tuition is rather overdone. The boys are so helped over their difficulties that they cannot work without aid.

24. Pundit Ishwar Chunder Bidyasagar recommends private tuition in preference to a public school for the wards. The arguments *pro* and *con* about public schools have been stated hundreds of times. Every gentleman in England with fortune enough to pay a good tutor has considered the question most anxiously, and the result is that the public schools are filled with their sons. The pundit has overlooked the fact that a boy in a class learns almost as much from the mistakes of others as from his own. I cordially approve of the system of public school institution especially in the case of wards. Even a big stupid ward in a large school has a chance of "having the nonesense taken out of him," and that is no slight advantage.

25. The mental training may be considered as fair as can be reasonably expected; but the credit, if any, is due to the Hindu school, and not to the Director. I am not aware that the Director teaches the wards at all.

26. The third point to be considered, and the most important by far of the whole, is the moral training of the boys. Visitors at once can see the physical training of the wards and can test their intellectual attainments, but their moral discipline is not to be thus easily determined. Boys learn virtuous habits by example rather than by precept. All the preaching in the world will do no good without practice. But in a boarding establishment this example is not merely what is seen by the boys, but what is believed by them. The traditions of a school are, as is shewn in Tom Brown's school days, powerful in determining the character of the boys. Few boys, out of the sixth form, knew any thing of Dr. Arnold, yet the influence of his character pervaded Rugby. Boys are influenced by what they believe the character of their master to be, rather than by what they see it to be: for it may be assumed that a man would not only be bad, but an idiot besides, to misconduct himself in the sight of his boys. It may be granted that the wards see nothing wrong inside the walls of the Institution, and that all is done to keep them from evil that lock and key can do. Yet this has not influenced them, and cannot influence them for good. It keeps them for a time from getting drunk, and picking up diseases, and that is all. It has no power to control their passions, or to modify their future conduct, or to impress principles of action. Training in a course of temperance, fairness, and chastity, requires some thing much deeper. I admit that in an Institution for Hindu wards this training can only be imperfectly given. But still all that can be done should be done, and it must be done by way of example. The traditions that the boys have of the life and conduct of their Director and trainer in the course of virtue will powerfully affect their after life. If the boys believe that their tutor and guide has not been a moral man, it is absurd to suppose that they will continue moral when they get a chance to go astray. The belief of the wards on such a point will be somewhat according to the belief of their relatives, friends, and neighbours. Two considerations will shew what this belief is.

27. A fundamental rule of the Institution from the very commencement to the present time is that the wards from the moment of their admission shall be placed under the sole guardianship of the Director, who shall exercise entire control over them. This principle runs through the entire series of regulations. The Director punishes, and even, if necessary flogs the wards, prescribes their bounds, grants them leave to go beyond these bounds, gives permission to relatives to see the wards in the Institution, is present at the interview, takes care that no objectionable persons find admission on any pretext whatever, sees that no one resides in the Institution who is not connected with it, and has power over all who do so reside.

28. Thus the sole and entire control of the wards is known to have been placed in the hands of Baboo Rajendro Lal Mittra from the very first. This fact must be borne in mind in reading the explanatory petition of the Raja Chunder Shekur Roy in the name of sixty landholders of Rajshahye and adjacent districts.

29. The petition is dated the 27th March 1863, and its 5th and 6th paragraphs run thus:

Paragraph 5.—"That your petitioners also prayed that the minors might be allowed to complete the University entrance course in their Native districts before their admission into the Wards' Institution, because the secret influence exercised by the minors' relatives and respectable neighbours has a greater tendency to prevent them from contracting outlandish vices than the *discipline maintained* in the Wards' Institution in *its present form*."

Paragraph 6.—"In conclusion your petitioners beg to add that as it is quite natural for the young boys to *imitate* the *habits* of their *superiors* and instructors, it is desirable that the minors should be placed under the *control* of *such persons as are* of unblemished *private character and altogether free from the vices complained of*."

30. The assertion that the discipline maintained in the Wards' Institution "in its present form," does not tend to counteract outlandish vices, that the wards imitate the habits of their superiors and instructors, and that they should be placed under the *control* of such persons only as are of unblemished private character and altogether free from the vices complained of," can mean nothing but this; that Baboo Rajendro Lal Mittra, who alone exercises control over wards, is not in the opinion of the petitioners a person of unblemished private character, and is not free from what they term outlandish vices.

31. This objection to the moral character of Baboo Rajendro Lal Mittra is not confined merely to the people of the Mofussil. The newspapers in Calcutta, which are unfavorable to the Institution always, allude to it as one of the chief complaints against the Institution. The form in which the objection is urged, is almost exactly the same as that advanced by the Raja Chunder Shekur Roy. There is a constant harping on the bad example presented to the wards, on the models for their imitation being immoral, on the present management of the Institution being bad, on the wards being under the control of persons of vicious character, &c. I should not qnote Native newspapers at all, or place them on the same footing in point of authority with the Raja Chunder Shekur Roy and his co-petitioners, but the Government now sees fit to enquire into the statements made in these papers, and therefore I think it right to point out the meaning of these notices. The complaint is general, because fear of the law of libel—the law that sent the Reverend J. Long to prison, forbids these writers being more explicit in their statements.

