LETTER

A

FROM

WARREN HASTINGS, Efq. DATED 21st of FEBRUARY, 1784.

WITH

REMARKS

AND

AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS

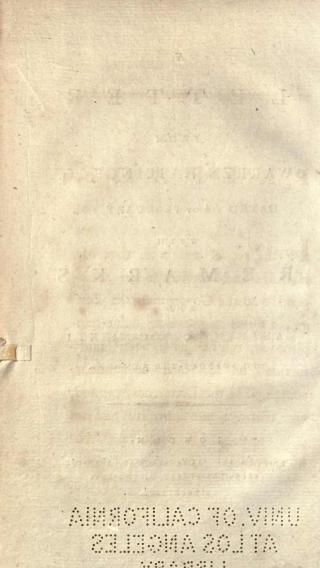
TO SUPPORT THE REMARKS.

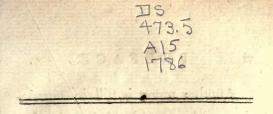
LONDON:

PRINTED FOR JAMES RIDGWAY, OPPOSITE \$ACKVILLE-STREET, PICCADILLY.

M DCCLXXXVI.

AT LOS ANGELES





PREFACE.

LIBRARY SETS

F the report was true, that Mr. Haftings had applied to be re-appointed to the Government of Bengal, a direct negative to fuch an application, might have been fairly founded on his own declarations, contained in the Letter now printed, viz. that age and infirmity had not only impaired his conftitution, but his faculties.

Another

354765

PREFACE.

Another report is still in circulation, and generally believed, that he, or his friends have applied for a penfion for him to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, and that the Directors have it in contemplation to give him five thoufand pounds a year. The plea made in his behalf is long and able fervices and great poverty. Before the Directors take their refolution, a Letter from himfelf, materially connected with fuch a plea, and the Remarks upon it, are publickly brought into their view, and recommended to their previous confideration.

The

PREFACE. vii

The prefent publication is not meant to injure Mr. Haftings, unlefs it be deemed an injury to prevent his receiving a gratuity to which he has no just claim, nor even an equitable pretension.



TO THE HONOURABLE

COURT OF DIRECTORS, &c.

On the River Ganges, Feb. 21, 1784.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

HAVING had occasion to difburfe from my own cash many fums for fervices, which, though required to enable me to execute the duties of my station, I have hitherto omitted to enter in my public accounts, and my own fortune being unequal to fo heavy a charge, I have refolved to reimburfe myfelf in a mode the most fuitable to your affairs, by charging the fame in my Durbar accounts of the prefent year, and crediting them by a fum privately received, and appropriated to your fervice in the fame manner as other B fums

fums received on account of the Honourable Company, and already carried to their account.

The particulars of these difbursements are contained in the enclosed accounts No. 1, 2, 3 and 4, of which No. 5 is the abstract. I shall subjoin a brief explanation of each.

The fum of the account No. 1 is the difference between the allowance of 300 rupees per month, which was the cuftomary pay of the Governor's Military Secretary, and that which I allowed to Lieutenant Colonel Ironfide, during the time he acted in that capacity, on account of his fuperior rank. It was referred to your Honourable Court in one of the letters of the year 1773 or 4; but I prefume that it was overlooked in the prefure of other more important matters, which at that time occupied your attention.

No. 2 and 3 are explained in the accounts themfelves. No. 4 confifts of three feveral kinds

kinds of charges, which I confess to have been unauthorized, but which I humbly conceive neither to be of a private nature, nor unworthy fubjects of the bounty of a great and rifing state. The first is inconfiderable, confifting chiefly in the fubliftence of the Pundits, who were affembled in Calcutta, and employed during two years in compiling the code of Hindoo laws for your ufe, the fum allotted to them was one rupee per diem. A larger recompence was offered, but refused; nor would they receive this, but for their daily fupport. They had indeed the promife of fome public endowments for their colleges, which yet remains unperformed. The fecond is the amount of fundry monthly falaries paid to fome of the most learned professors of the Mahomedan law for translating from the Arabic into the Perfian tongue a compendium of their law called the Hedaya, which is held in high effimation and part of a more voluminous work, which I could not profecute. Your Honourable Court is in pof-

B 2

feffion

feffion of a part of the English version of the Hedaya made by Mr. James Anderfon, and the fubfequent part of the fame book has been lately translated by Mr. Hamilton. These gentlemen are both engaged in the completion, and are both eminently qualified for it. It would exceed the bounds of this letter to expatiate on the utility of this work; yet I may be allowed to vindicate the expence of it by one fummary argument, which is that, while the Mahomedan law is allowed to be the ftandard of the criminal jurisprudence of your dominions under the control and infpection of your English fervants, it feems indifpenfably neceffary that the Judges of the courts should have a more familiar guide for their proceedings than the books of the Arabic tongue, of which few have opportunities of attaining a competent knowledge, and as neceffary that your fervants fhould poffefs the means of confulting the principles, on which those judgments are founded, which, in their ultimate refort and in extraordinary cafes, may may fall within their immediate cognizance, and of the laws, of which they are the protectors. The third charge is that of an academy inftituted for the fludy of the different branches of fciences taught in the Mahomedan schools. After a trial of about two years, finding that it was likely to answer the end of its institution, I recommended to the Board and obtained their confent to pais the fublequent expence of the eftablishment to the account of the Company and to erect a building for the purpofe at my own immediate coft, but for a Company's interested note granted me for the reimbursement of it. It is almost the only complete establishment of the kind now exifting in India, although they were once in univerfal use, and the decayed remains of these schools are yet to be feen in every capital town and city of Hindoftan and Decan. It has contributed to extend the credit of the Company's name. and to foften the prejudices excited by the rapid growth of the British dominion, and it

it is a feminary of the moft ufeful members of fociety. I humbly fubmit the propriety of carrying thefe expences to your account by the confideration, that it was not poffible for me to have been influenced in incurring them by any purpofe of my own intereft. Something perhaps may be attributed to the impulfe of pride in the fhare, which I might hope to derive of a public benefaction; but certainly not to vanity or oftentation; fince I believe it to be generally conceived that the whole expence, of which the greateft part is yet my own, has been already defrayed from the Treafury of the Company.

