

R E P O R T

FROM THE

C O M M I T T E E

APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO

The NATURE, STATE, and CONDITION

OF THE

E A S T I N D I A COMPANY,

AND OF THE

BRITISH AFFAIRS IN THE *E A S T I N D I E S*.



L O N D O N :

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REPORT

FROM THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ON THE 17TH MARCH 1841



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R E P O R T

F R O M T H E

C O M M I T T E E, &c.

THE Committee appointed to enquire into the Nature, State, and Condition of the East India Company, and of the British affairs in the East Indies, having determined, as the most proper means of fulfilling the Orders of the House, to continue the plan of proceeding which they had adopted in the last Session of Parliament, resumed their inquiry into the objects stated under the third head of that plan; viz, To pursue by historical deduction the state of affairs in India, the manner in which the present possessions in that country were acquired, and the different transactions attending those acquisitions, beginning with the transactions of Benga', and dividing them into three periods; viz. From the establishment of the present Company, to the completion of the revolution in the year 1757, from thence to the assuming the Dewannee, in the year 1765, and from thence to the present time; and in each period respectively to state the situation of the Company's affairs, and the material parts of the conduct of the Company's servants, with respect to the powers entrusted with them by the Company, in the civil and military departments, in administration of justice, in the accepting of presents, in the management of trade, and in the revenues and coinage.

And your Committee having in their former proceedings begun to inquire into the conduct of the Company's servants, with regard to the delivering up of Ramneram, who had been naib, or deputy governor of Patna, under Jaffer Ally Cawn, and was continued through the influence of the English in his naibship under Cossim Ally Cawn, the succeeding nabob; the first business they entered upon was to finish that inquiry.

But the Committee remarking, that the information the house has yet received relative to that matter, is only from a transcript of their minutes of last year, which the shortness of the time obliged them to lay crude before the House; and wherein neither the heads of evidence are properly arranged, nor the purposes for which the evidence was adduced are stated; they thought it necessary in this place to mention, that they conceived the transactions concerning Ramneram to be of material consequence in their inquiry; because those transactions have been represented to the Company, by one of their principal servants, as the cause of all others which contributed the most to bring on the war with Cossim Ally Cawn; and by another principal servant it is alleged, that the delivering up of that person was a necessary duty on the part of the Company, in conformity to the just rights of the nabob Cossim Ally Cawn, and the treaty subsisting between him and the Company.

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Your Committee have not found any thing upon the records of the Company, respecting the original engagements from the English to Ramnerain; but the Right Honourable Lord Clive, a member of the Committee, being requested to relate what were the engagements entered into by Ramnerain with the nabob, he said, there was no engagement in writing: that after his lordship was called up to the assistance of Myr Jaffier, in the beginning of the year 1758, his excellency desired him to write to Ramnerain, assuring him of the English protection; for that Ramnerain would put confidence in such a letter, but not in one from himself, and that he should by that means get possession of his person and might cut off his head—That his lordship told him it was not the custom of the English to be guilty of such transactions, that if he was inclined to reduce him by force of arms he was ready to assist him, but if he chose that his lordship should make him any promises he must fulfil them:—That the nabob preferred the latter, in consequence of which his lordship wrote to Ramnerain, that if he would come into the presence, and acknowledge the nabob, he should be kept in his government on the same footing as he had been under Serajah Dowlah—That he came accordingly, paid obedience to the nabob, and was confirmed in his government, upon condition that he should pay the nabob Myr Jaffier the same rents or tribute as he had paid to Serajah Dowlah; what that was his lordship could not tell, but he believed he was to have paid a certain sum, which might have been increased or decreased upon various circumstances—That when he took leave of Myr Jaffier, at his departure for England, he talked over with him the state in which he left the provinces—That he always understood that Ramnerain remained in the government at Patna, through the English protection, much against the inclination of Myr Jaffier; and that if his excellency had had any complaints to have made against him, he would certainly have made them to his lordship; but that none were made.

Your Committee next called William M^c Guire, Esquire, who having referred, during the course of his examination, to several papers, in order to elucidate his evidence, your Committee have annexed the said papers hereunto N^o 1. to 13. And the witness informed your Committee, that he arrived at Patna as chief, on the 4th of January 1761, and was dismissed from the chiefship the 19th of August following, consequently he was not in the service when Ramnerain was delivered up; but the witness said he had received orders for delivering him up, which he would not execute—He could not exactly say the time at which he received them—That his opinion then was, that Ramnerain should have been suspended the service, but his person protected: and that he understood, by the term dismissing him (which is used in different parts of the written correspondence) that his guards should be withdrawn, and that he should be totally suspended from all interference in the government till his accounts should be settled: And the witness further said, that when he was to be dismissed, he understood that force if necessary was to be used, to prevent the nabob's seizing him.

And the Committee observing, that the witness, in his correspondence with the governor and council, had advised that Ramnerain should be delivered over to the cutcheree, or nabob's court of justice; and being asked to explain the reasons of that advice, he answered, That he might be compelled to make up the accounts of the Sircar: That his meaning by the words in his letter to the governor and council of Fort William, dated Patna, 31 July, "For whilst he finds your honour, &c. are mediators with the nabob, not to dishonour him, he knows he cannot be obliged to comply; and under this shelter the nabob must go without his accounts," was not to subject him to the various methods used by the cutcheree, to force persons by torture to settle their accounts. That he had heard of Gentoos killing themselves to avoid being dishonoured in that manner. The witness further said, That when Ramnerain came into the kallah, previous to his being delivered over to the cutcheree, the nabob's word was not his only protection, he had the protection of the English; viz. their promises that he should not be dishonoured; and that when he advised that he should be turned over to the cutcheree, he conceived him to be still under the protection of the English: Then being asked, How Ramnerain could be amenable to the cutcheree, if he was under the English protection? he said, As having accounts to settle with the government: And being further asked, Whether he meant to have resisted any compulsory methods which the nabob might have used? he answered, The nabob had promised not to use any such. It further appears, from the evidence of the witness (taken at a subsequent period of this enquiry, but inserted here, for the better connection of the subject) that the witness received from Cossim Ally Cawn 5,000 mohurs, amounting to between 60 and 70,000 rupees, on delivering the keys of the kallah at Patna, which was a short time previous to the period when Ramnerain was removed from the government of Patna: And the witness being questioned, at the same time of his examination, Whether he ever notified to the court of directors the receipt of this present, he declared, He did not. In regard to the collection of rents by Ramnerain, the witness said, That he never regularly collected any money, because he foresaw a time would come when he must render an account: That his manner of raising money was by receiving presents from different rajahs to a large amount; and in another part of his evidence, the witness said, That the country having been in a state of war for a considerable time previous to the de-

livering up of Ramnerain, he did not know whether the rents could have been collected under those circumstances:—And the witness being asked, What Ramnerain was to have paid for the rent of Bahar? he said, He never saw any accounts relating thereto, but that sent him by the council, in which it was stated, that he was to pay the nabob of Bengal three lacks of rupees a year; that he was to pay the chout or tribute to the Manarattas, the Jaghiredars, and to keep up a certain number of forces, all which might amount to 40 lacks of rupees a year: That the nabob did not admit that any such agreement had been made; but if it had, Ramnerain could not want a sum sufficient to make his payments to the nabob. The witness did not know whether Ramnerain had paid any rent in Myr Jaffier's time, though the agreement was said to have been made whilst he was nabob.

Your Committee think it proper further to add, that the witness at the close of his examination desired it to be understood, that though he was under hourly expectation of being dismissed, and had received orders in the intermediate time for delivering up Ramnerain to be brought to settle his accounts, by such means as the nabob should think proper; yet he did not deliver him over till the 19th of August, when he gave him to Mr. Hay under a guard of protection; and that he compromised matters with the nabob for 50 lacks of rupees in the beginning of September following.

Your Committee then called General Carnac, a member of the House, who being requested to give an account of the affair of Ramnerain, he referred to his letters to the Select Committee and governor and council, copies of which are hereunto annexed, N^o 14 and 15; and said, That besides the offers made him by Rajabullub, as expressed in the above letters, he received many large ones from the nabob himself, for his assistance to remove Ramnerain, and had no doubt but that great ones were made to Colonel Coote, who was his superior:—That the offer from the nabob was no specific sum, but unlimited:—That he could not recollect the terms on which Ramnerain was to hold the nabobship of Patna, but was certain some engagements were entered into by Lord Clive, to support him in the nabobship: And being asked, What were the circumstances relative to the delivering up of Ramnerain? he said, He concluded that the English protection was withdrawn from him immediately on the witness's leaving Patna, being certain that he was recalled from thence, because the council were conscious, that so long as he was there he would not suffer that protection to be withdrawn: That, upon his removal, the military command was placed under the chief of the factory, as was usual when the commanding officer present was not above the rank of a captain; and that he was certain the field officers were called away, that it might be so on this occasion:—That there had not been any disputes between the civil and military powers previous to his recall, which might account for it:—That there were some slight differences between Mr. M Guire and himself subsequent to it, but none between him and any other persons: That Ramnerain was put to death by Cossim Ally Cawn, as well as Rajabullub his competitor, and almost every Gentoo in the province of any rank or fortune, most of which sect were well disposed to the English, and rich.—Then Mr. Vansittart's minute, 20th July 1761, being read, wherein Ramnerain is stated to be highly culpable towards the nabob, and that this conduct had put it out of the power of the president and council to protect him longer in so shameful an injustice; (a copy of which is hereunto annexed, N^o 16.) The witness observed, in vindication of Ramnerain, that the province of Bahar had been a scene of war and desolation the whole preceding year: That the Shahdazah had remaining in the province with a numerous army, so that all resources from thence were cut off: And being asked, whether Ramnerain owed considerable sums to Cossim Ally Cawn at the time he was delivered up? he said He firmly believed not; because as Lord Clive left Bengal the beginning of 1760, and had an audience to take leave before his departure, the witness conceived, if Ramnerain had been in arrear to the nabob to any considerable amount, the nabob would not have failed taking notice of it to his lordship. And being asked, If he had heard of the Shahzadah having made any offers to Ramnerain during his invasion of the Bahar province, if he would deliver up the city of Patna to him? he said, He could not particularly recollect, but had no doubt that when the Shahzadah was besieging the city, he would have rewarded Ramnerain very handsomely, if he had been base enough to betray the city to him: And being questioned whether he had any conversation with Mr. Hay, relative to the circumstances of Ramnerain, and the demands made upon him by the nabob? he said, He was confident that Mr. Hay had an equal repugnancy with himself, to the withdrawing the English protection from Ramnerain; and that if he was the person who executed the orders of the council to deliver him up, he did it with great reluctance.

The matter contained in the above examination, and the papers referred to in the appendix, connected with what will appear upon the journals in the proceedings of last year, is all the Committee have collected upon the subject of Ramnerain.

But, in order to give further lights to the House upon the practices of that period, between the Company's servants and the Country powers, in matters of protection, and also to shew the jealousies the nabob Cossim Ally Cawn entertained on that subject, and the determination he had formed to make exemplary punishments of those who should seek protection of the English:

Your Committee entered into the examination of the circumstances relating to the seizing and putting to death of Harris Choudry, in the Year 1762; and for that purpose they examined Stanlake Batson, Esquire, who informed the Committee, that he had been of the council of Bengal several years, and to the year 1764; That Harris Choudry had been one of the Company's dadney, or contracting, merchants, at the Cossimbuzar factory, in Mr. Watis's chieffship; and he had likewise been employed as the Company's vackeel, or agent at the nabob's court, but not since the year 1756. That at the time he was seized, he was in some employment under Cossim Ally Cawn: That when Mr. Vansittart made Myr Cossim nabob, he permitted Mr. Mott, an Englishman, to reside at Muxadabad as a banker; that Harris Choudry complained to the witness, that Mr. Mott was about to seize a house or piece of land at Muxadabad, which belonged to him, and convinced him that Mr. Mott was going to do a piece of injustice, and obtained of him some Seepoys for the protection of his property:—That Mr. Mott, presuming on the influence he had over the nabob, by Mr. Vansittart's means, did not desist from seizing the house, but applied to the governor of Muxadabad for Seepoys, and a fray happened between the two parties, in which he believed some were wounded; in consequence of which, Harris Choudry was seized, and after some confinement blown away from the mouth of a cannon.—The witness believed Mr. Vansittart did not use his influence with the nabob to save him, deeming his execution a just reward for his rebellion, as he declared at the board, upon the witness speaking in his favour. The witness could not say whether it was understood by the nabob, that he was under the Company's protection by having their Seepoys, but said that he granted him Seepoys as having been in the Company's service as vackeel of the factory.—The witness further said, He believed Harris Choudry was put to death merely on account of the contest with Mr. Mott; and did not know of any application of the governor and council to save him.—He believed Harris Choudry had no opportunity of making such application himself, being close prisoner; but believed some letters passed between Mr. Vansittart and him on that subject.

Your Committee, pursuant to the order they had established, proceeded in the next place to examine further into the causes of the war between Cossim Ally Cawn and the Company. The general notoriety of many of those circumstances, and the different reasonings of the gentlemen of the council in Bengal upon them, makes it unnecessary, in the judgment of the Committee, to burthen the House with a recital at large of all that appears upon the records to have been written and argued upon this subject; and they have therefore thought their duty to the House fulfilled, in selecting, from the multiplicity of papers to which they have had recourse, such parts as will authenticate the principal facts, as will succinctly shew the origin and nature of the disputes, and as will elucidate the parole evidence; all which are contained in the Appendix, N^o 17 to 63.