32. Several Native gentlemen of Calcutta have spoken with me on the subject and shewn that the views of the Raja Chunder Shekur Roy are entertained in Calcutta as well as in the Mofussil. All acknowledge that Baboo Rajendro Lal Mittra is a man of brilliant talents, but they think he has mistaken his vocation in attempting to guide young Hindus in the path of virtue and temperance. People note that Baboo Rajendro Lal's companions and friends, as well as his pupils die, of excess.

33. Every ward but one, excepting of course those that were before in the hands of Government, has been brought to the Institution by force. Rajas and landholders still living,

and not infatuated women and designing underlings, are the parties who object to this state of things. A parent has a right to object to his son's, when he is dead, being brought *vi et armis* by Government to a place where results are so very bad. He likes the Court of Wards in revenue matters, for his property would be well looked after in the minority of his son, but he detests the Institution in which the boy would, he believes, be led astray.

34. The question to be considered is, not whether the moral character of Baboo Rajendro Lal Mittra is good or bad, but what is the belief of the Mofussil zemindars concerning it. If they believe it to be bad, it is a cruel hardship to them to know that on their death the Police will burst open their zenanas and drag their sons to a place where little but vice and depravity seems to them to be learnt.

35. There are many branches of the public service in which Baboo Rajendro Lal's private character would never be liable to be discussed, and in my opinion he would be better employed there than in a sphere where the influence of private moral character is of supreme importance, and where unhappily in this one respect only he does not enjoy the confidence of a large and influential body of his fellow-countrymen.

LIST of Wards who have entered the Calcutta Institution.

Number on printed list.	Length of stay in the Institution.	Report by Director of Wards.	Report by Commissioners of Revenue.	Remarks.
	Yrs. Mhs. Days.			
1	7 10 0	He is very well spoken of, as a zemindar and gentleman, by his neighbours.	He is held in high respect by his neighbours.	He gives nothing and takes no interest in colleges, schools and dispensaries or roads. The Principal of the Berhampore College has tried hard to obtain from him a subscription to the building, but has been unsuccessful. The Inspector finds that Raja Nundo Narayan neglects Vernacular schools, English schools, and colleges all alike.
2	7 2 0	He is a strict Hindoo, and generally liked in his country.	He is of a silent, reserved disposition, and somewhat deficient in intellect	
3	4 0 0	He has greatly improved his property, without forfeiting the respect and affection of his tenantry.	Good ...	The letters of Messrs. Rivers Thompson and Sutherland shew the opinion of the local authorities.
4	3 10 0	Managed his estate very ably, but died within two years, of protracted jungle fever and high living.	No remarks ...	Killed himself by drunkenness and debauchery; pledged himself before his death to make all Puttea drunk.
5	5 10 5	Dull, heavy and stubborn. Not given to business, and easily led by his dependants.	He bears the very worst of characters. He is much addicted to drink, and during the fits of intoxication is sometime guilty of brutal acts.	Killed himself by drunkenness and debauchery; used to strip his wife naked and pelt her with knives.
6	7 10 0	He is a strict Hindoo, exemplary in his conduct. Esteemed and respected by his neighbours.		
7	Removed from the Court; his estate being insufficient to cover expenses.			
8 } 9 }	... ...	Residence too short.		
10	2 10 0 Raja of Cooch Behar.	Viciously disposed, and consequently removed.	... ...	Killed himself by drunkenness and debauchery.
11	1 1 0	Expelled from the Institution.	Board of Revenue says that the chance of the Institution doing good was vitiated by the inevitable contact (of certain wards) with such characters as Nos. 10 and 11.	Character unchanged, and the friend and companion of the above.
12	In School.			

Number on printed list.	Length of stay in the Institution.	Report by Director of Wards.	Report by Commissioners of Revenue.	Remarks.
	Yrs. Mhs. Days.			
13	6 0 0	I have heard nothing against his character since leaving this place.	I fear the young Raja is not likely to do credit to his education.	The first thing he did was to break up the school and to banish education from his estate.
14	6 0 0	Was removed from the Institution by his brother long before attaining his majority.	No remarks ...	This case does not count either way.
15	3 10 0	I have heard nothing against his character since his leaving Calcutta.	He is by degrees relapsing into indolent habits, and leaves the case of his killah to his subordinates. He, however, resides on his estate, and bears a good character.	
16	5 6 0	Was well behaved and honest at school, and has not belied his character since.	Conduct satisfactory; but it remains to be seen what effects his education may have had.	He is averse to society and morose.
17	In School. ...			
18	Removed to Bhuluah.			This case is excluded from consideration.
19 } 20 } 21 } 22 } 23 } 26 } 27 }	In the Institution.			
24	Died.			
25	Removed to Benares.			

The Wards now in the Institution are as follows:—

Number on Roll.