I will candidly confess that, when I first engaged both in this and the preceding expences, I had no intention of carrying it to the account of the Company. Improvident for myfelf, zealous for the honour of my country, and the credit and interests of my employers, I feldom permitted my Prospects of futurity to enter into the views of of my private concerns. In the undiffurbed exercise of the faculties, which appertain to the active feafon of my life, I confined all my regards to my public character, and reckoned on a fund of years to come for its duration. The infirmities of life have fince fucceeded, and I have lately received more than one fevere warning to retire from a scene, to which my bodily strength is no longer equal, and threatens me with a correfponding decay in whatever powers of mind I once poffeffed to difcharge the laborious duties and hard viciflitudes of my station. With this change in my condition, I am compelled to depart from that liberal plan, which I originally adopted, and to claim from your juffice, for you have forbad me to appeal to your generofity, the discharge of a debt, which I can, with the most scrupulous integrity, aver to be justly my due, and which I cannot fuftain. If it fhould be objected, that the allowance of these demands would furnish a precedent for others of the like kind. I have to remark

(7)

mark that, in their whole amount, they are but the aggregate of a contingent account of twelve years; and, if it were to become the practice of thofe, who have paffed their prime of life in your fervice, and filled, fo long as I have filled it, the first office of your dominion, to glean from their past accounts all the little articles of expence, which their inaccuracy or indifference hath overlooked, your interest would fusser infinitely less by the precedent, than by a fingle example of a life spent in the accumulation of crores for your benefit, and doomed in its close to fusser the extremities of private want and fink in obfeurity !

I have thought it proper to complete the prefent fubject by the addition of a charge, which I intended to have fubmitted to the board, but which, if divided at this time from the others, might have admitted an unfair conftruction. It is in the account No. 6, and confifts of charges incurred for boats and budgerows provided by me, for my own own use, on such public occasions, as required my departure from the Presidency on extraordinary fervices.

My predeceffors have always had an eftablifhment of this kind provided for them, and my fucceffor will have a provision devolve to him *fuperior in convenience and in elegance to any that I have yet feen*, and furnifhed with a coft, which could not be credited by those, who have feen the fubjects of it.

I have the honour, &c.

Your's, &c.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

Heads

Heads	of the	Account	enclosed	in	the	pre-
	ceding Letter.				- int	

- Salary to Col. Ironfide while acting as the Governor's Military Secretary from April 1772 to May 1773, - - -
- 2. Charges in the Governor General's office from Sept. 1772 to 1ft Jan. 1774, ----
- 3. Houfe-hire of his Aids de Camp from 1ft Dec. 1775 to Jan. 1784. -
- To Pundits, their diet and charges while employed in compiling the Code of Hindoo Laws; to charges attending the tranflating the Laws of Mahomed, and for the Expence of the Mahomedan Academy - To Budgeroes and Boats for the Governor Ge
 - for the Governor General's ufe fince 1781 to 18th Jan. 1784, - -

4, - - 59,165, 5 9 Rupees 3,36,228, 13 5

Note. No. 2, this Article confifts chiefly of Charges for Pens, Ink, Paper, Tape, &c. with Clerks Salaries,

(10)

8,511 7 6

caledt yd bata

1,49,870 11

33,323, 8 8

85,357, 11 9

REMARKS.

(11)

A LETTER from a Governor General of Bengal, acknowledging the private receipt of money and the application of it to his own ufe, is an object of curiofity. The fact, if not fairly and clearly accounted for, muft naturally excite fufpicion. But, if the account he gives of it be palpably defective, obfcure, and contradictory, curiofity and fufpicion will give way to other fentiments, efpecially in the minds of men, who have hitherto thought favourably of Mr. Haftings. I mean to examine his letter flrictly, but without paffion or invective.

The first point to be confidered is the time and circumstances, in which it was written. There may be fome merit in a voluntary and feasonable confession of queftionable acts. But, if it be partially made, or at a fuspicious moment, or under the apprehension of a difcovery, confession then not only forfeits all pretensions to merit, but

but indicates a flate of mind enfeebled and perplexed by the confcioufnefs of guilt. This general obfervation may ferve for a clew through many mysterious passages of Mr. Haftings's writings and conduct. His prefent letter, when written, had very much the air of a winding up not only of his government, but of his life. He fays he has lately received more than one fevere warning to retire ; and, if we may believe what he adds of the actual infirmities of his body and mind, his life was not likely to be a long one. It is evident at leaft that, while he was writing this letter, he did not expect to continue long in the government. In February, 1784, he had heard of the laft arrangement of the administration in England, which placed the Duke of Portland and Mr. Fox at the head of affairs. He knew that the power, which had hitherto fupported him, had been obliged to give way, and that a fystem, from which he had no protection to expect, was likely to prevail at home. Such was the opinion current in England in the fummer of 1783, and

and the only one, that could have been impreffed upon him at that period by all public and private advices. Without entering into the merits or demerits of the arrangements then in contemplation for the government of India, it is of importance to remark, that one certain effect of those arrangements, with respect to Mr. Hastings, would have been his immediate removal at leaft, if it went no further. The most favourable event he could hope for was fimply to be recalled. But, if an administration, by whom he thought he was condemned, fhould be difposed to avail themselves of the heavy votes of cenfure, which were drawn up by Mr. Dundas and Sir Adam Fergufon, and passed the House of Commons in 1782, who could fay to what extent their inquiries into the detail of his government might be carried, where they would ftop, or to what termination they might lead? In thefe circumftances, there could be no impreffion. but that of fear, on the mind of Mr. Haftings; and under that impression he must. have acted, at the period in question. Many private

private letters mention that, when he fet out on his last expedition to Lucknow, his spirits were funk into the lowest state of dejection.

(14)

Carrying this view of his fituation and reflexions into the examination of his letter, we may account for many things, which he has left unexplained.

1/1. He has received money privately, which, if once he were removed from the government, would probably be difcovered. The prefent confession therefore is extorted from him. It is imperfect as it ftands, and comes too late. Acts of this nature should be declared at the moment they are done. When they are acknowledged, they fhould be explained. If Mr. Haftings meant to clear his character, he should have told his employers, at what time he received the money, from whom, and on what account. A late and partial confession can have no object but to anticipate detection. A confeftion, which specifies no particulars, defeats the

the effect of a future difcovery. Any tranfaction of this kind, at any period, will be covered by a previous general acknowledgement of the private receipt of money. For how can it be determined, that any particular fums, which he may hereafter happen to have received, were not included in his general confeffion ?

2d. He has received money, which he is very unwilling to relinquifh and afraid to conceal. To entitle him to keep it, he makes out a bill of expences againft the Company, which, until this time, he had no intention of charging, and loads it with all the petty items that be can glean from bis paft accounts, and which, for twelve years together, he had totally overlooked. This he calls a debt juftly due to him, and concludes that it will not be difputed by the Directors, fince he has found out a private method of difcharging it.