And your Committee again examined Stanlake Batson, Esquire, who being desired to give an account of the effects of promulgating the Mongheer treaty, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, N^o 64, said, That on the same being made public, the nabob Cossim Ally Cawn sent orders to all his zemindars and officers to prevent the English from trading in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco:—That by one letter, which fell into the hands of the English, it appeared, that the nabob had ordered the man to whom it was addressed to stop the English in their trade, all but his friends Messieurs Vansittart and Hastings: That the said letter ought to be upon the consultations; and he was sure that the words “all but my friends Vansittart and Hastings,” or to that purpose, were in the letter read at the board; and that the order was to stop the trade. That in his opinion the breach with Cossim Ally Cawn arose from his desire and intention of making himself totally independent of the English, and not from any inordinate desire of the English to carry on the trade of the country without paying him his duties:—That he never heard that the gentlemen, engaged in the salt, beetle nut, and tobacco trade, refused paying the old established duties, but that the English in general traded duty free. That to the best of his knowledge the English traded, prior to the year 1756, in all articles except salt, beetle nut, tobacco, salt petre, and chutta silk, which were all farmed out;—That salt is an import at Bengal, being made at Masfulapatam and in Persia; and that for his first adventure in that article, which was just after the battle of Plassey, he had the nabob's dustuck, and of course paid no duties; but could not recollect whether he paid any afterwards: That the English began to trade in salt about the end of 1757, soon after which it became general. That Cossim Ally Cawn threatened to lay open the trade of Bengal duty free, but he believed never did; That if the order had been put in execution all nations would have been on the same footing as the English:—That the English refusing to pay the nabob's duties was alleged as one cause of the breach between them, but the witness believed it was not really so, being only a pretence.

Then General Carnac, a member of the House, being examined as to the causes of the differences between Cossim Ally Cawn and the English, said, That in his opinion Cossim Ally Cawn was determined from the beginning to set himself out of the reach of the English power as expeditiously as possible: and that it was natural he should do so, having no security for the English faith being better kept with him than his predecessor Myr Jaffier, who had been established by the unanimous approbation of the whole settlement, and that act was concurred in by Admiral Watson,

who

who then commanded his Majesty's Squadron in India; whereas this revolution was effected only by a few members of the then administration, who availed themselves of an occasional majority; and every act of Cossim Ally Cawn's shewed his disposition: he expressed his resentment on all occasions against such persons of the country as had any intercourse with the English, so that none of the officers of the government dared visit the English in the familiar manner which had been usual for two or three years past; he removed the seat of the government from Muxadabad, which had been the metropolis of his predecessors for several years past, and intended to have established it at Rajamaul; but at this time chiefly resided at Mongheer, which was still considerably further from the English settlement. In all parts of the country, of Mongheer and Dacca particularly, they were busily employed in making arms for him; he dismissed most of the troops that had been in the employ of his predecessor, from a suspicion of their having an attachment to the English; and got a new set of Mogul officers in his service, who brought new troops with them; he raised and disciplined a considerable number of Seepoys, and collected as large an army as he could, at a great expence. unnecessarily, as by the treaty with the English they were to lend him assistance in case his affairs required it; he endeavoured to cut off the communication between the factory of Patna and the city, by shutting up a gate contiguous to the factory, and fenced the part of the city toward the river with a wall, to the great inconvenience of the Company's boats; and this could only have been done with hostile intentions, as the vicinity of the factory and the English troops therein were the best defence he could have on that side.

The witness observed, That many instances of the like nature are particularized in a minute of Mr. Amyatt's to the council, in the month of April 1762, which minute was read, and is in the Appendix, N^o 65; and numberless letters from the chiefs of every factory, particularly towards October 1762, complained of such oppressions and violations of the English rights, as indicated an absolute determination to quarrel.

The witness further said, That the principal advisers of Cossim Ally Cawn in these measures were the Armenians, who seemed to wish to have the English extirpated from the country, that the principal share of the commerce might be carried on through them: That one Coja Gregory was at the head of his army, and he had several Armenians in the command of his Seepoy battalions.

The witness did not think there was any violation of treaties on the part of the English; he said there might have been, and probably there were, some abuses in the article of trade; and that those in the English administration who were the friends of Cossim Ally Cawn took great pains to have it represented, that what was called inland trade was the source of our disagreement with him, and were very industrious in proving that trade illegal.

Being asked, Whether the complaints alleged by Cossim Ally Cawn against Mr. Ellis in particular were founded, he said, He did not believe they were; but that the nabob had been industriously taught to believe, that every gentleman who did not approve of the revolution was hostile to him, and from thence he had been guilty of several instances of disrespect to them, and refused a visit from Mr. Ellis, an indignity that had never before been offered to the chief of a factory: That this, with other circumstances, might naturally excite perhaps too strong a degree of resentment in a gentleman who was of a very warm disposition.

And the witness being further examined in regard to the military transactions of that period, said, That on the 1st of January 1761, he took the command of the army, which lay encamped close to Patna, the capital of the province of Bahar, then in a most distracted state. The Shahzadah, who had in his service Monsieur Law, with the shattered remains of his countrymen from Chardernagore, was in Congar Cawn's country, not more than 50 miles from Patna, whither the disaffected rajahs flocked to his standard, and every zemindar made a pretext of the troubles to evade payment of his stipulated revenue, so that all recourses from that province were at a stand—Moreover the Hindostan troops, who composed part of the army, were grown outrageous from the changes of government, as they despaired recovering the immense arrears of pay due to them by the deposed nabob their late master—The success of the engagement with the Shahzadah, the 15th of the month, happily retrieved the province; for the particulars whereof, and of the surrender of the Shahzadah in consequence, he referred to his public letters in the Company's records; and proceeded to say, that the council were pleased to honour him with a letter of thanks, dated 26th instant; and on the 19th August 1762 they communicated to him an extract of a letter from the Court of Directors dated 19th February, containing their thanks likewise. The protection afforded by the English to the Shahzadah occasioned much discontent and jealousy to the nabob Cossim Ally Cawn; nor was the prince easy on his part, having been exceedingly alarmed by an insurrection in his camp, the 23d of April, in which he would most probably have been cut off but for the timely interposition of the witness—The Shahzadah suspected this insurrection to have been set on foot by Cossim Ally Cawn; that the prince finding, that neither the presidency nor the nabob were in a condition to favour him to the extent of his wishes, he was solicitous to leave the English army.

That in the interim Colonel Coote arrived at the army, soon after which the Shahzadah began his march from Patna—That he was conducted by the witness to the Carumassa (the river that separates the province of Bahar from Sujah Dowla's country).—That he crossed the river the 21st of June, and was met the same day a few miles off by Sujah Dowla. The witness proceeded to

say, That all possibility of accommodation, from the continual series of disputes which had subsisted between the English and Cossim Ally Cawn, being cut off by the inhuman murder of Mr. Amyatt and the gentlemen of his family, and his attendants, as they were returning under the faith of a safe conduct to Calcutta, a war was declared against him the beginning of July 1763; the restoration of Myr Jaffier was resolved on, and he was proclaimed accordingly. The minute of General Carnac to council, 4th July, on that matter, is in Appendix, N^o 66.

The witness further said, That Colonel Coote being departed for Europe, the chief command devolved upon Major Adams, of his Majesty's 84th regiment; that he the witness was ordered upon a separate command, for the security of the province of Burdwan; but as the main army of Cossim Ally Cawn was moving downwards, it was afterwards judged necessary, that the detachment under his command should join the Major, who had made his way through every opposition to the capital, and possessed himself of it by storm; that he effected that junction with the utmost difficulty, on account of the floods, and arrived in time to have a share of the battle of Geriah, the 2d of August; that by the end of the year, after a campaign commenced and prosecuted under the inconceivable hardships and difficulties which inevitably attend being in the field during the violence of the wet season in Bengal, Cossim Ally Cawn was driven out of the provinces, and signalized his flight by the unparalleled and barbarous massacre in cold blood of every English gentleman, as well civil as military (Mr. Fullerton only excepted) and of a number of other persons, amounting in the whole to near 300, who had the misfortune, through mischances of war, to be his prisoners.

And in order to shew the progress of the war with Cossim Ally Cawn, and his final expulsion out of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia; and likewise to shew what proportionable aids had been given by the Company and the Crown in the course of that war;

Your Committee thought it proper to enquire into the capital points of the military transactions in the year 1763, and for that purpose examined Major William Grant, who informed the Committee, That he was in India in the year 1763, in the several stations of lieutenant in the army, secretary and aid de camp to Major Adams, and field engineer; Major Adams was the eldest major in his Majesty's 84th regiment, and commander in chief of the troops in Bengal; which troops, when the major took the field against Cossim Ally Cawn, amounted to 600 Europeans and nine companies of Seepoys, each company consisting of 100 men; and a detachment of the company's troops, consisting of 100 Europeans and a battalion of Seepoys were at that time at Midnapore, who were ordered to join him, and actually did so after the storming the lines of Muxadabad; that, exclusive of the army abovementioned, there was a detachment of 50 Europeans, the Black Cavalry, and three companies of Seepoys, with two guns, ordered on as an advanced guard of the army, on the 25 June to Ambore, and intended for the protection of the Burdwan province; this detachment was with very great difficulty equipped, there being a great want of bullocks for drawing the artillery and carrying the tents, likewise of boats, cooleys, and almost every other necessary. Of the number of about 650 Europeans as above stated, about 420 might be King's troops, and the rest were the troops of the company. On the 26th of June, the army marched in order to join the advanced detachment at Ambore, where they arrived the 10th of July.—On the 4th, it had been determined by the board to proclaim Myr Jaffier nabob, having the preceding day received some alarm of the account of Mr. Amyatt and the Cossimbuzar factory, though no certain intelligence had been procured, the letter carriers having been driven from their respective stations by order of Cossim Ally Cawn. On the 10th they received intelligence of the total defeat of the troops at Patna, and a confirmation of the massacre of Mr. Amyatt at Cossimbuzar. On the 11th, the nabob Myr Jaffier Ally Cawn, after having concluded the treaty with the governor and council, left Calcutta to join the army, and that the witness attended him as his escort. That on the 17th, they joined the army, then advanced to Agurdeep. On the 19th they came to a general engagement with the enemy, under the command of Mahomed Tucky Cawn at Bullopara, when they gained a compleat victory, and in consequence of which the enemy abandoned Cutwall, a fort on the conflux of the rivers Cossimbuzar and Agar.

The witness desired to observe, that they made an acquisition of bullocks, which were very much wanted; for that had it not been for the indefatigable exertion of Mr. Johnson, chief of the Burdwan, the army could not have possibly advanced thus far. That he not only supplied them with bullocks but with money likewise, for which they were in such distress, that when they took the field there were not 10,000 rupees in the public treasury. That on the 23d, the army advanced to Chunna Colly, and on the 24th in the morning stormed the enemy's investments at Mootejil, by which they got possession of Muxadabad, with about 50 pieces of cannon of different cullevirs. That about the 27th or 28th, the army crossed the Cossimbuzar river, and were joined by the detachment beforementioned from Midnapore. That on the 2d of August, after crossing a nulla or ravine in the face of the enemy, they came to a general engagement with the whole of their troops, in a plain remarkable for the former defeat of Sultan Sujah, called Geriah: That the enemy had collected their whole force, consisting of 10 or 12 battalions of Sepoys regularly disciplined, and (by report) of 15,000 horse, with 17 pieces of cannon, mounted in the English manner, being many of them taken from their army and factory at Patna, and worked by 170 Europeans. That after an obstinate dispute of four hours, in which the enemy broke a part of the

the English troops, had taken possession of two pieces of their cannon, attacked his Majesty's 84th regiment in front and rear, they gained a compleat victory, the enemy having abandoned all their cannon, together with 150 boats loaden with grain and other stores. That on the 11th, the army advanced to Outahnulla, a fort which the enemy had fortified, being situate between the chain of hills and the river; from the former to the latter they had thrown up an intrenchment, on which they had mounted about 100 pieces of cannon; the intrenchment was full of water, deep, and about 50 or 60 feet broad, the ground in front was swampy, and no possibility of an approach but on the bank of the river, where the ground was dry for about the breadth of 100 yards; there they thought it necessary to make a shew of a regular attack, in order to draw off the enemy's attention from the banks next the hill; but as they were daily harrassed by numerous bodies of their cavalry both in front and rear, they were under the necessity of extending their incampment; after having amused the enemy with their approaches and batteries on the bank of the river, where they made a false attack, on the 5th of September they made the real one, on the foot of the hill; in which after an obstinate resistance they succeeded, and got possession of the whole of their cannon, having made a very great slaughter of the enemy, and taken about 1,000 of their cavalry prisoners. It was reported, that Cossim had 60,000 people in arms in that intrenchment, and the whole English army did not amount to more than 3,000 firelocks: That about the end of September they advanced to the neighbourhood of Mongheer, which they were obliged to attack regularly, and in the beginning of October, after having made a practicable breach, the garrison, consisting of 2,000 Seepoys, capitulated. That place Cossim had made his capital, and had strengthened as much as his time and circumstances would admit. There they received accounts of the massacre of the English gentlemen and soldiers, who were prisoners of war, amounting altogether to about 200, at Patna, and other places.—And the witness observed, That at Chabaud, when on march to Mongheer, Major Adams received a letter from Cossim Ally Cawn, signifying his resolution, in case the army should advance further, to cut off the English gentlemen in his possession. At that time Messieurs Adams, Batson, and Carnac wrote to Messieurs Ellis and Hay, recommending to them to endeavour to purchase their liberty of the guard who were over them, at any price; to which they returned for answer, That they ought not to be attentive to them, for they must submit to their fate; and desired that no consideration of their situation should prevent the army from proceeding in their operations.