12. *Gajendranarayana Raya*, of Midnapore, entered 1st March 1857 at the age of 8 years 4 months. He studied in the Midnapore School two years before coming to Calcutta. He was placed in a low class of the Hindu School. He is now reading in the 4th class. He was absent both when I visited the Hindu School and twice when I visited the Institution. At the Christmas examination he stood 20th in a class of 30.

17. *Boidyanauth Pundit*, of Cuttack, admitted 21st March 1861, commenced his studies in the Hindu School in the last class and is now in the 4th class. He has thus got more than half-way through the Hindu School in four years. He went home for the Doorga Poojah vacation and returned after long exceeding his leave. This long suspension of study has put him back in his class. His teachers declare his conduct in school to be excellent. Before he left, his place in his class was always high. At the Christmas examination he stood 4th out of 30.

19. *Woomesh Chundra Raya*, of Moorshedabad, entered the Institution 9th February 1863, studied in the Berhampore College for four years before coming to Calcutta. He entered the 7th class of the Hindu School and is now in the 4th class. At the last examination he was 8th out of 30 boys in his class. He read fairly to me. He stood 8th in the Christmas examination.

20. *Prithurnauth Mandhata, called also Singh*, of Midnapore, entered Institution on 6th May 1863. Read four years in the Midnapore School, but was placed in the last class of the Hindu School. He is now in the 8th class. He behaves well at school, but in marks was 22nd out of 32, and some of the class were absent. His place, therefore, is low. His reading to me was not good. He stood 25th out of 34 in the Christmas examination.

21. *Promathanauth Raya*, of Rajshahye, commenced his studies at the 6th year of his age at his father's school at Digaputta. Read at the Bauleah School for a year after his father's death. Entered the Institution on 30th May 1863 at the age of 15 years, and was placed in the 3rd class of the Hindu School. He is now in the 1st class. At the last quarterly examination his place was 7th in a class of fifty boys.

He is a well conducted lad at school. In his arithmetic he was not so accurate, and in his algebra was not so sound as could be wished. His father by will placed him in the Institution.

P. S.—He passed in the Entrance Examination.

22. *Hemanauth Dutt*, of Muzzilpore, in the 24-Pergunnahs, entered the Institution on the 23rd September 1863 at the age of 11, and was placed in the 8th class of the Hindu School. He is now in the 5th class. He keeps about the middle of his class. At the last examination he gained 17 out of 60 marks. At the Christmas examination he was 12th out of 35.

23. *Surendranauth Dutt*, of the 24-Pergunnahs, was admitted to the Institution on the 23rd September 1863 at the age of 9 years. He began his studies in the last class of the Hindu School, and is now in the 8th class. His place is low in the class. He was about 23rd in a list of 32 and some were absent. Though near the bottom, he is stated by his teacher to be a well-behaved boy. His marks were 6 out of 40. His reading to me was pretty fair. At the Christmas examination he was 22nd out of 34.

25. *Buddenauth Chowdry*, of Dinagepore, entered 21st November 1863, studying at the Wards' Institution at Benares.

26. *Rajendra Kissore Chowdry or Roy*, of Mymensingh, entered the Institution on the 15th December 1864 at the age of 15 years. He lost his father seven years ago and had a private teacher at home. At the time of admission could not, it is said, spell words of one syllable. He was absent when I visited the Hindu School. He keeps about the middle of his class (the 9th.) When I examined him at the Institution I found his spelling fair, his reading middling, and his mental arithmetic with easy questions fair. At the Christmas examination he stood 9th out of 27.

27. *Soorjokanto Acharjee*, of Mymensingh, entered the Institution on 30th January 1865 at the age of 16 years, had a private tutor at home, but at the time of admission could not spell words of one syllable. He is now in the 9th class and reads the No. II. Reader. His place was about 20th in a class of 29. I found him very backward in his reading, spelling, and mental arithmetic. At the Christmas vacation he stood 19th out of 27.

The present position of these boys in the Hindu School is as follows:—

No. 21. *Promothanauth Raya*, 1st. Class, entered 30th May 1863.
„ 17. *Boidyanauth Pundit*, IVth. Class, entered 21st March 1861.
„ 19. *Womesh Chunder Raya*, IVth. Class, entered 9th February 1863.
„ 12. *Gajendranarayana Raya*, IVth. Class, entered 1st March 1857.
„ 22. *Hemanauth Dutt*, Vth. Class, entered 23rd September 1863.
„ 23. *Surendranauth Dutt*, VIIIth. Class, entered 23rd September 1863.
„ 20. *Prithur Nauth Singh*, VIIIth. Class, entered 6th May 1863.
„ 26. *Rajendra Kissore Chowdry*, IXth. Class, entered 15th December 1864.
„ 27. *Sorjakanta Acharjee*, IXth. Class, entered 30th January 1865.

MEMORANDUM.