3d. Supposing him to expect a future enquiry into the transactions of his Government,

ment, nothing can be of greater moment to him than to create a general prejudice, if he can, in favour of his integrity ; especially if the fame evidence, that proves his integrity, has a tendency to excite the compaffion of men, and to conciliate their benevolence. Mr. Haftings therefore, in formâ pauperis, is to be reprefented to the world as a man, who, after all his fervices, retires at last from his great employments with a fortune hardly fufficient to furnish him with the comforts of life; much lefs to reward him for his labours. The pains taken by his agents, to fpread and inculcate a general opinion of his poverty, are well known. But he himfelf has overacted his purpofe. Not contented with profeffing to have acquired only a moderate fortune, which in a comparative fenfe might poffibly be allowed, he threatens the Company with the injury, which their interefts should suffer, by the example of a life (such as his) doomed on its close to fuffer the extremities of private want, and to fink into obscurity!

A Man,

A Man, who pleads extreme poverty when his fortune might fairly have been affluent, and when the legislature intended and provided that it fhould be fo, ought first to shew that he really is as poor as he pretends to be; and fecondly, by what means fo great an income as he has enjoyed can have been honeftly as well as compleatly expended. An appeal to the paffions before the understanding is fatisfied, is fuspicious and premature. A plea of diffrefs, that exceeds all bounds of probability, not only deferves no credit, but argues a confusion in the judgment of the perfon who makes it. It is true that any artifice, however grofs, may deceive the multitude; but men of penetration will call Mr. Haftings to a fricter account.

4th. The fubftance of this letter is not the only evidence of the diforder and perplexity, in which it appears to have been written. It is faid of Mr. Haftings that he writes English with the utmost elegance and perspicuity. If he be not by this time,

a per-

a perfect mafter of composition, undoubtedly it is not for want of practife. Yet the expressions he makes use of, on a subject that demanded nothing but plain language, are for the most part affected and intricate, and in some places unintelligible. To a common eye, this circumstance proves nothing, men of deeper judgment will combine it with other evidence, and with them it will have its weight. The reader is requested to carry these general ideas along with him through the following discussion.

In the first paragraph Mr. Hastings declares, that he has received various sums privately, a part of which he has heretofore carried to the Company's account, but that he has resolved to apply the remainder to his own use, to reimburse himself for fundry expences, which he had been obliged to incur in their fervice, but which he had hitherto omitted to charge in his public accounts; and he says he does it now, because his own fortune is unequal to so beavy a charge.

a charge. In the early part of a lucrative government, thefe voluntary expences were not too heavy for him; but, when he has held it long enough to accumulate a fortune, he can fupport them no longer, and now he must be reimburfed by the public. His poverty compels him to glean from his past accounts all the little articles of expences which his inaccuracy or indifference hath overlooked. The probable amount of his fortune shall be confidered in its place.

It is true, that an extraordinary occasion will fometimes justify a public officer in incurring an extraordinary expence. But, in every instance, the fact and the reasons for it fhould be immediately reported to his employers, that they may judge for themfelves whether fuch charges are proper. whether they ought to be allowed, and particularly, whether they ought to be continued. On this principle, neglecting to make his charge in proper time precludes him from making it at any time. A Governor, who for feveral years omits to enter

D 2

ter in his public accounts any incidental expences not provided for by his eftablifhment, or authorized by his fuperiors, may with reafon be fufpected to have purpofely kept them out of fight during the time when his accounts might have been examined, and when fuch expences might at leaft have been prohibited in future.

Mr. Haftings forefeeing that his claim might be fubject to difficulties, if he really left it to the Court of Directors, very prudently refolved to reimburfe himfelf. He receives money *privately*, without difcovering from whom, or on what account, and he pays himfelf out of it, and this he calls a mode most fuitable to the Company's affairs.

In the first place, his receiving money privately, on *any* account, is positively against law, and against the very law, which created his office, and made him what he was. In a man fo trusted, difobedience is breach of trust, and the importance of the trust is the measure of the crime.

Secondly,

Secondly, There is not a native of Bengal either willing or able to give Mr. Haftings money, without an adequate fervice in return of fome fort or other, which can only be rendered at the Company's expence. A Zemindar will readily give one lack of rupees to a Collector to be excufed two in his rent. It refts with Mr. Haftings or his friends to fhew, what poffible motive, but a corrupt one, could engage any native to give him money privately.

Thirdly, Since Mr. Haftings, by his own confession, is in the habit of receiving money privately, how are the Directors to know whether he has confessed all that he had received? It is plain that he can conceal the amount of his receipts if he pleases. In his letter of the 16th. December 1782, he tells the Directors, that "he " could have concealed these transactions" (viz. fome others of the fame fort) " if he had " a wrong motive, from theirs and the " public eye for ever." Receiving money against law is not an indifferent action in a Governor. Governor. If he had no wrong motive, what motive had he? And what was the view or expectation of the perfon, who gave it? Would any man of common underftanding fuffer his fteward to receive money privately among his tenants under the pretence of paying himfelf in a mode most fuitable to his master's affairs? or would he be fatisfied with fuch an account as Mr. Haftings has given the Directors? In a truft of

able to his master's affairs? or would he be fatisfied with fuch an account as Mr. Haftings has given the Directors ? In a truft of the lowest order, fuch conduct would be deemed a fufficient evidence of fraud. Much lefs is it to be endured in a man, in whofe integrity the legislature have placed a diftinguished confidence, and who, ftanding high himfelf, is looked up to as an ex-The eminence of his station ample. makes it effentially bis duty to fet a good example to those, who are under his authority and fubject to his influence. Can he check in others the abufes he commits? Can he punish offences, of which he himfelf is guilty ?

Fourthly,

Fourthly, If this mode of discharging the Company's debts be the most fuitable to their affairs, what are we to conclude, but that their affairs are in extreme diffrefs? A government, whofe annual revenue is stated at four millions, cannot defray an extra expence required to enable the Governor to execute the duties of his station, unless he receives money privately. Retrenchments, æconomy, and good management, are the courfes, which every flate ought to purfue for the recovery of its affairs. Receiving bribes to fupport extravagance cannot last long and must be the ruin of the government. Every man in office under Mr. Haftings might act as he has done, make use of the fame pretences, and plead his example for it. Finally, fuppoling the distrefs of the Company's affairs to be a juftification of fuch practifes, it ought not to be one in Bengal, fince Mr. Haftings himfelf,* very lately affured the Directors that, " it had been the diftinguished lot of the " lands immediately fubject to the govern-" ment,

* 16th December, 1783.