The witness further observed, That it was while the army lay at Chabaud that they were informed that Ramnerain and rajah Bullub were sent out in a boat from Mongheer, before Cossim had left it, to a little reach in the river, in sight of the garrison, where they were put to death; and about the same time raja Futta Sing, and nine more of Ramnerain's relations, were likewise put to death; and that on the advance of the army towards Patna, they found the bodies of the two feets buried in an apartment of a house at Bahar; they had been put to death by Cossim's order, and exposed under a guard of Seepoys, to beasts and birds of prey, that they might not be burned, according to the rites of their religion, being Gentoos.

And the witness proceeded to relate, that about the end of the month they were advanced to the environs of Patna, which place, after a spirited defence, they made themselves masters of on the 6th of November, by storm, the enemy having, in the course of the siege, got possession of one of their batteries, and blown up their magazine. After the capture of Patna the enemy made no further stand.—The army advanced about the end of December to the banks of the Carumnassa, the boundary of the province, at which time Cossim, with the shattered remains of his army and treasure, were waiting to complete his bridge of boats over the Ganges, in order to cross over to Sujah Dowlah's country, which he entered on the 4th of December. On the 9th, Major Adams left the army under the command of Major Knox, intending to embark for Europe, and, by particular desire of the nabob, permitted the witness to remain twenty days with the army, during which interval some of Cossim's emissaries were busy with the foreigners in their army, three of whom deserted, and were two days afterwards taken. Major Knox's indisposition, he imagined, prevented his application to Major Adams for a warrant to try those deserters—they remained in confinement when Major Knox and he left the army, about the end of December, and he believes were not at last tried by a general court martial. The troops at this time laying inactive on the frontiers of the province, entertained an idea that they would not proceed to the necessary severity of military punishments, and in his opinion this was the first grounds of the mutinous disposition which prevailed in their army for some time after, and had well nigh occasioned the loss of the whole province. That about the middle of January he arrived at Calcutta, where he received the first account of Major Adams's death.

The witness being questioned as to the condition of Cossim Ally Cawn's army, he said, it was better appointed, and better disciplined, than he had ever seen an Indian army before: And being asked, Whether, on the march of the army under Major Adams, the probability of success was on the side of the English or Myr Cossim? he said, To a reflecting mind it must evidently have appeared in favour of Cossim, though the troops were, he believed, all determined to a man, either to conquer or die, there being no other resource.

The witness was also asked, where Cossim Ally Cawn was supplied with the great quantities of artillery he all along appeared to have had? he said, That he purchased the greatest part of his field artillery clandestinely of the Europeans; that he had carriages made by his own people from English models; but two six pounders were delivered over to him at Patna (by whom he does not know) and that his carriages were made with elevating screws, and in every respect as good as the models.

And in order further to shew the military transactions of that period, and the rise and progress of the war with Sujah Dowlah,

Your Committee lay before the House the papers in the Appendix marked 67; and further refer to the evidence of Colonel Monro, entered in the journals of last year, and then taken before the witness left London, upon a supposition that the Committee would have been able to have reached that period in their examinations.

Your Committee proceeded in the next place to inquire into the conduct of the Company's servants upon the death of Myr Jaffier, into the part they took in the establishment of his successor, Nudjum ul Dowlah, and into the motives upon which they acted; and your Committee find, That Myr Jaffier, some time before his death, had associated in the government his second son, Nudjum ul Dowlah, then about twenty years of age, and declared him his successor: That at the death of Myr Jaffier, which happened in the month of January in the year 1765, Mr. Middleton, then resident at the Durbar on the part of the Company, was present at the ceremony of placing Nudjum ul Dowlah on the musnud, and gave and received the customary nazars (or complimentary presents) on that occasion.

That it was resolved by the governor and council to send a deputation, consisting of four gentlemen of the council, viz. Messrs. Johnstone, Leycester, Senior, and Middleton, with the instructions annexed in the Appendix, N^o 68.

That the said deputation, after some negotiation, which is explained in the subsequent evidence and papers annexed, concluded a treaty with the nabob: And in order to obtain further lights in the above transaction, your Committee examined Ralph Leycester, Esquire, who informed your Committee he was a member of the council of Calcutta in 1765; that upon the death of Myr Jaffier, the governor and council, on the part of the Company, resolved to acknowledge his eldest son, whom the late nabob had, a short time before his death, associated with him in the government, as his successor to the musnud—the terms on which such acknowledgement was to be made, necessarily brought to the recollection of the governor and council the several inconveniences which had been felt under the late treaty with Myr Jaffier; and it was a duty they owed the Company, by whose arms Nudjum ul Dowlah was to be supported in his government, to stipulate such conditions as should be convenient to their affairs—from the time the barrier between the country government and the Company had been broke down, contests for power had arisen between them, till in 1763 the English affairs were brought into a most critical situation by a war with Cossim Ally Cawn:—In the new treaty therefore with Jaffier Ally Cawn, in 1763, it had been stipulated, that he should not maintain above 12,000 horse, and 12,000 foot—thus deprived of power to become formidable to the English, he had no military force that could add strength to their army during the war with Sujah Dowlah, which for some time wore so serious an aspect as to oblige the servants of the Company to augment their forces, which, together with the great distance of the scene of action, increased the military expences beyond the extent of the Company's funds in Bengal—this was represented to the nabob in October 1764, and he was with difficulty prevailed on to contribute five lacks of rupees per month, towards the expence of the army, so long as the war with Sujah Dowlah should last:—The little assistance that had been received from any forces that had been kept up by the nabob, convinced the council, that the intire defence of the provinces must henceforth rest upon the English army—it was therefore thought wise and prudent to discharge the nabob from the expences of keeping up any military force but such as should be necessary for the parade and dignity of government, the distributing of justice, and the business of the collections; and in order to indemnify the Company for the increased burthen of their expences, it was resolved to propose to the nabob, that the temporary assignment of five lacks per month should be converted into a perpetuity, so long as the exigencies of the Company's affairs should require it, or there was a necessity for keeping up so large a force for the defence of the provinces—The established income of the Company at this period was about £. 1,400,000 per annum, including the five lacks per month, and exclusive of Gossipore, which had been ceded to the Company by the King, and had yielded to the Company near £. 230,000 per annum—the military expences, including the charge of fortifications, amounted to about £. 1,100,000 per annum—civil expences of settlement to about £. 200,000 per annum; so that there would have remained a clear income to the Company of about £. 350,000 to be employed in the purchase of investments, exclusive of the profits arising from the sales of goods imported from Europe.—Such was the situation of the Company in point of income in April 1765; and repeatedly as the Directors had enjoined their servants not to extend their territorial objects, the council thought the converting the temporary assignment of five lacks into a perpetuity was the most eligible mode of ascertaining to the Company proper resources for their prodigious military disbursements; and if the immense expence of maintaining an army sufficient to defend the provinces be considered. it

will be found, that the nabob was left in a situation as desirable as any of his predecessors. The military of the nabob was another very important point to be settled.—The old nabob had been so rivetted to Nundcomar, a man of a very bad character, that the whole affairs of government had been committed to him without any controul; he had once been convicted before the board of assisting our enemies in their designs on Bengal; and though very strongly suspected of carrying on a treacherous correspondence with our enemies during the war with Sujah Dowlah, yet the nabob, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the board, continued to support him in the plenitude of power.—The Court of Directors ordered he should not be employed in any office of trust, which, together with the opinion the board had formed of his character, brought them to the resolution of having him removed from so absolute a sway—consenting however, if the nabob should insist upon it, to have him in any lucrative office, with such checks as should prevent mischiefs to the public—the board therefore came to the resolution of recommending Mahomed Reza Cawn, being the fittest man that occurred.—The immediate collections of the revenues was to be under Roy Dulub and others; and as the Company were become so interested in the business of the collections, it was thought proper to reserve to the board a right of remonstrating when improper people were employed.—The annual fall of rupees had been considered as a very great grievance to that country: It was therefore made a stipulation in the treaty with Nudjum ul Dowlah, that he would concur with the board in proper regulations for removing so great a grievance.—These, with some other articles of the treaty formerly executed with Jaffer Ally Cawn, composed the new treaty drawn up by the board, and a deputation, consisting of Messieurs Johnstone, Senior, Middleton, and the witness, was appointed, in the middle of February 1765, to seat Nudjum ul Dowlah on the musnud, as soon as he should have acceded to the new treaty.—The deputies, as was expected, met with every opposition that could be made by Nundcomar, an artful, ambitious man, whose own power was to be so greatly lessened by the new treaty proposed to the nabob; and had this man been left in the full enjoyment of his power, the witness was persuaded the nabob would not have objected to any other part of the treaty.—The chief, if not the sole objection that he made, was to the nomination of Mahomed Reza Cawn, of whom so great a degree of jealousy had artfully been infused by Nundcomar, that the deputies found the nabob strongly prepossessed with an idea, that the council meant to place Mahomed Reza Cawn on the musnud.—The deputies had great difficulty in arguing him out of such a suspicion; but, upon their solemn assurances, that there was no such design, he was at last convinced.—The deputies were particularly earnest to have the treaty executed, as they learnt that Nudjum ul Dowlah, by advice of Nundcomar, had applied for sunnuds from the king, intending to take possession of the provinces by virtue thereof, previous to any stipulation with the Company; and on the very day fixed for seating Nudjum ul Dowlah on the musnud, under the influence of the Company, he sent word that the sunnuds were arrived—and it was with some difficulty he was prevailed upon to postpone the public receipt of them.—The board had expressed an opinion, that if sunnuds were necessary, they should be obtained only through the influence of the Company, and could not but be displeased, that Nundcomar should have taken upon himself to apply for them without their concurrence.—The new treaty having been executed, and Mahomed Reza Cawn having been received by the nabob as his minister, the deputies prosecuted the other object of their commission, which was to aim at such a knowledge of the revenues, as might enable the board to give their sentiments to the nabob on the allotments necessary to be made in the collections.—To this Nundcomar gave the utmost opposition, as an inquiry into the revenues was sure to discover any mismanagement of his; and, as the witness recollected, there appeared at that time a large sum unaccounted for, or uncollected, in which Nundcomar had a particular interest. The nabob appeared satisfied with what had been done, and he expressed his satisfaction in a letter to the governor on the appointment of Mahomed Reza Cawn, and on other points.—The subsequent orders of the board, with respect to Nundcomar, gave the nabob great offence.—Mr. George Vansittart had just brought down from Patna some strong presumptive evidence of his having carried on a treacherous correspondence with our enemies during the war with Sujah Dowlah, upon which the council positively directed that Nundcomar should be sent down to Calcutta to answer the charge.—The nabob was very unwilling to part with Nundcomar, and wrote pressing to the governor on the subject.—The board thought the public safety required an examination, and persisted in their order; in consequence he was sent down to Calcutta, and the several witnesses ordered from Patna.—The deputies would very willingly have been excused a service so disagreeable to the nabob, but it was their duty to execute the orders of the council, from which they never deviated.—That, shortly after this, the witness was ordered down to Calcutta, and resumed his place, as one of the members of the board, about the end of March.

And the witness being asked, Whether, at the time of agreeing to acknowledge Nudjum ul Dowlah, the pretensions of the other relations of Myr Jaffer were considered,—he said, That, as he recollected, the board did consider that point—That the competitors for the succession to the musnud were Nudjum ul Dowlah, Jaffer's second son, but the eldest alive, who was twenty years old, and a son of the late Chuta Nabob, who was Jaffer's eldest son, and was at that time about six years old.—The board were of opinion it was not customary to pursue that line of suc-

cession

cession which would regulate a claim of this sort in Europe.—Nudjum ul Dowlah had been brought down to Calcutta by Myr Jaffier, and all along considered by him as the next in succession, and, a short time before his death, had been associated with him in the government.—That the council were not unanimous in that opinion, Mr. Burdett dissenting; but they did not think they could deviate from the appointment of Jaffier, without its carrying through the country the idea of a revolution.—That the public opinion was fixed on Nudjum ul Dowlah, as successor to Myr Jaffier immediately on his death. And being asked, why the council did not at that time take the Dewannee, he said, It did not occur to him, that at that period the council took into consideration the propriety of applying to the king for the Dewannee; but that in 1761 the offer of it was made to the governor and council, which was, after a full discussion, refused; and the Court of Directors approved of the conduct of the council on that occasion, and had frequently expressed a wish, that their servants would not extend their territorial objects.—That there could not be any doubt of the governor and council's power to possess themselves of the Dewannee, if it had been thought expedient.—That the king, who was subsisting on the Company's bounty, and who had on all occasions expressed the utmost attention to their interest, certainly would not have refused such a request.