The object of the Wards' Institution is to give the wards a fair amount of education, train them up as useful members of society, and turn them out good landlords. But the education they receive is scarcely worth the name, and they generally leave the Institution with a mere smattering of English, and with little or no rural training. Nor can any better results be expected in the existing order of things. To remedy the evils, certain suggestions were made by me in my report to the Board of Revenue, dated the 11th January last. I have deliberately re-considered them since the formation of the present Committee, and see no reason to change the opinions expressed in that paper. It is my firm conviction that the remodelling of the Institution on the plan suggested, is the only practicable means to better its condition, and to secure the beneficial results anticipated from the establishment of the Institution.

Great care should be taken in the selection of the teaching staff, in case it be determined to convert the Institution into a Boarding School, as suggested. They must be well educated men, experienced in training up children and youth, and free from fashionable vices. The management and control of the Institution should be vested in the Head Master. Under such arrangements, I feel assured that the prejudices entertained against the Institution, not without reason, would be removed, and the confidence of the public restored. But, if otherwise the Institution be maintained on its present footing, I shall not be sorry to see it closed at once.

The after-career of some of the young men brought up in the Institution does not reflect credit on it, though there are a few who are well spoken of. There are others again who may be considered as only indifferent. On the whole, the results do not appear to be satisfactory.

Removal of the Institution to Krishnaghur for the present is by no means safe, on account of the epidemic raging there. The places to which it can be removed with safety,

are either Beerbhoom or Berhampore. But if the changes suggested be carried out, I would prefer the Institution continuing in Calcutta, inasmuch as the supervision here, would I think, be more efficient than in the Mofussil. The frequent inspection of the visitors, as well as approximity of the controlling authorities, cannot fail to exercise an amount of beneficial influence on the Institution which will not easily be available in the Mofussil.

I think it would be highly advantageous to the wards if their term of minority extended to twenty-one years instead of eighteen years, as at present, as in that case they will have longer time for improving themselves, and they will enter upon the possession of their estates at an age when men's character are formed in a manner. This extension I believe will not be unacceptable to the class of zemindars, as I find that the British Indian Association sometime ago move the Legislature on the subject.

The 1st September 1865.

ISWAR CHUNDRA SURMA.

REPORT ON THE CALCUTTA WARDS' INSTITUTION.

SINCE the foundation of this Institution in 1855 twenty-seven Minors under the Court of Wards have been admitted, out of whom eighteen have at various times retired, either on attaining their majority, or from some special cause. Baboo Rajendra Lall Mitter was first appointed Director, and has remained in charge up to the present day, conducting the management of the Institution under detailed rules, which, after their necessary revision in 1862, now stand as reported by the Board of Revenue to Government on the 17th June 1863.

2. The Institution may be described as a Boarding House for Hindoo Minors under the Court of Wards, into which they are admitted ordinarily from the eighth to the fourteenth year of age, to be properly educated and trained until they attain to their majority. The rules established for their management provide also fully for all the personal arrangements suited to their station and caste, and they are under the immediate control and care of a resident Director, supervised by a Body of Visitors, composed of European and Native Officials, and Non-Officials. The Board of Revenue also exercise a general control over the Director's proceedings.

3. Under the rules above mentioned, distinct provision is made for private studies, for regular attendance at the School or College which each minor has entered, and for healthy exercise, a strict supervision being maintained as well when the boys are taken outside the premises to School or for exercise, as when they are within.

4. I am satisfied, both from personal enquiries, and from the reports contained in the correspondence forwarded for the consideration of the Committee, that the Director has in all points strictly observed the rules laid down for the management and control of the minors, during their entire stay in Calcutta. Whilst their personal comforts and amusements have been in all respects provided for, care has also been taken that they should never go anywhere without close supervision from either the Director, or some member of the establishment. As regards their education, also, regular attendance at School or College has been ensured, and the time passed by them inside the premises has been well apportioned for private study, for refreshment, and for their own leisure; and at all times they have had the benefit of the companionship of a thoroughly educated gentleman of their own class. Manly and honorable conduct has been encouraged in them, and sufficient power has been vested in the Director to enable him to meet any cases of serious breach of discipline or other misbehaviour. So far as the rules for the management and control of the Minors are concerned therefore, I have no alterations to suggest in the present system. The steps taken to provide proper education for the Minors may be best gathered from the Annual Reports. All the Wards without exception are entered at a School or College at the Presidency, which they attend during the regular hours from ten to four every day. For two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening they prepare their School lessons, and receive supplementary instruction in English composition, Drawing, Natural Philosophy, and their own Vernacular language.