" ment, over which he prefided, to have " enjoyed the clear and uninterrupted *Jun-*" *floine* of wealth, peace, and abundance, " and to have dealt out a portion of thefe " bleffings to remote flates and members " of the Britifh dominions."—He might have called it moonfhine with greater propriety.

Of the five accounts of difburfements now produced by Mr.Haftings, it may be obferved in general, that there is not one, of which the Board at Calcutta was not as competent to judge as himfelf; and the chief of them, viz. for a Mahomedan academy, ought to have been previoufly recommended to the Court of Directors, and their fanction obtained before the fcheme was undertaken.

Lieutenant Colonel Ironfide, as Military Secretary, had no claim to extraordinary pay from the Company on account of his fuperior rank, nor does it appear that he made any. Eftablifhments are ufelefs, if fuch precedents are admitted. On the Britifh ftaff, the pay of Secretary to the Commander in chief is ten fhillings a day, and, and, whether the duty be done by an Enfign or Field-Officer, never varies.

(25)

The fecond account containing a charge of nearly 15,000l. for difburfements in his office of Governor-General, viz. hire of clerks, stationary, &c. &c. The only offices, in which the Governor-General acts diftinctly from the Council, are those of the Perfian correspondence and military command in Fort William. For the first, there is a compleat establishment under the Perfian Tranflator, and a Military Secretary for the business of the second, who, with all their petty difburfements, are liberally provided for by the Company. As to flationary, the Company fend out immenfe quantities of it every year for the ufe of all the public offices at Calcutta. It is not unlikely that Mr. Haftings' accounts and correspondence may be voluminous; but he has no right to load the Company with the expence of an office for the management of his private affairs.

E

The

The third charge for houfe-rent to his Aids de Camp will appear unbecoming as well as irregular in Mr. Haftings, if it be confidered that the Company, as a mark of perfonal refpect to him, allowed him to

enjoy a houfe both in town and country rent-free, and that he accommodated himfelf with another houfe in Calcutta at their expence and without their permiffion.

No. 4. In this account, the first article feems too pitiful to be charged by a man, who receives twenty-five thousand pounds a year from the Company. The fecond, if proper, ought to have been provided for by the board at Calcutta. Mr. Haftings first indulges his vanity in having it underftood that all these fervices are accomplished at his own expence, that he is the promoter of learning and patron of men of letters, and that he fcorns to carry fuch charges to the Company's account. When this fort of oftentation has answered its purpose, he Juddenly turns fhort upon the Company and infifts upon their defraying the charges he has

has been put to in acquiring a reputation of generofity. It is the perfection of prudence, to be reputed bountiful and to make others pay for it.

With refpect to his Mahomedan academy, there was nothing fo very preffing in the want of it, especially in time of war and in the midst of public distress, but that it might have waited for the approbation of the Court of Directors, on whom at that very time he was drawing bills to the amount of feveral millions fterling. That he may have erected a building for an academy is not unlikely, becaufe a building fuppofes a contract, and a contract makes the fortune of a contractor. But that he has done it at his own immediate cost is evidently untrue. He fays himfelf that a Company's interested note bas been granted him for the reimbursement of it. Now it cannot be faid that a man, who lends his money on a bond bearing eight per cent. interest, is either immediately or ultimately at the expence of any work, to which the money

E 2

fo

fo lent may be applied. He has placed himfelf on a footing with the other creditors of the Company, who have lent their money on the fame fecurity and received the fame interest for it that he does. But what are the fciences taught in the Mahomedan schools? Can he name any one Musfulman or European who has ftudied in this academy? Where did they ftudy in the two years before the building was erected ? What proof has he that this academy was likely to answer the end of it's inflitution, and why has he produced none? In fhort, who is there that ever heard of his academy before ?- The decayed remains of thefe schools are yet to be seen in the principal cities of Indostan! This indeed is true. Whereever the British dominion has extended, the ruins of ancient establishments are the only traces that are left of them. The greater part of Mr. Haftings's political life has been employed in promoting wars, in the Company's name, by which India, though not conquered, has been utterly laid wafte. But it feems that this academy has already contributed

tributed to extend the credit of the Company's name and to foften the prejudices excited by the rapid growth of the British dominions! The Company's name is fufficiently known in the There was no occasion to do any Eaft. thing to extend it. But, if the univerfal devaltation and ruin of their country have excited prejudices against us in the minds of the natives of India, of whom ninety-nine in an hundred are Hindoos, it may be doubted, whether they will be much foftened by the inftitution of a Mahomedan academy at Calcutta. Is it already a confolation to all the nations from Cape Comorin to Surat, whole country has been the feat of war, or to the wretched inhabitants of the Carnatic who may have furvived the defolation of their country, that Mr. Haftings has erected an academy at Calcutta? After carrying fire and fword into every quarter of India, where it was poffible for our armies to penetrate, does he think that the inftitution of a fchool compensates for all the havock he has made, or repairs. all the mischief he has done ?-Abfurdity is not incompatible with cunning. A manwho

who is fure of his audience, may hold what language he thinks fit.

Mr. Haftings fays it was not possible for him to have been influenced, in incurring these expences, by any purpose of his own interest. The truth of this proposition is not felfevident; and, if it were, it would be no reafon for carrying them to the Company's account. Who can determine that there is no profit on expenditures made without authority, for which he reimburfes himfelf. and for which no vouchers are produced ? As to his motive for doing what he had no fort of right to do, whether it was pride, or vanity, or oftentation, is immaterial. He. who thinks fuch a queftion worth difcuffing, must be passionately fond of talking of himfelf.

On the three articles, of which the account of No. 4 is composed, one general remark occurs. He begins his letter with afferting, that the fums, which he had had occasion to difburfe were for fervices required to enable bim to execute the duties of bis station. But But how the entertainment of learned Muffulmen, or the inflitution of an academy have been neceffary for that purpofe, is a myftery, which he has prudently abandoned to the conjectures of the Court of Directors.

He candidly confess that, when he first engaged both in this and the preceding expences, be had no intention of carrying it to the account of the Company. At that time he was improvident for bimself. At that time, the exercise of his faculties was undisturbed. He confined all his regards to his public character, and reckoned on a fund of years for its duration. If, by this last mysterious expreffion, it be meant that he depended on continuing many years in office, his expectation has not been difappointed. He has no right to fay or infinuate, that he has not been allowed fufficient time to provide for the establishment of his fortune notwithstanding the careleffness and improvidence, with which he at first neglected bis prospects of futurity. Supposing this

to

to be his meaning, the affertion is intelligible, though not true. The words, in which he involves it, express nothing but nonfenfe.