And being asked, If the governor and council had at that time instructed General Carnac to secure to the Company the Gossipore country? he said, That it was with extreme concern Mr. Vansittart and his council were driven to the necessity of allowing the forces of the Company to pass the boundaries of the Bengal provinces.—That the unprovoked invasion of Sujah Dowlah compelled them to deviate from that line.—That the battle of Buxar put the English forces immediately in possession of the country of Gossipore; and as it was impracticable for the governor and council, after that event, to withdraw their forces back to their own provinces, they resolved to ask the king for sunnuds for that province, as an aid towards defraying the great expences of the army.

And being asked, If Myr Jaffier complained that the charge of five lacks of rupees, per month was continued on him longer than was necessary? he said, Not that he knew of; that Myr Jaffier only agreed to pay it in October 1764, and died in January 1765.

And being asked, Where he imagined Lord Clive was when the treaty with Nudjum ul Dowlah was concluded? he said, The board had not received any certain accounts of his having left England, but from the general tenor of the letters expected him to come with extraordinary powers.—That it was impossible for the council who were there to have left the succession to the musnud so long in suspense, as to have waited his arrival; and that it would have been equally improper to have allowed Nudjum ul Dowlah to exercise the powers of government without entering into stipulations with him on behalf of the Company, besides that the leaving of an event of that importance to the country undetermined, would probably have created much mischief and confusion with respect to the collections, and every other object of state; and that he did not recollect that any member of the board proposed to wait till Lord Clive's arrival.—And being asked what were the number of the nabob's forces at the time of his accession? he said he could not remember.—That he had a great number for the business of collections, and the parade of government, but scarce any regular military force—and that the treaty, settled at the consultation in February, was executed by the nabob without any alteration being made in the course of the negotiation between the nabob and the gentlemen of the deputation.—And being asked, How he should have tried Nundcomar, who had been brought down to Calcutta by order of the board to answer certain charges brought against him for misconduct in his office as minister to the nabob? he said, The board would have called him and the evidence before them, and examined into the fact.—That they would have resolved, upon the evidence, whether the accusation was proved or not; but with regard to the punishment, he said, he did not see where the power of inflicting it was lodged.—That he did not know that the board had power to compel Nundcomar to submit to their jurisdiction, but presumed he would not have disputed it.—That Nundcomar, immediately upon his arrival at Calcutta, was confined, but not very closely, though, as the witness remembered, he was not permitted to leave his house without leave from the governor.—That he believed he was examined by the board, but not till some months after his coming to Calcutta.

Your Committee then examined, to the same point, Archibald Swinton, Esquire, who was captain in the army, in Bengal, in 1765, and also Persian interpreter and aid de camp to General Carnac: and he informed your committee that he had frequent conversations with Myr Jaffier about the five lacks of rupees per month, stipulated to be paid by Myr Jaffier in October 1764, as mentioned in Mr. Leycester's evidence, and the other demands made on him by the board, of which he frequently heard Myr Jaffier complain bitterly, and of all the demands made upon him at that time, which had not been stipulated in his treaty with the Company, on his reiteration, particularly the increased demand of restitution for losses, and the donation to the navy.—That Mr. John Johnstone was present at some of these conversations with the nabob, and greatly disapproved of some of the demands, particularly of the donation to the navy; but that he approved of the demand of restitution for losses.

And your committee have annexed hereunto, No. 69, the 5th, 17th, 18th, and 19th paragraphs of the Company's separate letter to Bengal, dated 24th December 1765, containing the opinion of the court of directors upon the conduct of the Company's servants in the course of the war against Cossim Ally Cawn, condemning the demand which had been made of the Gossipore country, and the intention of conquering Sujah Dowlah's country for the king; requiring them to adopt some system which might clearly mark out the barriers of the country government and ours, and ordering the strictest enquiry to be made, whether any contributions had been exacted by the servants from the nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah on his accession to the subahship.—They have also annexed an extract of the Company's general letter to Bengal, dated 19th February 1766, No. 70, containing the further opinion of the court of directors upon the treaty with the king, upon the measures pursued on the death of Jaffier Ally Cawn, the appointment of independent Duans, together with their strictures upon the treaty with the nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah.—And, for the further information of the House respecting that part of the foregoing evidence which relates to the refusal of the Dewannee at the time then referred to, your Committee have annexed to their appendix, No. 71, the 58th paragraph of the general letter from the governor and council of Bengal, dated 12th November 1761, containing their reasons for refusing the Dewannee of Bengal; and the 55th paragraph of the letter from the court of directors to the president and council of Bengal, approving of such refusal.

Your committee then examined Harry Verelst, Esquire, to the same point, who said he was first appointed a member of the select committee in Bengal by the court of directors, at the latter end of Mr. Vansittart's government, but never took his seat till after his second nomination, with Lord Clive, Messrs. Sumner, Carnac, and Sykes, by the Company's orders, 1st June 1764, which orders arrived in Bengal the 24th of January 1765; that he was absent from Calcutta as chief of Chittagong when the consultation was held for the arrangement of the affairs of government under Nudjum ul Dowlah, and never was consulted on that subject; at that time fourteen or sixteen days were necessary for conveying a dispatch to Chittagong, and receiving an answer, there being many broad rivers to pass, particularly one which is a branch of the sea, by which means the correspondence was rendered very uncertain; that while he was at Chittagong, reports prevailed there among the people in general that there were some delays in regard to confirming Nudjum ul Dowlah, and that presents were intended to be made to the council on his accession.—And being asked, If he thought Nudjum ul Dowlah the proper person to succeed to the musnud after Myr Jaffier's death, he said, According to the laws of Indostan he certainly was not; that the succession ought to have run in the line of Meeran, but that those laws are frequently deviated from throughout the whole mogul empire, and legal right has frequently been set aside on the accession of different princes.—On being asked whether there is any law in Indostan regulating the succession of the nabobs? he said, He meant that Meeran's son was lawful heir to all that Jaffier possessed, unless otherwise disposed of by will, and that he of right would stand in preference for recommendation to the nabobship, if approved of by the Company's servants; that the nabobship is an office that does not descend by succession, being held under the crown, though the king frequently continues it in the same family—that at the time of Nudjum ul Dowlah's accession to the musnud, he neither objected to his elevation, nor was he ever consulted on that matter, neither did he in his letter to Mr. Middleton, wrote at that period, mention any thing about it, nor to any of his friends.—Being asked, Whether, if he had been at the board at the time of Jaffier's death, and obliged to determine on a successor, he should have chosen Nudjum ul Dowlah, or Meeran's son? he said, he could not pretend to say what arguments were used, or what circumstances laid before the gentlemen at the time of their determination, but that possibly they might have been such as might have led him to concur with the other gentlemen in the choice of Nudjum ul Dowlah.—That the appointment of Meeran's son might have been a more politic measure, as there would have been a long minority, he being only six years old; during which minority, the English affairs in Bengal would of course have been on a more permanent basis, as there would not have been the ambition of the prince to contend with.—That though he was a member of the board at the time of Nudjum ul Dowlah's death, he did not make any claim in favour of Meeran's son, whose right to the succession he did not esteem as strong then as at the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah, notwithstanding that Syfa Dowlah, who was Nudjum's next brother, and succeeded him in the musnud, was Jaffier's son by another woman, because that as the line of succession had been broke, such a measure would have had the appearance of a revolution.—That if Myr Jaffier had given his effects by will to Nudjum his son, there would not have been any injury to Meeran's son.—That he supposed the measure adopted by the treaty with Nudjum ul Dowlah, to limit the number of his forces, was in order to establish the superior power of the English.—Being asked, What was the annual amount of the nabob's revenues after payment of the sums stipulated by treaty? he said, He could not speak from memory as to the precise collections in the nabob's time, but that, supposing them something less than they have been since, he imagined they would amount to about two millions sterling.—And being asked, What would be the nett sum remaining for the nabob after paying the expences of his government? he said, He

was not sufficiently acquainted with the establishment to answer that question—there would be an expence incurred, and probably a very considerable one.

In the course of the above examination your Committee had occasion to observe, that mention was made of presents to the servants of the Company, and they pursued their inquiries thereupon :—And your Committee take this occasion to remark, that they have not found upon the Company's records, previous to the receipt of the covenants in the year 1765, any direct report from persons concerned, of presents received by them, it not having been the practice with the Company's servants for those acting separately to communicate to the governor and council, nor for the governor and council when they were collectively concerned to communicate to the Court of Directors, the receipt of presents ; neither has it been the practice, as far as your Committee can discover, of his Majesty's officers acting with the Company's forces in India so to do.

And in regard to such transactions as related to presents at the period of the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah, your Committee examined Ra'ph Leycester, Esquire, who gave the following information : That he was one of the gentlemen of the deputation for negotiating the treaty with Nudjum ul Dowlah, on his accession to the musnud ; and who, being asked what he knew of any presents being made on that occasion ? said, That soon after the death of Myr Jaffier, an agent of Nudjum ul Dowlah's came to Calcutta to notify his accession to the government, and to offer presents to the governor and members of the council, as had been before practised ; that Mr. Spencer in particular, who was at that time governor of Bengal, offered nine or ten lacks of rupees, if he would allow all things to remain in the state they then were ; that Juggut Chund was the agent, and the time of his coming to Calcutta about the middle of February 1765—That Mr. Spencer communicated these offers to the council ; and said he was informed by the same agent, that he had authority to offer presents to the other members of the council, but that the agent did not specify any particular sums—That the gentlemen all concurred with Mr. Spencer in thinking it improper to receive any presents from the nabob, both as the public interests were yet unsettled, and as they saw a public expediency for removing Nundcomar, through whom these presents were understood to be made, and who was at that time prime minister and favourite to the nabob :—That after the treaty was executed at Muxadabad, the public interest amply secured, and Mahomed Reza Cawn received into the office which had been held by Nundcomar, it was mentioned to the nabob by Mooteram, a gentoo, that if his excellency continued in his former mind, with respect to the offering presents, there were not any objections now to receiving any marks of his favour :—That a few days before this, the nabob had offered the witness, through Nundcomar, a present of two lacks of rupees, or any sum he would chuse to accept, which he declined, because it was to come through Nundcomar's hands :—That about the 8th of March, Mahomed Reza Cawn came to Mootejil, where the gentlemen of the deputation resided, with the offer of a teep from the nabob for 137,000 rupees to Mr. Johnstone, who was at the head of the deputation, and one lack 12,500 rupees to each of the other deputies, which they desired Mahomed Reza Cawn to carry back to the nabob with proper compliments, and to say, If they received any marks of his favour, they wished to receive them only from his own hands : That about a week after, when the deputies were at the public durbar, the nabob made the same offer which he had repeatedly pressed the deputies to accept as a mark of his favour and satisfaction :—That after reiterated assurances of his regard, they at last accepted his offers about the 16th of March ; on the 21st of which month the witness returned to his station at Calcutta ; and that in the course of April and May following the amount was paid to him :—That before the witness left Muxadabad, Mahomed Reza Cawn expressed himself grateful for the services rendered him, and declared his desire of presenting him with a lack of rupees, which at that time the witness said he did intend to accept ; that no teep or obligation of any kind was given ; and that afterwards, considering that he might be one day called upon to defend the propriety of the appointment of Mahomed Reza Cawn as minister, he resolved not to put himself in a situation of being suspected of supporting a measure from pecuniary influence, in which he had concurred from a perfect conviction of its public utility :—That for this reason he declined receiving a draft for 50,000 rupees in part of the said one lack, which Mahomed Reza Cawn sent for his use in May ; and that he never received a single rupee of the said sum so offered by him :—That the deputies having had an opportunity of rendering some service to the house of Juggut Seet, by recommending them to the protection of the nabob, it was mentioned to the witness just before he left Muxadabad, that they intended to offer some presents to the deputies :—That some weeks after he was informed they had sent 10,000 rupees to a gentleman at Cossimbuzar for the use of the witness, which he also returned, and declared that his fortune had not on this, or any other occasion, been benefited by the receipt of presents, excepting that from the nabob, and common complimentary nazars, which latter did not exceed £. 50 or £. 60 in the whole ; and that considering the custom of the country, and the practice of his predecessors, there did not seem an impropriety in receiving a present, which was neither the reward of any improper services, nor the condition of any to be performed, but the mere consequence of custom on the like occasions :—That he had fully discharged every public trust, and having declined occasions of receiving considerable presents, which with respect to time and circumstance he did not approve, he held himself at liberty to receive the one mentioned before :—And being asked, If he recollected or had heard of any presents being offered

offered to any governor and council upon the death of one nabob and the accession of another? he said, That presents were given upon the accession of Myr Jaffier on Serajah Dowlah's deposition, and on the accession of Myr Cossim on the deposing of Jaffier, which he said were the instances of receiving presents referred to by him in the former part of his evidence:—And being asked, What other presents were made to his knowledge? he said, That about the time he received Mahomed Reza Cawn's offer, governor Spencer received an offer from him of two lacks of rupees, which he believed the governor accepted:—That Messrs. Pleydell, Burdett, and Gray received at the same time an offer of one lack of rupees each, which he believed they accepted:—That some time after the witness left Muxadabad, which was about the latter end of April, the nabob pressed Mr. Johnstone to accept an additional lack of rupees, as he understood in the presence of Messrs. Senior and Middleton, and at the same time offered Mr. Gideon Johnstone 50,000 rupees, which sums they both received:—That Mr. Senior received 50,000 rupees from Mahomed Reza Cawn; and that Juggat Seet presented each of the deputies, except the witness, 10,000 rupees, which they accepted:—And being asked, Whether the gentlemen of the deputation notified to the governor and council the presents which were offered to them and accepted; and whether the governor and council notified to the Court of Directors, that they had received any presents on this event?—he answered in the negative:—The witness further said, That at the time presents were offered through Nuncomar for the establishment of the government under Nudjum ul Dowlah, he never heard that any offers were made on the part of the infant, who was the competitor for the nabobship, so to his knowledge were any claim made on his part:—That there was never any stipulation with Mahomed Reza Cawn, or any person on his account, as to presents, before he was appointed minister, nor at any other time, neither was there any such stipulation with the nabob, prior to his signing the treaty, which was ratified by him just as it had been drawn up by the council before the deputies repaired to Muxadabad, or conformable to the subsequent instructions of the board, which the deputies strictly complied with.