5. There can be little doubt that no better system can be adopted, than that above described, for the education of boys who are able to begin this course when they are only eight years old. It has been calculated that the average time occupied in preparing for matriculation is ten years, and a boy arriving at the Institution when eight, nine, or even ten years old, has a fair chance of succeeding in passing well through this regular course of education. But out of twenty-seven, who have joined the Institution since its foundation, twenty one Wards were more than ten years old, and of these twenty-one, sixteen were more than twelve. Seventeen of the twenty-one came to the Institution with scarcely any knowledge at all, some being unable even to read or write, and others having only just begun the rudiments. As a matter of course the older these ignorant boys were, the more difficult they found it to make up for their deficiencies before they reached the age of eighteen; and in all these cases I have come to the conclusion that a departure from the regular course of education above described would have led to far better results. It appears certain that in sending boys of twelve and fourteen years old to a School where they would be placed in the lowest

class, with other boys barely eight years old, disdvantages would be experienced which could hardly fail to nullify all the good expected from the emulation and association of numbers in a public School. To many Wards placed in such a position the humiliation, which they naturally feel, in their generally unsuccessful competition with boys so much younger than themselves, must prove a most serious bar to progress. And to whomsoever may be attributed the mismanagement, which allowed so many of the Wards to grow up from childhood without any suitable education, the fact still remains that only a few out of the many Wards who have entered the Institution could possibly pass through the regular course of Calcutta education. The plan thus hitherto pursued has been long and fairly tried, since the opening of the Institution, and I notice that it has been stated by the Director that "to carry such boys through the Entrance Examination is an impossibility," and that it can only be reasonably expected that "they shall be able to read and write, to carry on an ordinary correspondence with their own hands." Such a limited standard falls very far short of the knowledge which should be possessed by a Ward returning, to take charge of his Estates, from a Government Institution established to secure a fair education for him; and although I have fully considered the suggestions recorded by the Director from time to time on this subject, it does not appear to me that any sufficient remedy has been yet proposed to meet such cases.

6. It is certain that Minors entering the Institution under ten years of age occupy so entirely a different position from those who join it after they are twelve, that the same system of education cannot, with any hope of success, be adopted for all alike, however generally appropriate the rules for their management and control may be. But for all Minors entering the Institution when more than twelve years old, a system of private tuition should invariably at first, if not throughout their stay, be substituted for attendance at a public School, and even in the case of younger Wards a preparatory course of private tuition would render them all the better able to assume a proper position in a public School class. However great the advantages of emulation may be, they fail altogether to be of use to any boy who enters a class on very unequal terms with his fellow-scholars; and in this position most of the Wards sent to Calcutta have found themselves. The greater number of boys who attend the Calcutta Schools have most probably made some preliminary progress at a village School, or with a private teacher, under the direction of relatives who from their residence near Calcutta more quickly appreciate the advantages of education than residents in the interior, at a greater distance. Further, the Minors who are sent to Calcutta, having in many cases been for some time in charge only of their female relatives, have had their early education much neglected, and have been otherwise spoilt and indulged.

7. After carefully considering therefore the circumstances above stated, I must decidedly recommend that an entire change should be made in the present system of education in force at the Wards' Institution. On the Ward's first arrival in Calcutta it should be ascertained how far he is qualified to take up, on entrance at a public School, the average position actually held by boys of his own age in that School. If he is at all near the standard already there will be no difficulty in completing the necessary preparation, and if he is not more than nine or ten years old, previous want of education may in all cases be presumably rectified by a steady course of good private teaching. But in the case of a Ward sent to Calcutta when more than twelve years old, and entirely ignorant of, or but slightly acquainted with, even the rudiments of learning, there can be no hope of successfully preparing him to take his place in the class of a public School; and it would be far better in all such instances to secure good private tuition during the entire stay of the Minor in Calcutta, with the prospect of his attaining to a fair degree of general knowledge before his majority. The future adoption of this course in all such cases is now recommended, and it would devolve on the Director and the Visitors to watch with special attention the mode in which such private teaching might be conducted.

8. Consideration of the propriety of removing the Wards' Institution from Calcutta has been called for from the Committee, and my proposal regarding the future education of the Minors, above detailed, renders enquiry regarding such removal still further necessary. During the last few years it has more than once been proposed to remove the Institution to a Mofussil Station, its retention in Calcutta having been objected to on the grounds of expense, of the liability of the Minors to temptations to indulge in dissipation and vice, and of general unhealthiness. On the other hand Calcutta has been declared to be preferable on account of the superiority of its educational Institutions, the presence of its University, and the facilities for supervision of the Wards by the Board of Revenue; and in January 1863 it was reported to Government by the Board that enquiry had shewn that neither at Burdwan, nor at Kishnaghur, could sufficient house accommodation be obtained, save by purchase and the rebuilding of existing premises. In connection with this part of my report I have to notice the petitions presented to Government in 1863 by certain Zemindars in Rajshahye, Morshedabad and other districts. Great stress was laid by the petitioners on the dangers, arising from the temptations existing in Calcutta to vice of all kinds, and the failure of the system adopted for the education of the Wards sent to the Institution. They at first proposed that all Wards should only in future be educated at Zillah Schools and under private tutors directed by their relatives, but subsequently they desired that the Institution might be removed to Rajshahye, with the condition that no Wards should join it until prepared to