But now, it feems, all the preceding circumstances are reversed. The infirmities of life have fince fucceeded. His bodily Arength is impaired, and the powers of mind be once posseffed decay along with it. If it be of any use to him to prove, that he has loft his understanding, the prefent letter may anfwer his purpose. He has even loft his ftyle, and cannot write plain English. Who ever heard of a man's discharging the hard vicifitudes of his station, or calling the latter part of his own life his prospects of futurity? or of an interested note for a bond bearing intereft? Taking every thing for granted that he has faid of himfelf, let us fee what conclusion he has drawn from the premifes. Why, this change in his condition compels him to depart from that liberal plan, which be originally adopted. Did he expect to be immortal, or to continue in the government

to

to the end of his life, or that age would not affect his health, or impair his faculties ? Difappointed in his expectations, whatever they were, he now finds himfelf compelled to claim from the justice of the Directors the discharge of a debt. It is not an equitable appeal to their generofity but the politive demand of a debt firicily due to him. To gratify his own pride (for pride, he admits) and without any intention of charging the Company with fuch expences, he gives falaries to learned men, translates a book, and founds an academy. In procefs of time, he finds his health and faculties fo much impaired, that he is compelled to infift on being reimburfed, and he demands it as his right. Such is the foundation of his claim and immediate motive for making it. A debt, fo claimed, ought to be proved. Mr. Haftings contents himfelf with faying, I can, with the most scrupulous integrity, aver it to be justly my due. But in truth whether his appeal be to their justice or their generofity, is of no fort of moment, where he has previoufly refolved to reimburfe himself whether F

whether the Directors approve of it or not.

He supposes it may be objected that the allowance of these demands would furnish a precedent for others, of the like kind. If the debt be justly due to him, the payment of it can furnish no precedent injurious to the Company. Debts, justly due, must at all times be paid, whether with or without a precedent. But, fuppofing these claims of his to be fuch, as the Directors are at liberty to deny if they think proper, the objection then is a ftrong one, and he has not answered it. It is a dangerous precedent indeed, to fuffer any man in a public trust to run up a private bill without the confent or knowledge of his employers, and at the end of twelve years to infift upon their paying it. But this it feems is not dangerous; or, if it be, their interest would suffer lefs by the precedent than by a fingle example of a life spent in the accumulation of crores for their benefit, and docmed in its close to fuffer the extremities of private want and fink in obfourity !

fcurity ! This indeed is a melancholy conclution, and poffibly might make an impreffion on the benevolent hearts of the Directors, if he had not before affured them (in his letter of the 20th of January 1782) that his office had at least enabled him to lay up a provision with which he could be contented in a more bumble flation ; and if he had not, in another letter dated 11th November 1773, declared, that a very few years poffeffion of the government would undoubtedly enable him to retire with a fortune amply fitted to the meafure of his defires.* If it should now appear that Mr. Haftings's fervices and circumftances are fuch as he defcribes them, his neceffities may deferve to be confidered. That queftion is material, and shall be examined by itfelf.

He concludes his account with a charge of about fix thousand pounds sterling for boats provided by him for his own use. If bis predeceffors have always had an establish-

* Vide Appendix to 5th Report of Sec. Com. No. 5.

F 2

ment

ment of this kind provided for them, he ought to have been contented with it. The indulgence of perfonal vanity is endlefs, when others are to pay for it. But it feems thefe boats are superior in convenience and elegance to any that Mr. Hastings has yet seen. The Proprietors of India flock will be happy to hear it. Their fervant affures them that his boats have been furnished with a cost, which would not be credited by those, who have feen the fubjects of it. Mr. Haftings's friends have often boafted the fimplicity of his manners, and he himfelf profess to carry it even to bumility. In one of his narratives, he fays, " the Raja of Benares left " his capital with a large retinue; but, " hearing that I came unattended, he dif-" miffed his followers and met me with a " ftate as bumble as mine."

But, alas! the infirmities of life have fucceeded, and his faculties are impaired by them !

media as the meeting of at allowing

Alt a

Thefe

These demands, put together, form an object by no means inconfiderable. Under five heads only, the amount of what he calls little articles of expence gleaned from his past accounts is current rupees 3.36.220; or very nearly thirty four thousand pounds sterling.

The probable fituation of his fortune remains to be confidered. They, who have hitherto infifted most on the moderate amount of it, have at all times allowed him to poffefs about feventy or eighty thousand pounds, which they truly afferted was a fmall fortune for a man fo long in the government of Bengal, and fo much longer in lucrative employments. All the principal offices in the Company's fervice are lucrative. In the prefent letter, Mr. Haftings reduces himfelf to positive and absolute beg. gary, though his life has been spent in the accumulation of crores for the Company. The fecond part of this proposition is just as true as the first. If fo many millions have been accumulated, where are they ? Since (KERE

354765

Since the year 1777 he has drawn upon the Directors for many millions fterling and incurred a heavy bonded debt in Bengal. In the fame period, bills have been drawn and debts incurred to the amount of feveral millions more at Fort St. George and Bombay, and properly the whole ought to be placed to the account of Mr. Haftings the contriver and author of the Maratta war. A calculation of thefe accumulations is ftated in the Appendix.

He now wifhes it to be underftood that, while he was accumulating fo many millions for the Company, he has totally neglected his private fortune. Whether he did or not, the fact is, that his fortune was amply provided for by his appointments. Let it be fuppofed for a moment, that he had no fhare in the bounty of Coffim Ally Cawn, who is pretty well known to have diftributed twenty lacks of rupees among fome perfons of Mr. Haftings's acquaintance; that he got nothing by the deposition of Meer Jaffier in 1760, or that he loft it again faved nothing while he was fecond in council at Madrafs, and in fhort that he was not worth a fhilling when he was appointed to the government of Bengal. Since that time, twelve years and a half have elapfed, in which his avowed receipts and vifible expences, being effimated and compared, will fhew what he is or ought to be worth at prefent. With refpect to the annexed ftatements of the credit due to them, it is to be obferved

1/f. That he is not charged with any receipts beyond his falary, except a lack and a half of rupees received from Munny Begum, which never was diffuted.

2d. That his falary, as limited by Act of Parliament in 1773, to $\pounds.25,000$ was always reckoned to be lefs that the profits of his place as they flood before.

3d. That houfe rent, the principal article of expence in Bengal, was defrayed for. for him. He had three houfes (two in Calcutta and one in the country) rented, furnifhed, and kept in repair by the Company, who are also at the charge of the general entertainments, to which the Governor invites the fettlement three or four times a year. So that, out of his great falary, he had literally nothing to provide for but his table, equipage, private fervants, and perfonal expences. In thefe, by all accounts, there was no appearance of extravagance. Eight thoufand current rupees a month is a liberal allowance for them. It would be difficult to fhew how they could poffibly amount to that fum.