And Harry Verell, Esquire, being called to the same point, he informed your Committee, That while he was at Chittagong, as chief of the factory there, reports prevailed among the people in general, that there were some delays in regard to confirming Nudjum ul Dowlah in the musnud, and that presents were intended to be made to the council on his accession—That on these reports he wrote a private letter to Mr. Middleton, who was in the deputation appointed for negotiating the treaty with the new nabob, to know whether there was any truth in the report—That Mr. Middleton wrote him word, that he understood presents were intended for all the board; to which the witness replied, that he disapproved such a measure, and as a member of the board, and one supposed to be meant to be considered, he should refuse it; because he was not conscious of having rendered Nudjum ul Dowlah any services to entitle him to any expectation of that kind; and that he did not know of any services the rest of the council had done Nudjum ul Dowlah, further than approving his succession to the musnud, which he considered as a mere matter of form and public duty.—Being asked, If he knew of any services performed to Myr Jaffier, by Lord Clive, and the gentlemen who received presents in 1756 from him, which it was not their duty to have performed agreeably to the treaty with him, and the interest of the Company? he said, It was undoubtedly their duty to perform any services to the Company whenever called upon; but that the good offices they rendered Myr Jaffier were, in his opinion, very considerable, and in performing which, their lives and properties were risked; but that the case of Nudjum ul Dowlah was not parallel to it in his opinion.

And Afcenius William Senior, Esquire, being examined to the same point, informed your Committee, That he was one of the council at the time of Myr Jaffier's death, and one of the deputation ordered by the council to join the other deputies sent to Nudjum ul Dowlah—Being asked if he received any presents on that occasion, he said he had, from the nabob one lack of rupees, from Mahomed Reza Cawn 50,000 rupees, and from the Seets 10,000 rupees; which was the whole: And being desired to state in what manner he received those presents, he said, that one evening Messrs. Johnstone and Leycester came to sup with him at the house of the chief at Cossimbuzar, where he resided officially at that time:—That they informed him that Mahomed Reza Cawn had been at Mootejil that morning, with an offer of presents from the nabob, without mentioning any conditions, which they refused, and begged he would be at Mootejil the next morning, when Mahomed Reza Cawn had promised to be there:—That he went accordingly, met him, and received the same offer, which they all refused, telling him, that if the nabob meant them any presents they must come from himself, and not through other hands:—That some days afterwards, as they were sitting in the public durbar, the nabob himself requested of them to receive the presents, which they at first refused, telling him, that as he had expressed a dislike to their proceedings they could not receive his presents; to which he replied, that he was then perfectly satisfied with their proceedings, and should not look upon them as his friends if they did not accept the presents.—That they accordingly did accept them, and gave the teep to Mahomed Reza Cawn for payment:—That the teep included the whole deputation, but specified how the sum was to be divided, and the distribution was explained by Mahomed Reza Cawn: And being asked, Whether presents to that amount were usual in Bengal, upon the death of one nabob and the advancement of his successor? he said, it was usual

usual to make very large presents on those occasions, particularly on placing Myr Jaffier and Cossim Ally Cawn on the musnud, which were the only instances he knew of; and being asked what was the dislike the nabob had expressed to the proceedings of the gentlemen in the deputation, he said he understood it was because they had endeavoured to displace Nundcomar, the prime minister, agreeable to the orders they had received:—That the nabob did not express any change of sentiments when he offered the presents at the durbar, but that they were induced to receive them by his saying he should look upon them as his enemies if they did not; and being asked, he said he considered the abovementioned instances of Myr Jaffier and Cossim Ally Cawn making presents, as similar to the present occasion, though on the accession of Myr Jaffier and Cossim Ally Cawn, neither of them was in consequence of the death of their predecessors: And being asked what services the deputies had done the nabob, he said he looked upon the solemnity of seating him on the musnud to be the services meant, that never having been done in a public manner till the deputies performed the ceremony: And being asked if he thought any article of the treaty was agreeable to the nabob, he said that some of the articles were not agreeable to him when the treaty was proposed to him, but he expressed himself satisfied with it some time afterwards. Being asked whether any other presents were made than those he had mentioned, he said that the nabob made Mr. Spencer, the governor of Bengal, a present of two lacks of rupees, and gave one lack each to three of the council, Mess. Pleydell, Gray, and Burdett, and 50,000 rupees to Mr. Gideon Johnstone:—That some time afterwards he made an additional present of one lack of rupees to Mr. John Johnstone. And being desired to state the circumstances of that present, he said, that a short time before Mr. Johnstone left the city, when the witness was with him, and, as he believes, Mr. Middleton, at the durbar, he heard the nabob and Mr. Johnstone in earnest discourse:—That on asking Mr. Johnstone what was the subject of their conversation, he told him the nabob had sent him an offer the day before to Mootejil, by Mahomed Reza Cawn, of a lack of rupees, which he had then refused, and that the nabob was then requesting him to accept it—That he had again refused it; and he asked the witness's opinion of the matter, who said, that if the nabob had made him the like offers he should think no harm in accepting it; whereupon the witness believed Mr. Johnstone did accept it: And being asked if Mr. Gideon Johnstone was a member of the board, or in the Company's service at that time, he said he was not at the board, but afterwards received his appointment to the service as a writer: And being asked, he said he had never heard that any other Englishman out of the Company's service had received any present upon the like occasion; and that there were no other English, beside Mr. Gideon Johnstone, out of the Company's service at the nabob's court at that time: And being asked whether at that period he had had any offers of presents from Nundcomar, he said that some days before the arrival of the other deputies, Nundcomar paid him a visit at the factory at Cossimbuzar, when he made the witness an offer of five lacks of rupees, and also told him in the presence of Mr. Jeykill, that if he would give him a promise to withhold his favour from Mahomed Reza Cawn, the above sum should be sent into the factory that night or the next morning, but that he refused the present on account of the conditions on which it was offered. And being asked if he knew of any influence or solicitation to the abovementioned presents from Mahomed Reza Cawn? he said he did not; and that if he had ever suspected that there had been any application for that purpose, he would not have accepted any presents from him; that he had rendered some personal services to Mahomed Reza Cawn before that of appointing him naib subah, and after Myr Jaffier returned to the army, by protecting him from the ill usage of Nundcomar; but that he never in return made the witness an offer of presents till the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah; and that on that occasion the witness was not particularly distinguished by him. And being asked how much of the four lacks of rupees which were offered to the gentlemen of the deputation was actually received, he said he had received 50,000 rupees of his own share, but that neither Mr. Leicester or Mr. Johnstone received theirs: That Mr. Leicester mentioned to the witness, some time in March, that for particular reasons he should not receive his share of Mahomed Reza Cawn's present:—And being asked, he said that Mahomed Reza Cawn called upon him in the factory, about the 14th or 15th of May 1765, on his way to Calcutta, and shewed him a letter he had received from Lord Clive, requesting his attendance at Calcutta; and that though the letter was wrote in genteel terms, yet being naturally of a timid disposition, he expressed great fears on the occasion; that the witness endeavoured to remove those fears, by assuring him, that he knew Lord Clive very well, and that no harm was intended him, but that he would be civilly treated; and took an opportunity of mentioning to him, that as Mr. Leicester had signified to him his objections to accepting the presents he had offered him, the witness should beg leave to return those which he had given him; That Mahomed Reza Cawn replied with some surprize, that he did not look upon the witness in the same light as the other gentlemen; that he had shewed himself his particular friend on many occasions, even to saving the lives of him and his family, at a time when it was not in his power to make him any acknowledgement, but that now, when it was in his power, he begged and intreated, with tears in his eyes, that the witness would not return his present. That those considerations, together with his not being at that time a sitting member at the board, and his having some thoughts of quitting the service and returning to Europe that season, by which it could not be supposed

supposed that he took the present for any future considerations, induced him to keep it. And being asked what presents were made by Juggut Seet? he said that he received 10,000 rupees, and heard that he intended to make it up 30,000 to each of the deputies:—That he apprehended Juggut Seet's reason for offering those presents was, to induce the gentlemen to recommend him to the new nabob, his favour and protection being useful and necessary to him in his business as a banker:—That he did not know of any other sums of money being given to the gentlemen of the deputation or of the council, than those he had mentioned; and that though he heard the Company intended to send out fresh covenants to their servants, respecting the accepting of presents, that he did not know the conditions of them till they were sent up to him to be executed at Cossimbuzar, in the beginning of June 1765.

And your Committee examined General Carnac upon the subject of presents, who being asked, When he signed the covenants, (copies of which are entered in the journals of this House of last year) relating to presents? he said it was some time after his arrival at Calcutta, about the middle of September 1765, and that he distributed them among the army under his command as soon as they came to his hands, which was not till near the end of July or the beginning of August, with orders to execute them immediately:—That he had not signed them himself at the time he gave orders to the army to execute them, because they were dated from a period prior to his having any intimation of them;—that those distributed among the army were all dated from the same time; and that he did not make any alterations in them before he required the officers to sign them; it not being his business to start objections for other people; but that if they had made the same objections as he had done, he should have thought them in the right:—And being asked whether Captain Swinton, his aid de camp, signed the covenants? he said he had not, neither had they been tendered to him. That he looked upon the captain more as a volunteer than actually in the service, as he had declared his determination of returning to Europe that season, long before the receipt of the covenants; and that his stay in Bengal, which was very short after that time, was in compliment to the witness:—And being asked if it was not his duty, as commander in chief of the army, to set the example of respect and deference to his constituents, by signing the covenants? he said he certainly should have signed them but for the reason above stated:—And being asked, whether, when the covenants were distributed to the officers of the army, they had any intimation given them, that the general and his aid de camp had not signed them? he said, they had not any such intimation from him.—And being asked what presents he received, from the time the covenants arrived in 1765 to the time he signed them, he premised, That he did not know, till long afterwards, that the covenants had arrived in 1765; and said, That after that time, but previous to his knowing any thing of the covenants, he received a present of 80,000 rupees from Bulwanising, raja of Benaras, and in September, then knowing of the covenants, the king made him a present of two lacks of rupees in the manner as stands recorded on the consultations of that period:—That Bulwanising's present was publicly known, but that he never transmitted any notice of it in form to the governor and council; and the following words, in a minute signed by the witness at a consultation the 3d of February 1766, being read; viz. "I never received from him (Sujah Dowlah) for my own use a single rupee"—And the witness being asked, whether he ever received any from him for the use of any other person? he said he never did.

And your Committee pursuing their inquiry into the circumstances of the presents mentioned in the above evidence; and the original covenant signed by General Carnac being produced, they find that it is dated the 9th of November 1765; but in the minute of General Carnac, on the Bengal consultations of the 3d of February 1766, your Committee find the following words; viz. "With regard to the covenants, it is true, I did not execute mine at the time of my first renewing them, because they were dated too far back, and previously to my being made acquainted with them; and I was in the less hurry to go through this ceremony, by reason that I looked upon myself as equally bound by them, whether executed or not, from the moment I was publicly apprized of the Company's pleasure on that subject."

And your Committee further find, That by the terms of the covenant the servants of the Company are bound to account for, and pay, to the said Company, for their sole and proper use and benefit, all and every such gifts, rewards, gratuities, allowances, donations, or compensations, whatsoever, which, contrary to the true intent and meaning of those covenants, shall have come into their hands, possession, or power.

And your Committee do not find that the present of two lacks of rupees received by General Carnac has ever been paid to the Company; but that notice was given to the Court of Directors of the receipt thereof, by the general letter from the council, and a letter from Lord Clive, dated 30 September 1765 (copies of which are hereunto annexed N^o 72 and 73) That the Court of Directors, by their answers of the 17th of May 1766 (copies of which are also annexed, N^o 74) promised to take the same into consideration; but the Committee have not discovered by the records of the Company, that any thing further has been done relating thereto.

And your Committee having gone through the inquiries to which the first examination upon the deputation to Nudjum ul Dowlah immediately led, and likewise through their inquiry into the presents

resents received by General Carnac subsequent thereto, they thought this a proper occasion, though they might in some degree deviate from the course they had prescribed to themselves for preserving the order of time, to connect and lay before the House all other discoveries which have yet come within the compass of their proceedings upon the subject of presents.

