Series
XII

Prisoners Court
Private papers

25,000—4-5-32.

Block	7
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General	

whole of the Revenue having been collected in the time of scarcity from the Poor unprotected Ryot. His Lordship was not eased when it ought to have been nor was there any pains taken to feed the Inhabitants — The Bengal Govt. indeed sent quantities of Grain to Bombay and the other Ports large quantities were also imported by individuals, but at Manufacturers where the Famine raged most a jail was made of the Grain trade — Collectors were forbid to sell their Garrys and a Black Committee fixed it at 13 Rupees a Bag to the Poor Inhabitants when they could have been supplied and ought to have had it at six Rupees a Bag — The cash accumulated in this way they say was divided between the Committee the Chiefs & Sirs Debastis —

Hall has wrote very lately to Mr. Read & Sparrows business to Col. Kops & his Son also stated the above related infamous Transaction yet I do not need know what good effect can arise from it as I do not see how Lt. Cornwallis can constitutionally interfere — I will do Lately the justice to say that he does not I believe know the circumstances I have stated above but what knowledge can a man obtain who does not mix with the World & encourage communications how can he properly be adequate to the duties of his station if he sits close in a Room denying all his information knowledge from Records which have chiefly been fabricated to keep every thing in darkness —

96th On 21st the Triton Arrived and brought us your dispatches of the 18th December — I need not tell you how much satisfaction we found that our correspondence has met your approbation and that your private affairs have been conducted to your wishes — I can most safely say that in every thing we have acted as we thought for the best and in the manner we should have done for our own best and in the manner we should have done for our own selves

The retreat of the Duke of Brunswick astonished the People of the East as much as it could from the Rise of the West & there will appear something mysterious — I must in hopes that England would have cleared clear and that the respect which she ought to have from her real force and resources would have kept the French from breaking with her — but their Heads are turned with the successes and they seem now as much aiming at universal Dominion while Republicans as they ever did either in Henry the fourths projects or in the most prosperous periods of Louis the 14th — if the other powers were strong enough and we were not absolutely obliged by treaty to take a part I should like to see England remain Neuter but if the first is not the case I see not what we can do but become parties — There is a Madness and Phrenzy in the proceedings of the French which is unparrelled in History had they stopped short after the Austrians and Prussians had retreated for their Dominions — and proclaimed that they adhered to their first principles — I am apt to think they might now have been at peace with all the World and have settled their own Constitution as they pleased — If however there is a War I shall be much concerned tho I don't think we can suffer much by it any property we have on the Seas is most fully covered at the Market Prices and this you must

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from what I have already writ you how the Stocks of the purchasers must yield a very handsome profit what should be its fate — The account you give of the dipatisfaction which prevails hitherto in Great Britain Ireland respecting the representation is alarming. If however the experience we have acquired from our Neighbours will teach us to act with moderation in all Reforms — I retained indeed has always been in a divided state and can scarcely be called a civilized country —

From the upon conduct of the Directors it was a most fortunate circumstance for the Nabob's find that the Treaty had taken place and the Conditions were plaid in that Treaty in so advantageous a point of View — without arrogating to myself I believe I was at that period of very considerable use to Their Affairs and that you have benefited thereby is full and ample satisfaction to me for any of my exertions. By having myself no Paper in that fund I was enabled to speak a more pointed language than I could otherwise have done — If you are called at home to get for the Board of Controul the Arrears of Interest I think the fund would be upon as good a footing as it could be — I on my own Part should not be willing to part it with the Company for I am fully convinced the Nabobs Country is fully adequate to his Engagements and that the Company Govt must keep him to them — We shall attend most strictly to your Order as we have always done and not discount your Bonds unless we can make up the Discount by remittances but this we cannot hope to effect, the Companys remittance from the several Presidencies

their Bonds are procured or purchased make only 7/9½ the Pagodas and private remittances are now at 7/8 & 7/12 we shall however act per this last and as we have in all our transactions held this in View we shall continue the same and make no doubt we shall succeed to your satisfaction. Indeed I hope that our remittances in Indigo from the beginning of the next year will be very considerable we have now arranged matters so that we cultivate at two Seasons of the year all the high and dry Grounds we shall sow in August and September to benefit by the Monsoon Rains and in January we shall sow the Rich Grounds which lay lower and which can be watered by the Banks — We have got the Ryots into the mode of cultivation which has cost us much trouble and perseverance —