(40)

4tb. The falaries of the Governor and Council are paid to them in Bengal, at one fhilling and nine pence half-penny the current rupee; but, by an eftablished indulgence of the Company to their fervants, when they remit their fortunes back again by bills on the Directors, the treasfury at Fort William receives the current rupee at two shillings and a penny and sometimes higher, which gives them a profit of three pence pence halfpenny on every rupee fo reamitted.

5tb. The first ftatement supposes him not to have improved his growing capital, by putting any part of it out at lawful interest.—The second supposes him to have improved his favings at simple interest only. The third supposes him to have improved them, as he might fairly and honestly have done, at compound interest. In the first cafe his present fortune ought to be

> In the $2d. - \pounds_{303,418, 3}$. In the $3d. - \pounds_{425,226, 4}$.

£261,265.

Mr. Haftings, if he has availed himfelf of all these advantages except the present from Munny Begum, has done nothing that he was not fairly intitled to do. There may be objections to these estimates, but none that will materially reduce the total. Much less can any deductions be reasonably made G from from the amount, that will leave him in danger of *fuffering the extremities of private want*. For any thing that appears to the contrary to the public eye, a medium of the three totals, viz. $f_{,329,969.~15s.~8d.}$ ought to be taken for a fair and moderate effimate of his actual fortune. If not, what has he done with it? It is true that he talks of his inaccuracy, and would willingly be thought a man carelefs about money matters. But we have the evidence of the contrary before us. He has kept an exact account of the minuteft articles of expence, and even of his charities.

There is another way of effimating his fortune, which would encreafe it confiderably; that is, if he were to be debited with the fums which he has been accufed of receiving, or even with those which he has acknowledged.

In March 1775 he was charged by the unfortunate Raja Nandcomar with the receipt

(42)

receipt of various fums paid to him by the Raja to the amount of funaut rupees 2,54,105, or about £, 36,000. The accufer not only fpecified all manner of particulars, but came forward, at every poffible perfonal hazard, to make good his charge. If it was falfe, it was at once the most daring and abfurd falfehood that ever was attempted. Dolus in generalibus versatur-Falsehood never descends to particulars. The Raja however was inftantly hanged, and his charge, whether true or false, must be dismissed out of this account. At prefent, it is not meant to infift on any thing, but what Mr. Haftings himfelf has acknowledged. In his letter to the Directors dated 22d of May 1782, but not difpatched from Calcutta until the 16th of December following, he gives them an account of various fums occasionally. converted to the Company's property through. bis means, amounting at that time to nineteen lack and a half of current rupees, or £195,000, all which, he fays, he has carried to the Company's credit. But, of G 2 this

this fum, he admits that he had taken their bonds at eight per cent. for four lacks and fix thousand rupees, and that he had credit in the account of deposits in the Company's treasury for 2,38,715 rupees more, which he might have called for when he would, and received on demand. If the money was their own, he had no right to take a fecurity for it. He could have no right to lend them their own money at interest. Or,-fuppofing it poffible to invent a pretence, for this course of proceeding, or admitting, as he fays, that he poffibly acted without any studied design which his memory could at that distance of time verify, the bonds ought to have been cancelled long ago. which it is not known that he has done. In his poffettion, they are a legal fecurity to him and his heirs, and as long as they exist make part of his fortune. The remaining thirteen lacks are faid to be expended in Durbar charges, which confift chiefly of bounties and prefents made by Government and of fecret fervices only known

(44)

known to the Governor. Of these no judgment can be formed unless the particulars were produced.

It is to be prefumed that, when Mr. Haftings' Letter and the preceding Remarks upon it are coolly and impartially confidered, no rational being can believe, that he is really in that flate of penury and diffrefs, which he defcribes. There is no degree of human credulity, that will reach to fuch a belief. And yet it may poffibly be true that his fortune is not fo confiderable as apparently it ought to be. He may have appropriated large fums to fervices, not proper to be explained, that is, to the fupport of his interest in England. On that prefumption, his poverty becomes criminal in whatever degree the fuppofition makes it credible. If he has wasted his fortune to obtain protection, the inference is plain,-that his actions required interest and favour to protect them, and that his

his poverty arifes from his fuccefs in corrupting the integrity of perfons whofe truft and station gave them power to fupport him.

M. and a toot banking ad of al a

realities, an information designed, believe,

FINIS.

be. It's many have approximated share

në "lanimito" sumort sporto shi shin anënje dependet pji toppi pjiratero

in no droteerof framata crockelity , that will

APPENDIX, No. I.

es avoid at this dotants of sime verify; and the standard think it worth my care to the observe the fame means with the reft

APPENDI

Extract of a letter from Warren Hastings, Esq. to the Court of Directors, dated 22d of May, 1782, but not dispatched until the 16th of December following.

es freir an occafion, cotteled

"WHY these fums were taken by me; why they were, except the second, quietly transferred to the Company's use; why bonds were taken for the first, and not for the rest, might, were this matter to be exposed to the view of the Public, furnish a variety of conjectures to which it would be of little use to reply. Were your Honourable Court to quession me on these points, I would answer, that the sums were taken for the Company's benefit, at times in which the Company very much needed them; that I either H "chose

" chofe to conceal the first receipts from " the public curiofity, by receiving bonds " for the amount; or possibly acted with-" out any fludied defign which my memory " could at this diffance of time verify; and " that I did not think it worth my care to " observe the fame means with the rest. " I trust; Honourable Sirs, to your breasts " for a candid interpretation of my actions, " and affume the freedom to add, that I " think myself, on fuch a fubject, and on " fuch an occasion, entitled to it."

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Hastings to the Court of Directors, dated 16th December, 1782.

" Honourable Sirs,

"THE difpatch of the Lively having been " protracted, by various caufes, from time " to time, the accompanying addrefs, which " was originally defigned and prepared for " that difpatch, (no other conveyance fince " occuring) has of courfe been thus long " detained.