pass the "University Entrance Course." Subscriptions towards the cost of a building in Rajshahye were at the same time offered. The object of these petitioners was plainly to procure the entire abolition of the Institution, as indeed distinctly stated in their first representation, for, if the condition above referred to were acted on, most Minors would, as a matter of course, attain their majority before they were qualified for the Entrance Examination. It appears necessary therefore to observe here, that any such extreme measure as the abolition of the Institution would be most unwarranted, and unfair to the Minors under the care of the Court of Wards. No other system could be devised under which these Wards could be carefully educated under strict supervision. The positive evil effects of leaving the boys to be brought up entirely by their relatives have been time after time made evident in the absence of any mental and moral culture in many Wards before they joined the existing Institution. In some instances gross ignorance, and in others most vicious habits, have been found to exist, and these evil results can be attributed only to exclusive and over indulgent home management. Further, in some cases Minors have been under the care of the Courts of Wards for periods ranging from one to seven years previous to their entering the Institution, and have nevertheless acquired scarcely any knowledge whilst they remained in their own districts. Such experience should prove convincingly that neither a fair degree of education, nor a proper extent of supervision, can be secured, as long as Wards are left in their homes under the quasi-control of local authorities. The authority and personal interest of a father cannot be supplied by the appointment of a tutor resident with the family, and seldom indisposed to act under their influence and direction; but an Institution established at some distance from the Minor's own home, and placed under the control of a gentleman of high education and character, vested with full power to enforce strict rules of discipline, and possessing a strong personal interest in the progress of those placed under his charge, appears beyond question to afford the most suitable and promising provision for the education and training of Government Wards. Putting aside therefore, as untenable, proposals for the abolition of the Wards' Institution, I have further considered the objections raised to its retention in Calcutta. Both general and personal expenses are of course higher than they would ordinarily be in the Mofussil; but no reliable comparison can be made on this point as regards one heavy item of house rent, owing to the fact that in none of the Sudder Stations, hitherto named as sites for the Institution, can proper accommodation be secured without a considerable outlay for building charges, which in Calcutta are avoided entirely. Passing on to the objections raised on account of alleged temptations to indulge in dissipation and vice, it appears that those who have expressed fears on this score have not been acquainted with the practical management of the Institution. The rules under which all the Wards live during their stay in Calcutta are so regulated, that at no time of the day or night are the boys exposed to any temptations special to Calcutta or to any other large town. In fact they are subjected to control far more strict than any which could be secured in their own homes. The supervision over them is direct and continual; they are rigidly kept out of bad society, upright and honorable behaviour is always encouraged in them, and neither in their amusements nor in their exercises are any opportunities afforded for immoral or objectionable indulgence. I have found no reasonable grounds whatever for advocating the removal of the Institution from Calcutta on this account. Again, I consider the present position of the premises in Calcutta to be more healthy than any which could be selected at Kishnaghur. Some parts of Calcutta are undoubtedly very unhealthy, but the situation in which the Wards now reside is open, dry, and spacious, and certainly to be preferred to a residence in a District which has latterly been found to be extremely unhealthy. The expenses of living in Calcutta are thus the only important point to be considered; and regarding the position of the Wards who are sent down to the Institution, and who in almost every case will at their majority have the disposal of comparatively large incomes, the average expenditure, amounting for the year 1863-64 to Rupees 219 per mensem, cannot be considered excessive or unsuitable. I have thus decided to recommend that the Institution should be retained in Calcutta, so that those Wards who are qualified to attend at a public School or College may have the best opportunity of doing so, and that for those, for whose progress private tuition may be found most suitable, the best private teachers may be readily procured; whilst at Calcutta alone also can the supervision of an efficient body of Visitors, and the frequent personal control of the Board of Revenue, be rendered practicable.

9. It has been desired that the practical working of the present system should be noticed, as evidenced by the after career of young men brought up in the Institution. Out of the entire number admitted since 1855 eighteen have retired, but of these, two left within five months on the removal of their Estates from the charge of the Court of Wards, one left because his income was not large enough to support his expenses, two more, namely, the Cooch Behar Rajah and his Minister's son, had behaved very badly before they entered the Institution, and were afterwards sent away again because of their gross misconduct, two who had entered with elder brothers, retired still Minors when their brothers had reached their majority, and one died when only fifteen years old. These eight Wards cannot therefore be included amongst those whose after career can be associated in any degree with their training in the Institution. As regards the remaining ten Wards three returned to reside on their Estates in Rajshahye,

three in Cuttack, and one in each of the districts of Moorshedabad, Rungpore, 24-Pergunnahs, and Noacolly, and after communicating with the Collectors of these Districts I have received the following details regarding the behaviour of each Ward since he left the Institution.

(1.) Kissoree Lal Roy returned to Rajshahye in July 1864, and has since then managed his Estates quietly. He is well spoken of, but the period which has passed since his majority is clearly too short to admit of any fair conclusions from his after-conduct.

(2.) Poreshnarain Roy is said to be now going on remarkably well, though at first he appeared to have fallen into the hands of bad advisers. He left the Institution in 1860, and the present report may be considered favorable to him.

(3.) Jogendronarain Roy also returned to Rajshahye in 1860, and it is a matter of regret to find that he gave himself up to habits of dissipation very soon after his return, and died within two years.