All negotiation with Taylor would have ceased from the arrangements I had made and the state of the fund had he ever seriously intended a negotiation but no such thing ever entered his head he wanted either to amuse you or Sir John Hall with the Idea and that was all he had in view not one single order on that head has he ever given his Attorney here — By the deed they have no right to more than six p^r Cent yet I am afraid it would not be wise to put in the consolidated Bonds all circumstances considered we shall however hold that out and shall threaten it. you may depend upon my not yielding an Inch when the Business comes to a conclusion, and though we shall have to combat the obstinacy of both Clerk & Milford I have no doubt of bringing the matter to a good conclusion

Taylor is much interested in getting out his own kind that if we are from they must come to —

I assure you James ball looks not with the least gratitude on his Brothers wishes to bring him home he appears to me to have very little anxiety to return you know his mode of Life and with it he is satisfied — The climate has however struck him and very hot day we had at the Red hills where the Thermometer stood at 112° the highest I have ever heard of in the shade in the vicinity of Madras had the day nearly carried him off he perfectly gave way to it and was gasping for Breath — with respect to the arrangement with Dick Sullivan I have already wrote to you so fully that it is here unnecessary to add a word more nor can I give you anything new Maitland is not yet arrived those Ships from Ostend are never punctual as to their times of Sailing —

I have now only one other point to reply to in your Letter and that is respecting a communication with Cornwallis — He will certainly leave India in August but I see not how this is to be brought about by Letter. nor do I see situated as things have been I could bring it about by a Personal communication I am sensible it would be much to his advantage for no one possesses so thorough a knowledge of India & what relates to it as yourself, indeed no man of equal abilities has given his mind to the subject and known qualified in point of Talent those may

been heard who have given some attention to the subject yet they are destitute of that knowledge which is only to be acquired by a long residence in India and by having had large transactions in the Country I should be glad to hear from you when a measure respecting the plan of negotiation between India and England

9th June

The Warley and the Woodcote arrived here the 30th of last month the Woodcote had met with one of the most violent gales that I have ever heard of and was Mally dismasted her masts were broke off during the Gale almost close to her deck and by great good Fortune they preserved Spars enough to make jury masts — This happened very near the spot that is to say within a Portnight sail of that Season — The Drake from Lisbon arrived here the 1st with dispatches and accounts from Baldwin of the invasion of Holland and of War being declared betwixt France and England it is surprising that we have not a single line by this dispatch nor are the letters forwarded that we had been given to understand were lying there for us Baldwin had no Govt. dispatch but he intimates that dispatches had been sent by the way of Alleppo you complain frequently of the negligence of Govt. and with just cause. The People of Business at Home have either so much business to do or have so little time to give to their business that they are always guilty of great omission — Where the Comandore is we know not he leave this without

giving any one a Case he has now in India and Frigate and with this Frigate he is now most probably preparing to carry home his Brother in August. From what we are given to understand the French have several Frigates at Mauritius. The whole trade of the Country is therefor left to take care of itself — The Company and their Govt. from grasping at their monopoly never think of the general trade of India any the security of the property of those who are engaged in it. and are this leaving Millions at risk when five or three Frigates and a line of Battle Ship would have protected the whole. The alarm among people of business is very great a number of their Ships are now on a float for their Passage from Bengal and the under=writers may suffer a serious loss — From the Perusal that Mr Grenvil delivered his Paper to the French Minister War was inevitable and our Minister ought to have prepared accordingly.