And William Macgwire, Esquire, being examined in regard to presents received at the time of the revolution in favour of Cossim Ally Cawn, upon which subject many circumstances are stated upon the journals of last session: He informed your Committee that he was a member of the select committee at Bengal at that time; that he was not present at any meeting when a sum of money was offered by Myr Cossim, but heard from Mr. Vansittart that an offer of twenty lacks was made as a present, after he was established in the nabobship, which offer was rejected by Mr. Vansittart, who informed the witness that he had told Cossim he would not receive any present till all the demands of the Company were satisfied. And being asked if he had ever received any part of the above sum, so offered by Myr Cossim? he said he had received a present from him in the year 1761, to the amount of one lack and 80,000 rupees:—And being asked what circumstances attended the receipt of that present? he said that an agent brought him a teep, the latter end of the year 1760, for two lacks of rupees, which teep he sent to Mr. Holwell;—That he communicated the affair to some of the select committee in private conversation; but could not recollect he told Mr. Vansittart of it; and that he never reported it to the select committee officially.—That he heard that some other gentlemen of the select committee received presents at the same time.—That the above sum is all he received at any time, except the 5000 mohurs, mentioned in a former part of this report.

And your Committee having observed, in some letters which passed between Lord Clive and the Court of Directors, in the year 1768, which were laid before your Committee pursuant to their order, and copies of which, with the inclosure in the letter of 14 January 1768, are annexed in the Appendix, N^o 75 and 76, That the Court of Directors had required from his lordship certain papers said to be in his possession, and to contain proofs of Governor Vansittart's having received seven lacks of rupees for making the Mongheer treaty; and further observing from the same correspondence, that his lordship had ordered the delivery of them, expressing as his reason for so doing that Mr. Vansittart himself seemed desirous of it; your Committee called for the said papers from the Directors; and the following were produced accordingly:

Letter from Mr. Walsh, accompanying the delivery of the papers to the Directors, dated 19th of June 1768, and mentioning Mr. Vansittart's request upon that subject.

Deposition of Sheik Hedayet Alla, the original in Persian, sworn before Harry Verelst, Esquire, and the translation attested by W. H. Coxe, sworn translator; purporting, That in December, in the year 1762, when he was treasurer under the nabob, he issued, by his excellency's commands, two lacks at four different payments to Mr. Vansittart; and that two ladies who were in company with the governor went into the zenana, and received jewels.

Deposition of Bolackidals, sahicar or banker, the original in Persian, sworn before Harry Verelst, Esquire, and the translation attested by W. H. Coxe, as above; purporting, That, in December 1762, the nabob (for whom he was employed in negotiating bills) one or two days before Mr. Vansittart's departure for Azimebad, signified to him his pleasure, that he should transmit the sum of five lacks of rupees to Mr. Vansittart in Calcutta; in consequence of which he wrote to his gomastah at Hooghly, to pay the aforesaid amount into Mr. Vansittart's hands: that the gomastah did so, and gave him information thereof.

Letter from Mr. Vansittart to the Court of Directors, containing his answer to the above charge, and his sentiments thereupon.

Letter from Bolackidals to Mr. Vansittart, wrote soon after he had made his affidavit, and inclosed in Mr. Vansittart's letter to the Directors.

And your Committee have added copies of all those papers in their Appendix, N^o 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81.

The next proceedings of your Committee, upon the subjects of presents, relate to the sum of five lacks of rupees received by Lord Clive from the begum, or mother of the nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah, in the year 1766; but as your Committee have not had time to go through all the evidence respecting this transaction, and examine the account on which the same is alleged to have been received, or the application said to be made thereof, they purpose to report upon the same on some future day.

Your Committee have no further matter to lay before the House upon the subject of presents; but, in order to give the House a summary and comprehensive view of the whole they have hitherto discovered upon an object so important, they have thought proper to add the following schedule.

ACCOUNT of such SUMS as have been proved or acknowledged before the Committee to have been distributed by the princes and other natives of Bengal, from the year 1757 to the year 1766, both inclusive; distinguishing the principal times of the said distributions, and specifying the sums received by each person respectively.

Revolution in favour of Meer Jaffer in 1757.

	Rs.	R.	Rs.	£.
Mr. Drake (Governor)	—	—	280,000	31,500
Colonel Clive as second in the select Committee	—	—	200,000	
Ditto as Commander in chief	—	—	* 1,600,000	
Ditto as a private donation	—	—	—	—
Mr. Watts as a member of the Committee	—	—	240,000	234,000
Ditto as a private donation	—	—	800,000	
Major Kilpatrick	—	—	—	117,000
Ditto as a private donation	—	—	—	27,000
Mr. Maningham	—	—	—	33,750
Mr. Becher	—	—	—	27,000
Six members of council one lack each	—	—	—	240,000
Mr. Walfo	—	—	—	68,200
Mr. Scrafton	—	—	—	56,250
Mr. Lushington	—	—	—	22,500
Captain Grant	—	—	—	5,625
Stipulation to the Navy and Army	—	—	100,000	11,250
				600,000
				<u>£. 1,261,075</u>
				22,500
				<u>£. 1,238,575</u>

* It appears, by the extract in the appendix No. 102, from the evidence given on the trial of Ram-Churn before the governor and council in 1761, by Roy Dulip, who had the principal management in the distribution of the treasures of the deceased Nabob Serajah Dowla, upon the accession of Jaffer Ally Cawn—that Roy Dulip then received as a present from Colonel Clive one lack 25,000 rupees, being five per cent. on 25 lack. It does not appear that this evidence was taken on oath.

Memorandum, The sum of two lacks to Lord Clive as Commander in chief must be deducted from this account, it being included in the donation to the Army
Lord Clive's Jaghire was likewise obtained at this period.

Revolution in favour of Coffin, 1760.

Mr. Sumner	_____	_____	_____	28,000
Mr. Holwell	_____	_____	_____	30,937
Mr. M ^c Gwire	_____	_____	Rs. 270,000	20,625
Mr. Smyth	_____	_____	180,000	15,354
Major York	_____	_____	134,000	15,354
General Caillaud	_____	_____	134,000	22,916
Mr. Vanfittart, 1762, received seven lacks; but the two lacks to General Caillaud are included; so that only five lacks must be accounted for here	_____	_____	200,000	
Mr. M ^c Gwire 5000 gold mohrs	_____	_____	500,000	58,333
			75,000	8,750
				<u>£. 200,269</u>

Revolution in favour of Jaffier, 1763.

Stipulation to the Army	_____	_____	Rs. 2500,000	£. 291,666
Ditto to the Navy	_____	_____	1250,000	145,833
				<u>437,499</u>

Major Munro * in 1764 received from Bulwan Sing	_____	_____	10,000
Ditto	_____	_____	3,000
The Officers belonging to Major Munro's family from ditto	_____	_____	3,000
The Army received from the merchants at Banaras	_____	Rs. 400,000	46,666
			<u>£. 62,666</u>

* It appears Colonel Munro accepted a jaghire from the king, of £. 12,500 a year, which he delivered to the nabob Meer Jaffier, the circumstances of which are stated in the journals of last year, 825.

Nudjum ul Dowla's Accession, 1765.

Mr. Spencer	—	—	—
Messieurs Playdell, Burdett, and Gray, One Lack each	—	—	—
Mr. Johnstone	—	—	—
Mr. Leycester	—	—	—
Mr. Senior	—	—	—
Mr. Middleton	—	—	—
Mr. Gideon Johnstone	—	—	—

200,000
300,000
237,000
112,500
172,500
122,500
50,000

23,333
35,000
27,650
13,125
20,125
14,291
5,833

£. 139,357

General Carnac received from Bulwanting in 1765	—	Rs. 80,000
Ditto — from the King	—	200,000
Lord Clive received from the Begum in 1766	—	500,000

F

£. 90,999

Restitution — Jaffier, 1757.

East India Company	—	—	£. 1,200,000
Europeans	—	—	600,000
Natives	—	—	250,000
Armenians	—	—	100,000

£. 2,150,000

These sums appear by evidence to have been received by the parties; but the Committee think proper to state, That Mahomed Reza Cawn intended a present of one lack of rupees to each of the four deputies sent to treat with Nudjum ul Dowla upon his father's death; viz. Messieurs Johnstone, Leycester, Senior, and Middleton; but that Mr. Middleton and Mr. Leycester affirm that they never accepted theirs, and Mr. Johnstone appears to have tendered his back to Mahomed Reza Cawn, who would not accept them. These bills (except Mr. Senior's, for 50,000 rupees) appear to have been afterwards laid before the Select Committee, and no further evidence has been produced to your Committee concerning them. Mr. Senior received 50,000 rupees of his, and it is stated against him in this account.

Coffin 1760.

East India Company ———— ———— £. 62,500

Jaffier 1763.

East India Company ———— ———— £. 375,000
Europeans, Natives, &c ———— ———— £. 600,000
£. 975,000

Peace with Sujah Dowla.

East India Company ———— ———— Rs. 50,00,000 £. 583,333
Total of Presents, £. 2,169,665, Restitution, &c. 3,770,833 Total Amount £. 5,940,498

Exclusive of Lord Clive's Jaghire.

Memorandum, The rupees are valued according to the rate of exchange of the Company's bills at the different periods.

Your

Your Committee think it right, next to state to the House, their inquiries into the transactions of the Company's servants, relative to the affairs in Bengal, from the date of Lord Clive's government in the year 1764; and they find, that on the 2d of May of that year, Lord Clive, then in England, was sworn in president and governor of Bengal, and commander in chief of the forces there; and that Messieurs Sumner and Sykes, then also in England, were appointed counsellors at that presidency, the former to succeed to the government. And your Committee further find, that Lord Clive, Mr. Sumner, General Carnac, Mr. Verelst, and Mr. Sykes, were appointed a select committee, by a letter of the court of Directors, dated the 1st of June 1764, which letter, containing the powers with which the said committee were vested, is in the Appendix.

And your Committee find that Lord Clive, Mr. Sumner, and Mr. Sykes, sailed from England for India the 4th of June 1764, and that they arrived at Madras the 2d of April 1765.

And your Committee being informed, that Lord Clive, in consequence of intelligence he received at Madras of the situation of the company's affairs in Bengal, had wrote from thence two letters of material consequence, which did not stand upon the Company's records, the one to Mr. Rous, the other to Mr. Walsh, and partly in cypher, they proceeded to inquire into that transaction; and for that purpose they examined Peter Michel, Esq; who being asked, if he knew of any letter written in cypher from Lord Clive to Mr. Walsh, in 1765? he said, he had such a letter—that it is dated the 17th of April 1765, and was delivered to him by Mr. James, the late secretary, as an official paper—that the original letter appeared to have been put into Mr. James's hands by Mr. Rous, about the 29th of March 1766, part of it being in cypher, in order to be decyphered, the key of the cypher being in the possession of Mr. James, who in a day or two afterwards delivered it to the witness that he might decypher it—which being done, he returned it, together with the decyphered copy, to Mr. James, by whose direction he afterwards made another copy of it, which he also delivered to Mr. James; upon whose quitting the office it again came into the possession of the witness.—Being asked, Whether any of the Directors, except the members of the Secret Committee, at that time knew any thing of that letter? he said, he believed not; and that he did not know what became of the original letter.—And two letters were produced, that to Mr. Rous containing various intelligence and opinions of Lord Clive, respecting the affairs of Bengal—hat to Mr. Walsh containing directions to his lordship's attornies to make purchases in India stock, and the said letters are added in the appendix, N^o 82 and 83.

Your Committee then called George Dudley, Esquire, who informed your Committee he was deputy chairman of the East India Company, at the time Lord Clive's letter to Mr. Walsh arrived in England—that it was brought to the Secret Committee, when, he believed, only Messieurs Rous, Boulton, and himself were present—that they afterwards held a Secret Committee, and from thence carried the letter to the Court of Directors—that the letter to Mr. Walsh was not read in the Court of Directors; that to Mr. Rous (which arrived at the same time) was, except the last paragraph, which mentioned that there was a letter to Mr. Walsh; and that nothing was done upon it. And it appeared by the same evidence, that the above mentioned letter from Lord Clive to Mr. Rous was brought by the witness to the Secret Committee, the 30th of March 1766—Being asked if he remembered any proposition for burning the letter, or taking a copy of it, or any self-denying obligation, which the gentlemen present entered into not to deal in stock, in consequence of it? he said, That the gentlemen present did take a copy of it, which copy is now in the office; but that he did not remember any of the other particulars of the question; that the Secret Committee having the key to the cypher, they kept a copy of the letter of course, that the whole Committee might know all their transactions; and that a copy of the letter was given to Mr. Walsh—that they did not communicate the intelligence, that Lord Clive had given orders to lay out all his money in the India stock to the proprietors nor the Court of Directors—that the purport of the letter to Mr. Walsh was communicated to Messieurs Rous, Boulton, and himself, but never laid before the whole Secret Committee.—Being asked, why the Secret Committee concealed from the Court of Directors one part of the letter to Mr. Rous? he said, That to the best of his remembrance Mr. Rous desired it might be so, as he conceived the letter to be a private letter to himself, and that he had a right to conceal what part of it he thought proper; and the witness said, he concurred with Mr. Rous in thinking it was a private letter. And being asked, he said, that Lord Clive did not write a public letter, either to the Court of Directors or Secret Committee at that time, but that Mr. Rous's letter was read to the Court of Directors by the secretary as an entire letter, and not as an extract. And being asked if he knew the reason of Lord Clive's letters to Messieurs Walsh and Rous being written in cypher? he said, he imagined it was, that the contents might not be known to our enemies, as the letter came by a French ship from Pondicherry. Being asked, if he thought the Secret Committee had a power to suppress any part of a letter on the public service? he said, he thought not; and that they never did conceal any parts of a public letter, to the best of his knowledge—that the last paragraph of Lord Clive's letter to Mr. Rous was concealed, and no other

other—the rest being of a public nature—And being asked, if Lord Clive's letters to Messieurs Rous and Walsh could have been decyphered by any means but bringing them to the India house, he said, he believed not; because there was no key that he knew of, except that at the India house—that the Company's secretary has the key in his custody, which cannot be procured by any but the chairman and deputy chairman jointly, as the witness believed.—And being asked, if every director or member of the Company has a right to have private letters written to him, under the Company's cypher, he said he did not know of any being sent before this—that they cannot help their being sent, but would find a difficulty to get them decyphered without the Company's key—that though the witness never considered Lord Clive's letter to Mr. Rous as an official one, that the Directors acted in all respects as if it had been one; and that it was communicated to the Court of Directors in order to make it public.