(4.) Krishnamohun Bose went back to Cuttack in 1863, and has been mentioned by the Collector as a well educated man, a kind landlord, and of good character.

(5.) Rughoonath Man Sing also went back in 1863, and has borne a good character since then. It has, however, been mentioned against him that a Government School near his own residence has been broken up for want of proper support.

(6.) Nundkishore Bhupati has resided on his Estates since July 1862, and his conduct has been apparently excellent during the period which has since elapsed. He has been described as a good landlord, of excellent manners and character, and much interested in the improvement of his Estates.

(7.) Narendro Narain Roy, of Moorshedabad, is described as a good landlord, respected and looked up to by his neighbours. He left the Institution in December 1857.

(8.) Chundra Shikur Roy, of Rungpore, is most unfavorably spoken of, as confirmed drunkard, and a bad landlord. When he was in Calcutta he was found "dull and stubborn."

(9.) Prosonnocoomar Chowdree was, after his departure from the Institution, found by the Civil Court not to be entitled to the Estates originally taken under the Court of Wards; and the Collector has heard that he is now employed in a Calcutta Merchant's Office.

(10.) Chundro Coomar Chowdree returned to Noacolly in June 1864, and has since apparently led a secluded life, engaging himself exclusively in collecting his rents. The Collector considers him of a morose and unfriendly disposition.

10. It will thus be seen that five out of the ten Wards, whose after career can be noticed, are highly spoken of, and may be said to have turned out well. Two are spoken of in negative terms; one lost the Estates to which he was to have returned, and is now working in a Calcutta Office; and two turned out very badly. The result is so far rather creditable than discreditable to the Institution, but the number of instances in which alone enquiries could be made is so small that the value of the Institution can scarcely be estimated in this manner. I have, however, certainly not found in the reports of the local authorities any ground for recommending the abolition of an Establishment which, under the modifications above proposed will, in my belief, prove hereafter of great benefit to the Government Wards placed in it for education and training. It has already been mentioned that some of the Minors who have entered the Institution had been under the charge of the Court of Wards for some years in their own districts, but that they had learnt scarcely any thing before they came to Calcutta. The three boys who first joined had been Wards for four and five years but, on being sent to a Calcutta School, they were obliged to begin with the rudiments. A boy who joined in 1857 had been two years, and one joining in 1863 had been eight years, under the Court of Wards, but in both instances it was found necessary to begin education with the first book or Easy Primer. The boys last-named are still in the Institution, but of the other three none made any great progress before leaving Calcutta. Strict supervision over the studies of the Wards in these cases was doubtless found to be difficult as long as they were left at their own homes, but I have thought it desirable to draw special attention to the circumstances, so that measures may be taken in future to begin the education of every Ward at home as soon as he may be old enough to learn, and to see that he is made to acquire as much rudimentary knowledge as possible before he arrives at an age when he can be sent to the Institution.

11. In connection with the above observations, I desire now to draw attention to the effect, on the education of Government Wards, of the existing Law limiting the term of minority to eighteen years. A very large proportion of those who have left the Institution on attaining their majority would have probably derived much advantage from continuing their studies for a few years more. To those who had not entered School till they were twelve years old, such further education would have been of the greatest value; and in the case of those who, entering a Calcutta School when eight or ten years old, could have looked forward to proceeding through the entire course prior to matriculation, a further period secured for their stay at the University would have enabled them to complete their education in a manner suited to their future station. But there is no doubt that, under the present law, a Ward assuming charge of his Estates when only eighteen years old experiences a most untoward interruption to his studies, and is allowed to become his own master at a time when ordinarily he is not fitted to be independent.

12. Educated native gentlemen are at the present day fully alive to this drawback, as is shewn by the action taken by them in 1858, when the Legislative Council was considering the law afterwards passed as Act XL. of 1858. A petition was presented to the Council by the British Indian Association, copy of which is annexed to this report, representing that the objects for which Regulation XXVI. of 1793 had been enacted, as shewn by the preamble to that law, had been only partially secured by the extension of the term of minority from sixteen to eighteen years. Specially alluding to the establishment of the Wards' Institution, the petitioners stated that the steps there taken to educate the Minors were in a great measure nullified, by their removal from their studies at the time when closer attention to them should be given, and a more strict supervision exercised over these young men generally. Comparing the law in India with the English law, they solicited the Council to provide for the extension of the term of minority in future to twenty-one years.

13. It does not appear from the proceedings of the Legislative Council that the propriety of this measure was ever discussed, though it was acknowledged in the debates that it was of great importance to Minors that they should be protected by law from the dangers which would beset them, if they were allowed to assume charge of their property before they had arrived at the age when they could be safely entrusted with independence. This important principle has thus been apparently always kept in mind, in providing for the proper training of Government Wards, but there are good grounds for doubting whether the term fixed for minority, under the present law, allows sufficiently for the completion of a sound education. I have certainly been led by the circumstances recorded in the foregoing report, to believe that a change, such as was solicited by the British Indian Association in 1858, would, most probably, be attended with the best results, and I trust that steps will be taken to ascertain whether an extension of the term of minority to twenty-one years will be beneficial, and acceptable, to the landholders of Bengal at large.