Our preparations against Pondicherry have begun and the Army from all quarters is to be collected as usual ~~Count Pondicherry~~ We shall find a great want of Officers as we are strong in Europeans but very deficient in Native Troops This is a subject you are well acquainted with you know that the Battalions of Sepoys upon the present establishment must ever be very much = pleased I however hope that weak as Pondi = cherry is in point of Garrison and discipline

as that Garrison has been for a long time for want of Subordination our business with them is not a difficult one nor will it require any great force or exertions — France is entirely now in a most dreadful state and I do not see what good any Party can ever get by the Butcheries of their Army —

Sepoys business goes on in the way I have said — White says upon the Messengers coming for Property forward he will move for the removal of the Chief and Council from their Stations but I very much doubt this when it comes to the point I do not think he has firmness enough for such a measure — At present the Circars are in a terrible state whether you speak of the Revenues as formerly a considerable part of the Company's Revenue or the ~~Inhabitants~~ Districts themselves or relative to the Inhabitants — At Masulipatam there is a Defalcation of nearly a years revenue and this is divided between the Zemindars and Chief — I have already stated to you how Vernon Mauze has conducted his business with them and now at last they are obliged to take possession of his Country — At Ganjam they have been going on very badly they have appointed a Sepoy Resident a man totally unqualified in every respect for such a station and the Proceedings there and by all accounts a piece with the proceedings at ~~Ganjam~~ Masulipatam —

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The investments you know are all provided by sea. I send you a copy of a letter sent to as by the Collector in consequence of orders he has received by which you will be able to speake more pointedly as to the absurd way in which they are proceeding commence at the Expence of the Estate of the Country.

The Rajah at the begening of the next Fhargely year is to have his Country restored to him it has been tollerably productive under Stranges has conducted himself very well he has kept the Pungers clear & has raised a good Revenue

The other Collector has also done pretty well Both these people have managed much better than any of the Nabobs Collectors. The Rajah has been better treated by the people at home and his Country now know has been better fated than the Nabobs —

Maregotty the Captain of the Drake Cruizer in his way from Surry fell in with a French Vessel and made her his prize Govt. however refused to receive the Prisoners from on board or to have anything to do with her and she is sent on or rather taken on to Bengal along with the Cruizer, some Ships have applied for Letters of Mark and have been refused because Govt. had not received official Dispatches of the War —

Mackell the Resident at Nagor took possession of the French settlement of Karical which the French had evacuated Govt. said he was answerable for the consequences as they had received no official accounts from England. I will answer for it that they do not act

as sensibly in Bengal —

26th This Day at Latest Ploy'd should march from Walanjaubad — They have been a long time in getting a few Troops together and in the mean time the French have rallied their forces and collected battle and Provisions from the Country round they mounted a few Cavalry and have scoured every where when a few Troops of Horse sent to Permacoil would have kept them in Check they at one time threatned Cuddalore and such was the weakness of that Garrison that if they had attempted it I think they would have succeeded in the Attack but it is now reinforced from Trichenopoly —

Geils complains that we want Lascars for the Guns and wrote to Bengal for 5 or 600 more yet it is not long since many Lascars were Disbanded from the Laboratory who had been long in that employ because Geils said he would do the duty with his Gun Lascars

A Committee at Masulipatam of some of the young hands there Gambier and Mapsell have been examining Appravers as to his Petitions and whether they are true or false & his writings or not — White at first wanted Pudon to have been on the Committee but upon Halliburton objecting because Ladlier and Pudon were upon bad terms the point was given up. The Man however has been firm to his point and the Business must be investigated — in all this Business White wants that steady firmness which alone can combate against a Scene of iniquity —

Such is the security of the Troops that Damerid's Battalion which was sent Northward to quell a disturbance

which had been in the Polygar Districts has been recalled for the Pondicherry service — Our Dispatches are not to be impeded by the expedition against Pondicherry which I am surprised at considering the conduct in general of the Baronet: he is however afraid of making a Break in the Marquises treaty our Payment is to be the 10th of next Month —