Your Committee then examined the right honourable Lord Clive, a member of the House, who being asked, Whether it was his intention that his letter to Mr. Rous in cypher, of the 17th of April 1765, should be kept secret? and the letter being read to his lordship, he said, He did not intend that that letter should be kept secret from the Court of Directors or Mr. Walsh, though he meant that Mr. Walsh should not divulge the contents of it, because it was of a political nature:—And being asked, In what public station respecting the East India Company Mr. Walsh was, that his lordship conceived the political matters, which should be kept secret from all others but the Directors, should be communicated to him? he said, That Mr. Walsh was not in any public station whatever belonging to the Company at that time, but that he was his lordship's particular friend—had formerly been a servant of the Company's abroad for many years, and from the revolution of Plassey till a considerable time afterwards was his secretary, and was intrusted with all the political transactions during the time that his lordship was in the command of the army, and likewise a part of the time of his government in Bengal:—And being asked, If, when his lordship wrote his letter to Mr. Rous, in which he speaks of undertaking the Herculean labour of cleansing the Augean stable, he had been informed of any fact to intitle him to make use of that expression; he said, He had information of many—and that the whole of Mr. Vansittart's narrative was laid before him by Mr. Palk:—That it was not from that narrative alone he made use of the expression, but from various accounts that he had from every body he met:—And being asked, If he could particularize any fact told him by any person, upon which he founded his letter to Mr. Rous, he referred to the public records of the Company—and that he heard a confirmation of them from many persons, particularly of the Company's servants carrying on the trade in salt at first duty free, and afterwards on paying two and a half per cent. and all contrary to the Company's orders: He is not certain of that fact, but is sure that when Mr. Vansittart had established, by agreement with Cossim, the duty of nine per cent. the majority of the council denied Mr. Vansittart's authority, and insisted upon their right to trade duty free, by virtue of the royal phirmaund, at the same time that they insisted that Cossim Ally Cawn should not suffer his own subjects to trade duty free:—That on this fact and many others he founded the expression of cleansing the Augean stable. A further instance he mentioned, which was the complaints of the inhabitants, that the Company's servants and the agents acting under them had engrossed and monopolized the whole trade of the country; and the witness being again requested to specify any particular complaint, he declined specifying any more, and referred the Committee to the Company's records:—Being asked, If he thought the conduct of the council, in refusing to conform to the treaty made by Mr. Vansittart at Mongheer, agreeing to pay nine per cent. was improper?—he said, He thought that part of the treaty was improper, because in his opinion they ought to have paid a great deal more:—That he did not think the whole treaty was proper, neither did he think Mr. Vansittart was authorized to conclude a treaty without laying it before the council; and that General Carnac, Mr. Verelst, and Mr. Cartier, gave it as their opinion, that the Company's servants had a right to trade duty free by the royal phirmaund; and that with respect to the duty of nine per cent. Mr. Vansittart had no right to conclude such a treaty with the nabob; and that he considered the inhabitants of Bengal as subjects to the nabob, because the mogul's power was annihilated:—And being asked, If he admitted that he had formed a resolution at Madras to seize the Dewannee—dismiss part of the Company's servants, and to call some of the senior servants from the other settlements to fill up their places, upon his arrival at Bengal? his lordship said, He did not admit he had formed any one of those resolutions at that time.

Your Committee next examined John Walsh, Esquire, a member of the House, who informed them, that he was one of Lord Clive's attornies when he was abroad:—And being asked, What quantity of India stock he purchased for Lord Clive, in consequence of the letter in cypher from Madras to him, on the 17th of April 1765?—he said, That letter was received the 30th of March 1766, and that on the 20th of April following the packet of the Admiral Stevens, forwarded from Lisbon, brought public advices from Lord Clive, then at Bengal, relative to our being in possession of the Dewannee; in which interval Lord Clive's attornies bought for him £. 12,000 principal stock, which was fairly bought and paid for; and as the witness believed, it

was a year at least before any part of it was sold out:—That it was sold out, and was not employed in buying in again, but was disposed of to complete a purchase of land that Lord Clive had made:—That he did not make any secret of the opinion he entertained at that time of India stock, but spoke of it to many persons as a very beneficial thing, some of whom, as he understood, bought in consequence:—That a great part of Lord Clive's said stock was bought at £. 165 $\frac{1}{4}$:—That after the arrival of the packet, brought by the Admiral Stevens, some stock was bought for Lord Clive at £. 175, and some at £. 179; and that East India stock remained at £. 190 three or four months afterwards:—And being asked the amount of the other purchases made for Lord Clive? he said, That after the arrival of the public advices, there was bought on the 21st of April, 13,000*l.* at 175*l.* and 5,000*l.* at 179*l.* on the 9th of May, being the whole that was bought for Lord Clive while he was abroad; and he added, that Lord Clive's letter to him was delivered to him by Lady Clive, at the same time that Mr. Rous received his letter, they being both at her ladyship's house:—That Mr. Rous and the witness went to the India-house together to have their letters decyphered:—That as it was Sunday, neither the chairman nor deputy chairman were there, without whose orders the letters could not be decyphered:—That he therefore left his letter with Mr. Rous till he could obtain that permission, and went the next day to the India-house, and received from the chairman the contents of his letter decyphered, but was refused any information of the contents of the letter to Mr. Rous:—And being asked when he first had any communication of the contents of Lord Clive's letter to Mr. Rous, he said he had a copy of it transmitted to him by Lord Clive, by the packet of the Admiral Steven, the 21st of April; and being asked if he could enumerate any of those persons who made purchases of East India stock, in consequence of the good opinion he had declared concerning it, as mentioned in the former part of his evidence, he said he could not:—That he understood so, but did not know at what periods, or to what amount, they purchased; that he conversed generally among his acquaintance, which at that time was very large, on the advantageous situation of the East India Company:—That from the nomination of Lord Clive to go abroad, the witness entertained hopes that great advantage would ensue to the Company, and was, in consequence, a large stock-holder himself;—That he therefore, probably, spoke of the advantageous situation of the Company, before the receipt of Lord Clive's letter, but that he doubtless spoke more of it afterwards, and was induced so to do by the contents of that letter, which were, a direction from Lord Clive to purchase stock for him, and that therefore the witness could not but conceive it in his lordship's idea a beneficial thing; and he observed, that it was only twenty days after the arrival of Lord Clive's letter, in cypher, that the public advices of our being in possession of the Dewannee were received:—And being asked how many attornies Lord Clive had at that time, he said five, to all of whom an extract of such part of the abovementioned letter as related to the purchase of East India stock was communicated:—That their powers were jointly given, and not separate, so that he could speak with certainty that no more stock was bought for Lord Clive by any of those attornies than as before stated, nor any bargains for the purchase of stock made.

And your Committee find that Lord Clive, Mess. Sumner and Sykes, arrived at Calcutta on the 3d of May 1765, and took their seats at the council on the 5th. And your Committee, in order to give the House the fullest information they can of the transactions of the select committee, have annexed hereunto, N^o 84, a copy of their proceedings from the 7th of May to the 10th of August 1765.

That on the 7th Lord Clive, Mess. Sumner and Sykes, assembled as members of the select committee, assuming the whole power of the settlement, civil and military, and that they administered to themselves and their secretaries an oath of secrecy; that they acquainted General Carnac and Mr. Verelst, the other members of the committee named by the Court of Directors, with those determinations, and required the immediate attendance of Mr. Verelst, then at Chittagong, General Carnac being at that time at the head of the army in the province of Oude.

That Lord Clive opened the committee, by a letter containing the full declaration of his lordship's own intentions, and his sense of the particular duty of the select committee, (a copy of which letter is contained in the 84th N^o of the Appendix;) to which letter the select committee replied at their next meeting on the 11th, (copy of which reply is also in the 84th N^o of the Appendix.)

And your Committee thinking the proceedings of the select committee of Bengal of great importance for the House to know distinctly, they have divided their inquiries respecting those proceedings into the following heads:

- 1st. The measures they took respecting the execution of covenants.
- 2d. Recalling the European agents.
- 3d. Their examination into the nabob's complaints, and into the conduct of the servants concerned therein.
- 4th. Establishment of the treaty, purporting to be a treaty of peace with Sujah Dowlah, and the acquisition of the Dewannee.

5th. Establishment and progress of the salt society, and other matters relative to that trade.

Your Committee find, that at the meeting of the 7th, the select committee of Bengal resolved to enforce immediately the execution of the new covenants against receiving presents, by the servants of the Company from the Indian powers, a duplicate of which covenant, and a duplicate of the letter from the Directors of the 1st of June 1764, requiring the execution of them, arrived on the 24th of January 1765, but had not been at this time executed by any one of the Company's servants: nor does your Committee discover from the records, that the then governor, Mr. Spencer, had publicly brought the matter under the consideration of the council board; nor had any notice been given to the other servants of the Company, that they were required to execute such covenants.—And your Committee find, that the said covenants were executed according to the direction of the select committee, first by the members of the council, and the servants resident on the spot, and afterwards transmitted to the army and factories, where they were also executed; except by General Carnac and Mr. Swinton, whose reasons for not complying are stated in the former part of this report.—And in regard to the transactions of recalling European merchants, which your Committee stated as the second head of inquiry, because it followed in order of time upon the proceedings of the select committee, it appears that upon the 11th the select committee resolved upon the recall of all free merchants residing up the country, within one month after notice; and that orders were sent to the chiefs to convey in safety to Calcutta all who refused to comply; and the reasons alleged for this order will appear in the resolution which is inserted at large in the Appendix, No. 84.

Your Committee also find, that another order was issued at the same time, for securing and bringing to Calcutta all Europeans who had no Claim from the indentures to any share of the Company's countenance and protection.

Your Committee find that there are many subsequent regulations and orders relative to this subject, which they will report in the course of their proceedings upon the inland trade, to which they refer.

And in regard to the proceedings of the select committee in Bengal—upon the examinations of the nabob's complaints, and the answers passed in consequence thereof, it appears that on the 1st of June the said committee consisted of four members, viz. Lord Clive, Messrs. Sumner, Sykes, and Verelst; and that they took under their consideration a letter from the nabob, who had arrived some time before at Calcutta, complaining of the conduct of Mahomed Reza Cawn, and of the gentlemen of the deputation sent to Muxadabad upon the death of Myr Jaffier, respecting sums of money distributed among such persons as he thought proper, without the knowledge of the nabob; and the select committee came to the following resolution: “That Mahomed Reza Cawn, since the death of the late nabob, has distributed among certain persons, near twenty lacks of rupees.—And that it is incumbent upon them to discover to whom such sums have been paid, and for what consideration, in order that the most effectual measures may be pursued to remedy for the present, and to prevent for the future, any dangerous consequences which may have arisen, or which may arise, not only to the country government, but likewise to the Company, from such practices.” Upon the 6th of June the select committee of Bengal appear by their proceedings to have taken under their consideration, a narrative from Mahomed Reza Cawn, in answer to the charge against him by the nabob, in his letter of the 1st; and also a narrative from Juggut Seet, a noted banker, that sums of money had been unduly obtained from him by the gentlemen of the deputation mentioned above; and on the 7th and 8th the committee prosecuted the same inquiries, by examining Mooteram, phousdar of Hooghly, and Bussantroy his servant; and that on the 21st of June the select committee came to the following unanimous resolution: “That Mr. Johnstone has actually received the several sums, in money and bills, specified for his use in the general accounts of Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet—that he appears from the evidences entered in our proceedings to have been a principal agent and manager in obtaining and distributing the presents, but unacquainted, they would willingly suppose, with the menaces used by Mooteram in his name to Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet, in order to extort a sum of money from the latter for the use of the deputation—and lastly, that he is guilty of actual disobedience to the Company's orders, in arraigning indecently, and refusing positively to acknowledge, the authority wherewith the select committee are invested by the honourable the Court of Directors, and by urging their usurped powers in excuse for declining any reply to charges that so deeply affect his character.

“That Mr. Senior has received all the money specified for his use in the evidence already mentioned, and also the further sum of 50,000 rupees from Mahomed Reza Cawn on his own account; but that he neither authorized the messages delivered by Mooteram, nor was active in obtaining or distributing the presents.

“That Mr. Middleton has received presents from the nabob and Juggut Seet only, firmly believing them to be voluntary; and that he always intended to refuse the present designed him by Mahomed Reza Cawn.