" detained. The delay is of no public con-" fequence; but it has produced a fitua-" tion, which, with refpect to myfelf, I " regard as unfortunate, becaufe it exposes " me to the meaneft imputation, from the " occafion, which the late Parliamentary " enquires have fince furnished, but which " were unknown when my letter was " written, and written in the neceffary con-" fequence of a promise, made to that effect " in a former letter to your Honourable " Committee, dated 20th January laft. " However, to preclude the poffibility of " fuch reflections from affecting me, I " have defired Mr. Larkins, who was " privy to the whole transaction, to affix " to the letter his affidavit of the date in " which it was written. I own I feel moft " fenfibly the mortification of being re-" duced to the necessity of using fuch pre-" cautions to guard my reputation from " dishonour. If I had, at any time, pof-" feffed that degree of confidence from my " immediate employers, which they never " withheld from the meanest of my pre-H 2 deceffors,

" deceffors, I should have difdained to use " thefe attentions. How I have drawn on " me a different treatment I know not : it " is fufficient that I have not merited it : " and in the course of a fervice of thirty-" two years, and ten of thefe employed in " maintaining the powers. and difcharging " the duties of the first office of the British "Government in India, that Honourable " Court ought to know whether I poffefs " the integrity and honour, which are the " first requisites of such a station. If I " wanted thefe, they have afforded me but " too powerful incentives to fupprefs the " information, which I now convey to " them through you; and to appropriate " to my own use the fums, which I have " already paffed to their credit, by the un-" worthy, and pardon me if I add danger-" ous reflections which they have passed " upon me, for the first communication of " this kind; and your own experience will " fuggeft to you, that there are perfons, " who would profit by fuch a warning.

" Upon

" Upon the whole of these transactions, " which to you, who are accustomed to " view bufinefs in an official and regular " light, may appear unprecedented, if not " improper, I have but a few fhort remarks to fuggeft to your confideration. If I 66 66 appear in any unfavourable light by thefe 66 transactions, I refign the common and " legal fecurity of those who commit " crimes, or errors. I am ready to answer " every particular question, that may be " put against myself, upon honour, or up-" on oath.

" The fources, from which thefe reliefs to the public fervice have come, would never have yielded them to the Company publickly; and the exigencies of your fervice (exigencies created by the exposition of your affairs and faction in your Councils) required those supplies.

" I could have concealed them, had I a wrong motive, from yours and the public ever for ever; and I know that the difficulties,

" ficulties, to which a fpirit of injuffice may "fubject me, for my candour and avowal, are greater than any poffible inconvenience that could have attended the concealment, except the diffatisfaction of my own mind. These difficulties are but a few of those, which I have fuffered in your fervice. The applause of my own breast is my furest reward, and was the support of my mind in meeting them; your applause and that of my country, are my next wish in life.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Sector to

WARREN HASTINGS."

N.B. It is very material to obferve that Mr. Haftings, who, as he himfelf affirms, " has " at no time poffeffed that degree of con-" fidence from his immediate employers, " which they never withheld from the " meaneft of his predeceffors," has neverthelefs received the unanimous thanks of thofe immediate employers, viz. the Court of Directors, for his long, able, and faithful fervices,

fervices. It feems also very neceffary that Mr. Hastings should state to the Company, whom it is that he means to describe by the words " the meaness of bis predecessors," was it Governor Cartier, or Mr. Verelst, or Mr. Van Sittart, or does he mean the late Lord Clive ?

APPENDIX No. II.

Extracts from the eleventh Report of the Select Committee, on the Subject of the preceding Letters.

"WHATEVER the caufe of thefe new "difcoveries (made by Mr. Haftings) might "have been, at the time of fending them, "the fact of the Parliamentary enquiry "was publickly known, for, in his letter of the 15th of December, 1782, he ex-"prefsly mentions his fears, that thole "Parlia-

" Parliamentary enquiries might be thought " to have extorted from him the con-" feffions which he had made.

"He fays that in all the long period of his fervice, he has almost unremittedly wanted the fupport, which all his predecessfors had enjoyed from their confituents. From mine (*fays be*) I have received nothing but *reproach*, *bard epithets and indignities*, instead of rewards and encouragement."

What Mr. Hastings fays further on this fubject, is no lefs worthy of attention; vizthat be could have concealed these transactions, if he had a wrong motive, from theirs and the public eye for ever. It is undoubtedly true that, whether the observation be applicable to the particular case or not, practises of this corrupt nature are extremely difficult of detection any where, but especially in India. But all restraints upon that grand fundamental abuse of presents is gone for ever, if the servants of the Company can

can derive fafety from a defiance of the law, when they can no longer hope to fcreen themfelves by an evafion of it. All hope of reformation is at an end, if, confiding in the force of a faction among Directors or Proprietors, to bear them out, and poffibly to vote them the fruit of their crimes as a reward of their difcovery, they find that their bold avowal of their offences is not only to produce indemnity, but to be rated for merit. If once a prefumption is admitted, that wherever fomething is divulged, nothing is hid, the difcovering of one offence may become the certain means of concealing a multitude of others. The contrivance is eafy and trivial, and lies open to the meanest proficient in this kind of art: it will not only become an effectual cover to fuch practices, but will tend infinitely to increase them. In that case, sums of money will be taken for the purpose of difcovery and making merit with the Company; and other fums will be taken for the private advantage of the receiver.

I

Extract

Extract from the Eleventh Report, page 13.

HE professes not to be certain of the motives, by which he was himfelf actuated in fo extraordinary a concealment, and in the use of fuch extraordinary means to effect it : And, as if the acts in queftion were those of an absolute ftranger, and not his own, he gives various loofe conjectures concerning the motive to them. He even fuppofes, in taking prefents contrary to law, and in taking bonds for them as his own, contrary to what he admits to be truth and fact, that he might have acted without any diftinct motive at all, or at least fuch as his memory could reach at that diftance of time. That immense distance, in the faintness of which, his recollection is fo compleatly loft, as to fet him gueffing at his motives for his own conduct, was from the fifteenth of January, 1781, when the bonds at his own request were given, to the

the date of this letter which is the 22d May, 1782, that is to fay, about one year and four months. As to the other fums, for which no bond was taken, the ground for the difference in his explanation is ftill more extraordinary; he fays, " I did not think it worth my care to ob-" ferve the fame means with the *reft*."

The reft of thefe fums, which were not worth his care, are flated in his account to be greater than thofe he was fo folicitous (for fome reafon which he cannot guefs) to cover under bonds. Thefe fums amount to near 53,000l. whereas the others did not much exceed 40,000l.

I 2

APPEN-

APPENDIX, No. III.

STATEMENT, No. 1.

Without Intereft.

Amount of Salary received in Bengal from April 1772 to December 1784, is twelve Years and nine Months at £25,000 per Annum, and one Shilling and nine-pence halfpenny per current Rupee, is C. Rs. 35,58,142 Received from Munny Begum - 1,74,000 37,32,142

DEDUCT

Amount of Expences at 8000 crs. per Month for twelve Years nine Months, is - - - - 12,24,000 Remains current Rupees - 25,08,142 Which at two Shillings and one penny per current Rupee is £261,265

APPENDIX,

STATEMENT, No. 2.