By Accounts we have received from Bengal Lord Cornwallis immediately on the arrival of the Drake Cruizer ordered the seizure of all the French Vessels in the River and sent Troops to take possession of Chandernagore — The Commodore was in Pulicondaly Harbour where he had learned from the Minerva and was expecting them —

10th July

Lloyd has arrived in the Red Sea and will now keep the French within bounds but instead of obeying his orders he sent forward a Battalion of Sepoys and the French are left on plundering as before — is it not curious that a Man bred in the Army from his infancy & Despotic in the extream should upon every occasion when acting by himself disobey his orders — The Army we hear is to be at Pondicherry by the 25th of this Month but I own I think it will be nearly the first of August before they can arrive there and probably later — I understand there is a great scarcity of water on the Road so much so as to occasion a difficulty of procuring for the Cattle — It has altogether been a very dry and hard season both to the battle and country considering all things I think in the Carriage of the Army to Pondicherry they have been expeditious

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but the Army was long in moving and this arose because there was no one at a Distance from the Presidency to procure the Cattle to put them in motion at least no proper heads of Departments the whole was centered in Colebrooke who with Board of Revenue & Salt has ~~more than enough to manage~~ more employment than one Man can execute

He has also had the arrangement of the new Agency for the feeding of the Cavalry and in the way that it is done I have a notion that it will be more expensive than the old One —

We hear from Bengal that 500 Artillery are to be sent round for the service of Pondicherry — I am sorry to see this because in the first place it will be a useless expence in the second it will again bring us into discussion the Double Batta — I am afraid the Marquises partiality for the Bengal Troops may have occasioned it in some degree and yet he knows that no part of them are to be compared to the Troops of the Coast — The Commodore and his fleet of three Indiamen are cruizing off Pondicherry where they will effectually prevent any supplies being thrown in unless the French should appear with a very superior fleet a circumstance which I hope will not happen then Ships I am afraid will lose their Chance ~~of the~~ Passage and be obliged to go the Eastern Passage —

July 24th — Spanish business has in some degree come to a conclusion they have taken N out of

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the hands of the Chief and Council and have appointed a Collector to it and a Committee to examine into Oppressive Complaints - I Do not think the Country will choose nor do I approve of the Collector Mr Gardner - The Committee was in a measure forced upon Oakeley he was for sending Gardner alone but he wished to hear from White his sentiments and sent to him for that purpose His replies were that his private opinion of the Chief and Council were the same he had given in Public that they were not to be trusted that there was a sad Scene of Villainy &c &c going forward that Oppressive Changes were very serious ones and that the Business ought to be fully investigated Gardner Bransfield and Wrangham were in consequence appointed a Committee Tudor might have been the leading man in this but White gave up the Point on Hall's desertion and backdown stating that the Dispute and Difference between him and the Chief and Council rendered him an unfit Man for such a business White is not equal to a Public Station he is afraid of a He dare not attack as he ought to do now he is in a situation least he should be looked upon as an illnatured person and all his measures are therefore half measures such as should be adopted in Campbells Government - It is true he has completely effected the reconciliation of the Chief and Council he has got the Brothers as they said to say they are not to be trusted but he has in consequence proposed no measures for the better regulation of their District nor has he proposed their removal which he ought to have done If Ladiers conduct as a Chief was such as to render it necessary to the the Generality of Bengal under his management to appoint a Committee to enquire into his conduct, it was such as ought to have occasioned his removal from the Chiefship and for all power whatever, at least during the Enquiry and the more so whereas a Board of Revenue they had given their unanimous opinion that neither he nor the Council were fit to be trusted