T. Bruce Lane.

Petition from Issur Chunder Singh, Honorary Secretary, British Indian Association, to the Hon'ble the Legislative Council of India,—(dated the 25th September 1858.)

Showeth,

That your petitioners having read in the published proceedings of the last Meeting of the Legislative Council of a proposition made by the Hon'ble Member for Bengal to limit the age of minority to the eighteenth year by adding a new clause to that effect to the guardian of Minor's Bill, beg most respectfully to make the following few remarks on the same:—

Your Hon'ble Council are aware that the Hindoo law prescribes the commencement of the sixteenth year as the termination of minority, and the Mahomedan law the arrival of the age of puberty, but that the period so assigned is inadequate to the attainment by young men of property of a sufficient amount of knowledge, both of the world and of their own interests, to be able properly to manage their estates. With a view to remedy this defect in regard to the minors under the Court of Wards Regulation 26 of 1793 was enacted extending the term of nonage to the expiration of the eighteenth year. The good thereby done has, however proved only partial. The addition of three years to the Hindoo period of minority does not afford sufficient time for the feelings and motives with which it is necessary to imbue the minds of youthful proprietors of estates for their own sake and that of their dependants, to take root, and consequently they have little influence on them. On their temper, character and habits in mature life materially depend the improvement of the estates they inherit, while by their wealth and influence they become the leaders of society in their sphere. It is therefore of the utmost importance, both politically and morally, to so train their minds and educate their feelings as may conduce to their own welfare and of those connected with them.

In the preamble to the Regulation above named the authorities have adduced some of the strongest arguments in favor of extending the period of nonage to the eighteenth year, your petitioners beg to quote the following passages in the hope that they may be held to apply with equal force to the propriety of a further extension of the term of minority.

"At this early age, the proprietors must necessarily be unacquainted with the laws and regulations which they are bound to observe in the management of their estates, and their understanding cannot be sufficiently matured to render them sensible that their welfare depends upon their making the acquirement of this knowledge the chief object of their pursuit. Emancipated from the control of their guardians, and with their property at their disposal, they abandon themselves to those pleasures to which their youth naturally inclines them. The management of their estates consequently devolves to favorites or dependants who are interested in confirming them in habits of dissipation until they have lost both the capacity and inclination to assume the direction of their own affairs. But the pernicious consequences resulting from the incapacity of proprietors is not confined to themselves. The cultivators of the soil and the various orders of people residing upon their lands suffer equally by the rapacity and mismanagement of their Agents, the payment of the Public Revenue

is withheld, and the improvement of the country retarded. It is therefore incumbent on Government as well with a view to the future welfare of the proprietors of land in general as to protect the country from the frequent shocks to which it would be necessarily liable from their want of education and early corruption of morals, to extend the term of their minority to an age, by which, with due attention on the part of their guardians, they may be rendered qualified for the management of their estates."

These objections assume a greater force in regard to those of the minors who are placed under the Court of Wards. These minors since the institution of the School of wards are provided with efficient means of instruction, which must, in a great measure, be nullified if they are permitted to leave their statute pupillari at the age of eighteen. Then, it is that they enter the most important part of their studies in which steady application is highly necessary, but a stimulus to which will, as may be expected, be always wanting if the restraints of a guardian are withdrawn. It will be admitted that the education of a youth cannot be completed at the eighteenth year of his age, and the law therefore, which limits the period of minority to that term, is very partial in its benefits.

Your petitioners would most respectfully observe that, in some of the most civilized countries, nonage generally exceeds the limit proposed by the Hon'ble Member for Bengal. The English law has prescribed the twenty-first year for the termination of minority, the Roman law extended it to the end of the twenty-fifth year, and the laws of Holland do the same. In France the law of marriage in regard to women extends the period to the thirtieth year. In India however, it is believed that the period of nonage, if assimilated to that of England, would afford all the advantages of an extended minority.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Hon'ble Council will be pleased to take these suggestions into your consideration and make such modification in the clause proposed at the last Meeting of the Council as would extend the minority of the Wards under Regulation X. of 1793, as well as of those who will come within the meaning of the Bill now under your consideration to the end of the 21st year of their age.

Your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

REVENUE.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.

D. 27th } Feb.
R. 28th }

PROGS. FOR MARCH 1866.

Nos. 70-73.

WITH reference to orders No. 1563 of the 24th April last, forwards, with his remarks, three reports containing the views of the Committee appointed to consider the constitution and management of the Calcutta Wards' Institution.

Ry Genl/68

RD 20C

R-1732.

To The Secy. to the Govt of Bengal.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter No. 566 dated the 15th February 1868 forwarding the papers asked for by this Government in regard to the Wards' Institution in Bengal.

I have &c.

16/2

Revenue 1st Dept
Bo. to Govt. of 9th June

No. 1732

To
The Govt. of Bengal
D/ 19 June 1805

No. 473