With fimple Intereft. Allowance of £25,000 per Annum received in Bengal at 15. 9d. 1 per current Rupee Crs. 279,070 15 -----Deduct 8000 Rupees per Month for Expences - -96,000 Remains annual Savings Crs. 183,070 Of this annual Refidue, allow one half to be remitted to Europe, which at 5 per Cent. fimple Intereft has increased, viz. Crs. 183,070-half is 91,535-remitted at 2s. Id. per. Crs. is £,9534, 18s. for ten Years - - - - £95,349 Ten Years Intereft at 5 per C. is 4767 5 1,100,116 5 Add the two first Years Refidue on which no Interest is calculated - - 19069 16 Ditto laft 9 Months allowances, do. deducting 9 Months expences 19450 138,636 1 The other half (Crs. 91535) remained in Bengal at 10 per Cent. Intereft-eleven Years Principal is -- 1006,885 (Crs. 91535) eleven Years Interest at 10 per Cent. 100,688 8 Crs. 11,07,573 8 Add one Year's Refidue without Intereft 91,535 11,99,108 8 which at 2s. Id. per Crs. is 1,24,907 2 Munny Begums 174000 Crs. for 12 Years at 10 per Cent. per Ann. 208800 is 3,82,800 which at 2s. 6d. per current Rupee is 39,875 1,3,03,418 3 0

STATEMENT, No. 3. With compound Intereft.

with compound Interest.
Allowance of £25,000 per Annum received
in Bengal at 1s. 9d. 1 per current Rupee
is Crs. 270.070
is Crs. 279,070 Deduct 8000 Rupees per Month
for Expences 96,000
Remains annual Savings Crs. 183,070
Of this annual Refidue, allow one half to
be remitted to Europe, which at 5 per
Cent. compound Interest has increased,
viz. Crs. 183,070-half is 91535 re-
mitted at 2s. 1d. per Crs. is £,9534, 18s.
Ten Years is
Ten Years compound Interest
at 5 per Cent. is 30576 5
£125925 5
Add two Years and a half Re-
fidue, without Interest - 19069 16
And last 9 Months allowance d° 19450 6
The other half (Crs. 91535) remained in
Bengal at 10 per Cent. Interest-eleven
Years Principal is Crs. 10,06,885
Eleven Years compound
Interest at 10 per Cent. 8,58,989 14 9
18,65,874 14 9
Add one Year's Refidue without
Interest 91,535
Crs. 19,57,409 14 9
which, at 2s. 1d. percurrent Rupee is 203896 17
Munny Begums - Crs, 174,000
at 10 per Cent. per Ann.
compound Interest for
twelve Years is 372,086 7 6
Crs. 5,46,086 7 6
which at 2s. 1d. per current Rupee is 56884 0
A
£425226 4

APPENDIX, No. IV.

Statement of the Crores of Rupees, or Millions Sterling, accumulated by Mr. Haftings, for the Benefit of the East-India Company.

Currt. Rups. Balance in the Treafury of Bengal at the commencement of the Maratta war, as flated by Mr. Haftings himfelf in his minute of 10th August, 1778 - - - 2,35,66,000 Chevte Sing-his extra-contribution - - - - - - - -10,16,000 Drafts on the Court of Directors from the different Prefidencies fince the commencement of the Marratta war, computed moderately at fix millions sterling - -600,00,000 Money borrowed upon bond at 8 and 9 per Cent. intereft at the three Prefidencies 515,99,910 Arrears due at the feveral Pre-381,60,270

Carried over, Curr'. Rup'. 1743,42,180

Brought over, Curr⁴. Rup⁴. 1743,42,180 *Orders on the Treafury of Fort William unpaid, by the lateft accounts - - - 116,58,891

Total-Current Rupees 1860,01,071

That is—Eighteen millions, fix hundred thousand pounds sterling.

"N. B. * No fimilar accounts of Orders on the Treasuries of Fort St. George and Bombay have been received by the Court of Directors, and therefore cannot be inferted in this Statement, though the amount must be confiderable."

It is material to obferve that, befides the expenditure of thefe extraordinary fupplies, all the current revenues of Bengal in the fame period amounting, *communibus annis*, to four million fterling a year, have been abforbed; and that whereas, in the year 1776, there was a clear furplus of revenue (exclusive of the produce of any monopoly of falt or opium, of current rupees 129,91,547 applicable to the provision of an an inveftment, or to any other purpole the Court of Directors might think fit,—The expences, by Mr. Haftings's means, have fince that time been raifed to fuch an amount that they greatly exceed the refources, as the following flatement will fhew.

By the Bengal estimates it appears that, in the three years ending the 1st May 1786, the difburfements exceed the refources as follows,

 1ft year ending May 1784 by cur. rupees 56,21,690

 2d — May 1785 — 149,01,433

 3d — May 1786 — 116,46,715

It follows therefore that, if the furplus of 1776 be added to the deficiency of 1786, there will appear and does exist a failure in the annual refources of Bengal compared with its expences, to the amount of current rupees 246,38,262. In other words, the Company's income in Bengal, compared with their expences, was better in the year 1776 than it is in the year 1786, by above two millions, four hundred and fixty three thousand pounds fterling *per annum*.

K

Ex-

APPENDIX, No. V.

A P.P.S.W.D.I.X.

Extract of a Letter from Warren Hastings, Esq. to William Devaynes, Esq. dated the 11th of July, 1785.

" ALTHOUGH I am firmly perfuaded, " that these were my fentiments on the " occasion, yet I will not affirm that they " were. Though I feel their impreffion, " as the remains of a feries of thoughts re-" tained on my memory, I am not certain " that they may not have been produced by " fublequent reflection on the principal " fact, combining with it the probable mo-" tive of it. Of this I am certain, that it " was my defign to have concealed the " receipt of all the fums, except the fecond, " even from the knowledge of the Court " of Directors. They had answered my " purpose of public utility, and I had al-" most totally difmissed them from my « re-

** remembrance. But when fortune threw
** a fum in my way of a magnitude which
** could not be concealed, and the peculiar
** delicacy of my fituation, at the time in
** which I received it, made me more cir** cumfpect of appearances, I chofe to ap** prife my employers of it."

a strand then all shore still there is

ERRATA.

and stom our contra in hovieces I doithad

APPENDIX

Page 1, read, In a mode the most fuitable to the fituation of your affairs.

Page 15, line 6, inflead of happen, read appear. Page 42, line the laft ; read Nuncomar.