As yet we have had no Official account of the War by land or by Sea and we begin to be anxious - The Conduct of the Marines by it is certainly highly reprehensible for their total neglect of the Country - A French Frigate appeared to the Southward a few days ago said to be the Sybil the Commodore chased her but she sailed better than he did and after he had got a very good Sea went into Trangebar - Joyeuse landed there said they had on board 200 Artillery & Stores for Pondicherry Do not give certain Credit to his story but the Ship is still hovering about no doubt Expecting to be joined by others - She was again off Trangebar on the 19th the Commodore was off there the 22 but they did not meet - Yet have been in negotiation for a large Ship in the Roads which has 24 Guns on board but has ports for upwards of 40 Guns and could carry them with ease and of a large Calibre but their passions only will not let them give the necessary sums

as the Commodore wishes for the Capt and

and that She may be commanded by a Captain out of the Navy — they talk of a number of Privateers being out we received accounts last Sunday of one having been taken in Roads by a Dutch East India man who was lying there She mounted 12 guns and had 20 men she had also 20 English men on board belonging to the Westerton who were taken out of a Portuguese Ship that was carrying them to Madras from the Isle of Madagascar — from this we are to suppose that Portugal is also at War with France but we have no accounts of this being the case — The Friends report that 3 Frigates and 4 Transports are on their way from the Isle of France with Troops &c for Pondicherry — Ministry had resolved on war L^d Grenvil Declaration was Published last Decemb and the first thing the Ministry for the Country ought to have done was to have dispatched a line of Battle Ship and two or three Frigates —

The trade Interest of Individuals large as it is in this Country seems to be no object to Govt. they talk of granting protection but it is a strange kind of protection which they grant — L^d Cornwallis after all the reports I believe will wait for a Brigate they will not do much at Pondicherry before the middle of next month — Brathwait went off yesterday and Maule on Sunday last I shall let you know daily how they proceed ——

Hyder's last payment to us is now at Visiapore but I do not hear that he has paid

the Nizam and the Marattas more than one payment

I do not understand that Floyd while he has been before Pondicherry has been making preparations — Meanwhile they at Goddalore has prepared a great number of Bascines and Gabions

It is generally believed that L^d Cornwallis will leave Bengal about the first week in August — They have Sunk in the Rivers as a Breasen a French Ship they took there which was formerly a Bruiser — the War has had the effect of reducing the Paper in Bengal below Par but as no Cash will be required from Bengal to support it I dare say it will again rise to the former Standard and soon — It has had no effect at all on the Paper here and this payment of Dividends during a War must give a favorable appearance to the Nabobs funds and heighten their Credit ——

10th The French Frigate has certainly left the Coast and from what we hear from Bourbon there can be no expectations of any supplies from the Mauritius — We had a letter from a Person man who stated that all was disorder and confusion at Pondicherry — The Ryder has sailed from this to the Eastward on a secret expedition it is generally believed she is gone to meet L^d Cornwallis and to form part of his Squadron — Hitherto at Pondicherry they have been preparing and collecting materials as Business Floyd ought to have completed before the Arrival of Brathwait and the Guns in Camp

and which would have been the case had Napier
commanded the Army – We expect however by every
Dispatch to hear that they have taken ground
there is to be only one attack and that is to the
Northward but it is not to be understood where
at the same place where it was formerly –

The works they say are in good order notwithstand=
=ing the heavy rains of the Monsoon in 91 & 92 they
have stood very well what I should think could scarcely
have been expected from Earthen Works –

Maule has unfortunately received a kick from a
Horse which laid him up for some days and has
still disabled him – he writes me he still suffers
much from it – They say our operations are retarded
by this accident – all the Engineers of any rank in
Camp have really neither talent nor other requisites
for such situations, but there are some very fine young
Men in Camp who I think at a future day will
do it much credit – The French give a
great deal and at every thing they can but they
know not how much harm

Things have gone on so bad a Mismanagement
that White has at last prepared a Minute stating
fully the conduct of the Chief and Council and
proposing a change of System as necessary and
that the matter shall be referred to the Marquis Cornwallis
as Oakely he knows will make no change since
the Court of Directors have ordered that the Chief
shall not be abolished without their express
sanction he does not mean to give in this Minute

immediately as he means to wait some accounts
which are expected hourly from Tuder and which will
bring them this minute – This is doing something and if
his Colleagues on the Board of Revenue join him a circum=
=stance I do not expect, must force him to act at any
rate I see not how this reference can be avoided by
White told me that both himself and the Board
expected to hear something decided and some severe
Censure on the Board of Mysorepatam in conseque=
=nce of the Nozeer Business but Oakely supposed it
over quietly and without animadversion when if an
unfortunate Servant without support had only com=
=mitted the one twentyeth part of as much
iniquity he would have been suspended the service
without Resolution

A Detachment has marched to take
possession of Dindigul and that Country is to be
sequestered & Harris has been playing his game
there and there is a total failure of payment –
The Collections are also as bad at Tanjore in
short you can have no Idea of the Badness and
Iniquity that has been going on

It is not strange that to this period no fewer
than Frigate has or Vessel has arrived with the official
account of War commenced the end of January a
period of six months and that no force has been
sent out to protect the trade of this Country

We have concluded our Salt Contract
very well and much to our satisfaction we got
a prolongation of time to the 1st of Octo and

the and shall not have the smallest Difficulty in executing it— It will clear us a very handsom Profit and make to us with our other business an extream profitable year ———

18th It is with extream concern that I tell you that we have lost our Friend Maule he was in the Trenches in the Night of the 15th reckoning a thunder that had been committed by those who acted under him - and was returning to his Camp near the Blanchery in his Palanquin — a Round Shot took off the heads of his three Lieutenants Palanquin Boys & also one and two who were in front of the Palanquin it also killed his Chair Boy and his Hircarah not a vestige of his head was to be found — I assure you I feel his loss very severely we had been long in great habits of Intimacy & Friendship he was a Man of Letters and one of the few one could make a companion of and I believe he had a good heart, he always spoke kindly and affectionately of yourself and he was at all times the Gentleman - In the army I assure you his loss was much regretted both as a Public and Private loss, for his conciliatory manners had wound him many friends and all have allowed that his attack has been well planed and does much credit to him - They also say that he would have acquired riches & general credit and have stood in much estimation as a

Soldier in this Siege — His loss is felt the more for who is there to succeed him - Trapaud in Camp and Genl Abercrombie who is now Chief Engineer is at present at Madras with Lame Eyes and you know he has had very little experience in his Profession he had however proceeded to Bombay

The French have kept up an incessant fire from 40 Pieces of Cannon and have killed a considerable number of our People but poor Maule is the only Officer of Rank who has suffered - I trust however that our Batteries will soon open and that Gells will repay them with Interest, a Battery is I believe nearly finished for 8 Guns and two Mortars - the weather has been very unfavourable for the work every night it has been raining and the soil of which the enfilading Battery is constructed is of that soft Clay which almost melts with the Rain at least it forms a Puddle at first until it has settled ———

On the 14 our first Fleet arrived from England to our surprise not a Ship of War has come out nor does it appear there is any intentions of sending out any I hope this is not the case and that the matter is only kept secret — by this conveyance we have received a number of Letters from you and the News papers and have to thank you for your kind attention in this critical juncture in giving us every information you could ——— We have hurried as fast forward as possible Jose Business and have hopes of bringing it to a speedy satisfactory conclusion and to

obtain possession of the Bond — You will find we have entirely attended to your instructions and do not disbond of any more 7 your Bonds since we received your order to the contrary. The discount upon them is now daily decreasing owing in part to the expected arrangement taking place and to the payment of the Company's Bonds — We hear by them accounts that the French are driven out of Holland and that Batavia is nearly evacuated by them and the Fleet with an American Ship which left L'Orient 14 days after they sailed from England which an account that Demarees in consequence of having been deserted by the Convention had proclaimed Louis the 17th King and was marching to Paris to effect a Counter revolution we can scarcely credit this report tho we hope it is true we shall now however hope to have a constant communication 7 News till the month of October — I hope our Friend Petrie will succeed in his views Sullivans friends write very confidently that he will be the Man. and Sullivan himself is pushing hard at the Durbar to settle his account in what I understand is a most exorbitant and unjust Demand — All Public Matters are going on in the usual way I understand by October they will have one compleat Cargo ——

29th — On the 23d Pondichery surrendered to Colonel Braithwait who on the occasion opened the trenches under Gels opened the Batteries on the 23 in the Morning and in less than

two hours their fire was silenced — as soon as our people found the way of sending the Shot through their Embrasures they immediately drew in their Guns and filled them up with Sand bags — Their fire for some days had been more directed against Individuals whome they saw then against the works and they also fired at the Dooleys who were carrying away the wounded men. They had some very fine Brass Guns that fired extreamely accurate one was a twenty four pounder I understand they had about Ninety Peices of Iron Ordinance and 40 of Brass a most compleat field train — Our Officers at the Trenches received a message from the Fort to hasten in as the Soldiers were threatening to hang up the General and even were in a crowd about his House and the event would certainly have taken Place if our People had not hastened into the Fort — the Men were mostly Drunk and had during the whole Siege been in no state of Subordination we last I believe about 300 Men before the Place ——

Immediately on the Surrender the Officers put on the strict blockade and the next day they went to Mass and proclaimed Louis the 17th King I believe this was in consequence of intelligence brought by our Ships. The rest of the People in Pondicherry I believe including Officers were Aristocrates — A guard was put upon the Commissioners from France or the People would have destroyed them — The Men were very disorderly but upon being told they would have nothing except through their Officers after taking

they became very orderly and behaved very well

24th Floyd commands at Pondicherry L^d Cornwallis is to have sailed about the 12th if he has sailed he may be hourly expected I understand he is to adjust the Nabobs account when he comes. but I imagine he will scarcely have time to read over all the Papers which Mr Place has made extreamely Voluminous— I trust he will make some alteration in our System to be Northward — The Army is immediately to be separated and they are to go to their old stations except what are necessary to garrison Pondicherry the Fortification of which will not be destroyed until the arrival of L^d Cornwallis — Brathwait has told is quite overcome with his success the China Ships are returned and will sail I suppose as soon as the Triton arrives from Bengal —

Sept^r 10th — L^d Cornwallis arrived in the Road on the 7th and he landed the 8th in the morning. I have seen him twice but have had no particular conversation either with him or Lt. Kep. Hall a Packet is to be dispatched from this for England and the Swallow is detained until the arrival of Genl Abercrombie from the southward he came over Land by way of Angengo and was to have commanded Pondicherry had he arrived in time — I believe L^d Cornwallis has not entirely fixed his mode of leaving the Country the Admiral expects some Frigates

with our next Ships in which case they will go home together. The Transports with the Troops from Bengal are not yet arrived so soon as they do they will be watered and immediately return to Bengal —

17th — It was intended to have dispatched the Drake Gunner a Bombay Cruiser Despatches but she being a bad sea Boat it is now resolved to send in her stead the Scorpion Bombay Cruiser — Captain Brathwait carries home the Govt. Dispatches and Captain Baker carries home the Admirals Dispatches — We have not yet resolved who is to carry home our letters — but we shall endeavour to be as successful as heretofore in sending them by a safe hand —

L^d Cornwallis has had all the Papers laid before him respecting the Nabobs business in account but he has found Mr Places Despatch so extreamely voluminious that he says it is impossible for him in the time he has to wade through it — the said three Papers should have been sent round to him to Benyal and I believe he thinks it has been done with a view to the retarding or preventing his making a final adjustment with the Nabob —

The Polegars to the Southward have again been committing depredations - they have cut down the Banks of the Tanks and have laid the Country waste I do not know what is meant to be done but I believe L^d C. will interfere if they lay a reference to the Govt. and Council bring the affair before him — I believe by all accounts Lauder to the Southward is playing the compleat game — The second Fleet of Ships is arrived and we have not one line from you altho

Newspapers which you must have sent us we are uneasy at this and know not to what to attribute it We have made an enquiry of the Captains and Pursers but have not yet received a single line We yesterday got a Letter from Petrie of the 6th — 9 may the only one I have received from him by these Ships and I trust I hope we shall see him here — Sir John Call has wrote us of the new connection you have formed in the Banking line which we hope will answer your intentions nothing would give me more pleasure than to see you in a Public Station — I think you could both yourself great credit and be of Public service and the line you have now adopted is certainly the most creditable a Man can follow

To our great astonishment not a Frigate has made her appearance nor is there any account of any Naval force intended for this Country this is extreamely cruel upon the Trade of India ——

Ld Cornwallis has now resolved to go home in the Swallow he will sail about the 10th or 12 of Oct.r and by her we shall again have an opportunity of writing you

White has made his proposed minute and strange as it may appear his two Colleagues Halliburton and Cockburn have joined him unanimously and fully in recommending a change of System and of referring the matter to the Marquis — Sakely can now have no alternative he will be forced to do what he ought to have done a twelve month ago

at Bisag. there has been a total deficiency in the Payments of Oygaram Kawje and Chamier has been playing his game — The Country has been sequestered they find that the neat revenues of the Country from which the Company receive Nine Lacks of Rupees is upwards of Thirty Lacks — and that the Rajah has been expending annually on his private establishments and this upwards of Nineteen Lacks — At Ganjam there is a total deficiency of a year revenue and I hear the Board of Revenue are going to propose the Removal of Mr Snodgrass a Man who certainly never ought to have been placed in that Station — We have now got the Heads of the India Bill — Affairs never will go on right while that Sink of iniquity the India house remains as it has done — The Nabab has been punctual in his payments and this has not aided a little in keeping down the discount but it has been more aided by the payment of the Companys Bonds and the low Interest now given for Money ——

Indeed I do not now think it is a matter of much consequence whether the negotiation respecting the Debt comes to a close or not a small Sum was paid so low as Sixpence ——

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Sunday 29th Septem=

My Dear Friend No 5

It is so lately since I wrote you so very fully that I can have in this short period very little new to add — I however give you my condensation in the form of a journal as you desired — and first as = specting the proceedings of the Committee on Appa=row's business they by all accounts hitherto have done their duty in the Enquiry but Appa=row has been taught by the Chief & his party and has denied that there were any grounds for his complaints — This might have been forseen for when an Enquiry was to take place and the Chief and Council were left in power there no doubt but that ~~a fair~~ an influence they possessed would be made use of aided by all their power and perhaps they have insulted into the Boys mind that the Investigation of the Proceedings of his Dewan may turn detrimental to him as the consequence will be a large demand of Revenue in the hurt of the Company — The Boy is also dispatched and thoughtless if not wicked and debauched and since he has been released he has been amply supplied with the means of doing what he pleased — He has refused to accompany the Committee to Nuzeer has not come near them when ordered to attend and they say has shown objections in the way of their

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Enquiry — This however has not answered the intended purpose — The Board of Revenue have told them it is their duty and the object of their mission to ascertain the value of the Dewanday the sums that have been actually collected from it and the appropriation as nearas possible and that if they have any Impediments from Appa=row and that if they have any Impediments from Appa=row the Board will take such measures as will effectually prevent any inconveniencies arising from his attempts White proposed this and it was instantly agreed to by his Colleagues — indeed the business of Masulipatam is now so notorious that connected as Haliburton is with Scot and Cockburn with Ladlier neither one nor the other dare to propose a palliation for their conduct

This Proceeding of Appa=rows produced a conversation with one of White who acknowledged that in the first instance the Chief and Council ought to have been removed from their Stations at the he would not agree with me in the propriety of of having immediately called the Dewan to Madras out of the reach of their Cabals & he also said notwithstanding the pointed language of complaint made by the Board of Revenue respecting the conduct of the Chief and Council not a word of censure had been given them by the Government either in their Directly in their correspondence with Masulipatam or in their replies to the Board — What Bakeley has done respecting the proposed reference to the L^d Cornwallis I do not know

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