“That

“ That Mr. Leycester has received the several sums affixed to his name in the abovementioned accounts ; but that he neither did nor intended to receive the bills lodged with Mooteram for his use, nor was any way concerned in the menaces thrown out by that person to Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet ; all which is further confirmed by the oath which he voluntarily took before the whole board.

“ That Messrs. Pleydell, Burdett, and Gray, have each received 50,000 rupees from the nabob, in the full persuasion that the same was a free gift to the gentlemen who then composed the board, without any application on their parts, or consideration on the nabob's for services performed.

“ That Mr. Cartier was utterly a stranger to any demands made in his name, and that he would absolutely have refused a lack of rupees intended for him by the nabob, as specified in the abovementioned general account of Mahomed Reza Cawn, had it been ever tendered to him.”

“ That upon the whole, the gentlemen who sat at the board, as well as those who negotiated at the durbar, were guilty of actual disobedience to the Company's positive orders relative to the covenants, both in delaying to execute them, and in receiving presents contrary to the express letter and spirit of these obligations : yet to avoid every appearance of exerting with rigour the powers wherewith they are intrusted, or of being actuated by any other motives than those of honour and a firm attachment to the interest of their employers,

“ Resolved, That the select committee leave to the honourable Court of Directors to pass final judgment ; and refer to their minutes entered in consultation of the 23d instant for a justification of their proceedings.”

And your Committee find some subsequent proceedings were held before the select committee upon the subject of these presents, viz. on the 4th of July, when another letter or narrative of Mahomed Reza Cawn, transmitted by Lord Clive, who was then at Mootejil, was received ; and the members present, viz. Messieurs Sumner, Verelst, and Sykes, thereupon came to the following resolutions.

“ That Mahomed Reza Cawn has in this letter related facts with great candour and precision, confirming, in the strongest manner, the several particulars set forth in his former evidence.

“ That he positively asserts, and with the greatest appearance of truth, that neither the presents from the nabob, nor from himself, were voluntary, but granted after some altercation and tedious negotiations with the gentlemen of the deputation.

“ That Mr. Johnstone at first desired a very large sum, but after a great deal of debate, and many conferences, Mooteram consented to accept 6,25,000 rupees, from the nabob, and 4,75,000 rupees from Mahomed Reza Cawn ; of which sums the whole has been paid by the nabob, and 2,25,000 by Mahomed Reza Cawn, in money and bills.

“ That, over and above 1,37,500 rupees, which Mr. Johnstone obtained from the nabob, as a joint member and senior servant on the deputation, the same gentleman stipulated, That 100,000 rupees for himself, and 50,000 rupees for his brother, should be paid secretly from all the other gentlemen.

“ That, besides the above sums clandestinely obtained from the nabob, Mr. Johnstone, as principal agent and manager, thought proper, without the consent or knowledge of his colleagues, likewise to appropriate 50,000 rupees to himself, and 25,000 to his brother, out of the money granted by Mahomed Reza Cawn, over and above his allowed proportion as a Member of the deputation.

“ And, lastly, the committee agree,

“ That Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter be entered on the face of their proceedings, as undeniable testimony to all whom it may concern, of the necessity of their inquiries, the impartiality of their proceedings, and the great lenity of their resolution, in submitting final judgment to the Court of Directors, notwithstanding their conduct has been bitterly censured, their powers arraigned, their characters aspersed, and their authority, sufficient to enable them to proceed, and justify them in proceeding, to the last extremity.”

And your Committee, before they enter upon the parole evidence relative to this subject, think it proper to state to the House, That Mooteram, phoufdar of Hooghly, and Bussantroy his servant, mentioned above, were under confinement at the time of their examination.—And in regard to the persons accused, your Committee find, That the proceedings of the select committee were laid before the council, where the persons concerned had an opportunity of examining the charges, and giving in their answers, which they severally did in their minutes annexed, No. 85 ; and that by the desire of the members of the select committee at the board, the 17th of June, Mooteram was before the council, on the 18th of June, as appears in the Appendix, 85. But it does not appear that any of them were present, or had been confronted with their accusers, or heard in their defence, at the time the resolution of the 1st of June passed. Neither does it appear, that Mahomed Reza Cawn was ever sworn to the truth of his different narratives, nor examined in person before the committee ; nor that Juggut Seet was sworn to the truth of his narratives ; nor do your Committee find, that the persons concerned in this last narrative were made acquainted

with the matter contained therein, at the time the committee came to the resolution of the 4th of July stated above.

And your Committee find, That, in consequence of the proceedings of the select committee upon this subject, a report was made to the Court of Directors, in a letter dated the 30th of September 1765, (a copy of which letter is annexed, No. 86) and, in order to elucidate the proceedings and the representation thereof, as stated in that letter, your Committee examined William Brightwell Sumner, Esquire, who being asked, What was his opinion respecting the truth of the information delivered by the nabob touching the presents received by the deputation and the council in 1765? said, That with respect to the presents received by the deputation, and governor and council, on the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah to the government in 1765, the first information on the subject, as well as the several evidences exhibited, came before him officially, and that the representations thereof to the Court of Directors were made officially.—That under the variety of contradictory evidence that appeared before the committee, however difficult it might be for him to determine, he found himself disposed to confine the censure wholly to that part of the gentlemen's conduct which related to their not having subscribed the covenants sent out by the Company, and which, as members of the administration, he thought it incumbent on them to have executed, or to have resigned the service; and that in his private correspondence with his particular friends in the direction, he confined his censure entirely to that part of their conduct—that when he was appointed again to the Company's service in 1764, he readily acquiesced to signing the covenants himself; but that a few days after, when he found that the Court of Directors intended to exclude their servants wholly from the benefits of the inland trade, which, when he signed the covenants, he clearly understood they were to be indulged in, and considering it as a new term of service, he declared to his friends in the direction, that he would resign his appointment, and that it was his fixed resolution so to have done, if that new condition had not been revoked by a resolution of the general court, the result of which was, that the regulations for carrying on the inland trade was referred wholly to the governor and council—that, however warm their representations officially to the Court of Directors may have been, he acknowledged the circumstances do not now by any means appear to him in the same light they then did—that a cooler examination into the matter, and a more intimate knowledge of some of the parties, together with informations he had since received, had made him materially alter his sentiments of those transactions; and that he had not a doubt of the presents being freely and voluntarily given on the part of the nabob and Mahomed Reza Cawn.—Being asked, if he had ever, and at what time, been of opinion, that the presents were not freely and voluntarily given? he said, He had his doubts at the time of the examination into that matter. And being asked, Whether the letters he wrote to his friends in the direction were written at the time he had received satisfaction of the presents being freely made? he said, they were—that he was then in office, but did not acquaint the other gentlemen in office with that change in his sentiments, nor the Court of Directors, to whom he could not communicate his opinion in his capacity as an individual; but that he mentioned it in his private letters to Sir George Amyand and Mr. Scrafton, two of the then directors.—And being asked, What were the particular grounds of his change of sentiment? he said, A variety of information that he had received from different persons, but in particular Mr. Leycester's return of the 50,000 rupees to Mahomed Reza Cawn, in which, at first, from the evidence, there appeared some difficulty with regard to time, but that it was afterwards fully stated to his conviction.—Being asked, Whether at the time of subscribing the letter from the select committee at Bengal to the Court of Directors, dated the 30th of September 1765, he entertained any doubts whether the presents were freely and voluntarily made? he said, That the different information he had received from the time of the examination to the time of his subscribing that letter, had fully convinced him that the presents from the nabob and Mahomed Reza Cawn to the gentlemen of the deputation, and the members of the council, were freely and voluntarily given.—And being questioned, he said, There was not any deceit or unfair practice made use of to induce him to sign that letter.—And being asked, Whether he thought the Court of Directors, at the time they wrote their letter to the select committee, dated the 17th May 1766, were convinced that the said presents were not freely and voluntarily made? he said, He did.—Being asked, Whether the select committee received any, and what, instructions from the Court of Directors relative to the presents from Cossim Ally Cawn to the Company's servants in 1760? he said, The Court of Directors did transmit some instructions on that subject while he was an acting member of the committee; that he could not recollect the precise purport, but believed they directed an inquiry.—And being asked, Whether, upon the receipt of those instructions he disclosed to the select committee the presents he had himself received at that period? he replied, That the instructions to the best of his recollection were received by the committee early in August 1766, when his state of health was such as rendered him utterly incapable of attending to any public business from about the day of the receipt of that letter to the 23d of August; and that he did not attend the committee above once or twice from the 23d of August to the 28th of November, the day on which he resigned the service, being incapable of attending at all.—And being asked, he said the public letter of the 30th of September 1765 was drawn up by Mr. Campbell, secretary to the select

select committee, and read to the committee at the time of their signing it—that he was at that time sensible that some parts of it were contrary to the sentiments he had expressed in his private letters to his friends, of nearly the same date—that he had received sufficient conviction for himself, but had not before him the full proof of those matters which he thought would have been likely to operate to the conviction of the other gentlemen of the select committee; that he foresaw, after the conclusion they had come to at the time the examination was before them, and from the records of which those representations were made, that an attempt to alter the ideas which were adopted would involve him in endless altercations, without producing any good; and that he considered that he was doing as much justice to the gentlemen themselves by his private representations to his particular friends in the direction, as he could have done by any dissent he could have made on the spot, which probably would not have in the least altered the public representations, and might have subjected himself to many disagreeable consequences—that there are many points and situations in the public affairs, wherein a man must yield a part of his own judgment to the prevailing influence, and in order to preserve unanimity, which disposition influenced the conduct he had observed on this occasion. And being asked, What he meant by prevailing influence at that time? he said, A great majority in the committee.—Being asked, If he thought himself authorized to subscribe in his official capacity opinions not his own? he answered, That it was the constant practice of the service, with the exception of entering dissents upon the proceedings—the reason he did not enter his dissent is given in the preceding answer: he farther said, That it was the express order of the Court of Directors, that every man should sign all public letters, entering his dissent, if they thought proper, to any part they disapproved.—And being further asked, If he had ever ventured to enter a dissent upon the public proceedings? he said, He had upon two or three occasions; and particularly the paragraph of the next letter from the select committee, dated the 31st of January 1766; and that paragraphs 21 and 22 would shew the censure he received.—Being asked, Whether he thought Mahomed Reza Cawn's being appointed prime minister could be agreeable to the nabob?—He said, It certainly could not; but that if the appointment of him was improper, or the nabob placed in a situation too much under his influence, it was in the power of Lord Clive and the select committee to have displaced him, and to have given the nabob what degree of authority they thought proper: the witness considered his appointment proper, and the degree of power given to him necessary.—That Lord Clive and the committee esteemed his conduct irreproachable during his short administration, and that he was confirmed by them in his office, with some diminution of power, by the association of Juggut Seet and Roy Dullub.—And being asked, Where Nudjum ul Dowlah, in the treaty with Lord Clive, the 30th of September 1765, expresses his perfect reliance on Mahomed Reza Cawn, if he thought the nabob was any more satisfied by Mahomed Reza Cawn's appointment under that treaty, than under the treaty made by the deputies the May preceding?—he said, He believed both were equally disagreeable to him: that the appointment of Nundcomar was the most earnest wish the nabob had at all times: he disbelieved that part of the evidence of Mahomed Reza Cawn to the select committee, respecting the presents to the gentlemen of the deputation.—He said that he apprehended he gave them voluntarily, having apologized to Mr. Cartier by an express declaration for the conduct he had observed on that examination in giving false evidence, from which the witness believed he accommodated his evidence to the times.—That the evidence with respect to Juggut Seet remained unanswered; and that from the evidence of Mooteram there still appears some indelicacy in the negotiation in that point: that Mahomed Reza Cawn's declaration was made about June or July, and previous to the sending away the public letter, being himself acquainted with it at that time.

And Ralph Leycester, Esquire, being examined in regard to that part of the foregoing evidence, wherein mention is made of a letter from Mr. Cartier; and being questioned, Whether he had any letter from Mr. Cartier, informing him that Mahomed Reza Cawn had apologized to him for having given false evidence to the select committee, concerning the presents received by the gentlemen of the deputation at the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah: he said, He was extremely sorry to find that any private letter to him had been mentioned to the Committee, as he esteemed the production of private letters, without the consent of the writers, to be very improper; and he declared it was totally without his concurrence.—That he received various letters from Mr. Cartier on the subject of presents, on the conduct of the select committee, and Mahomed Reza Cawn; but that with regard to the letter referred to by Mr. Sumner, he could not venture to assert the receipt of one in the terms mentioned by Mr. Sumner; and that he could not say he believed he ever did receive a letter from Mr. Cartier to that purpose.

Your Committee then examined Harry Verelst, Esquire, who being asked, If any quorum was prescribed for the select committee? said, That the usual quorum was three; but that the select committee did not lay down any rules for themselves. Your Committee then read the select committee proceedings of the 21st of December, 1766; on which day the 1 and 1-8th per Cent was continued to Lord Clive till the September following his leaving the Government, and the unappropriated share of the salt trade was assigned to Mr. Harry Verelst.

And your Committee found, That only two members were present on that occasion; viz. Lord Clive, and Mr. Verelst; but that General Carnac desired his name to be added.—And your

Committee also found, That on the 10th of August when the said society was established, there were only two members present; viz. Messrs. Sumner, and Verelst.—And Mr. Verelst being asked, If it was usual for the committee to proceed without more than two members being present?—he said, It was not; but that it was customary for every member who was upon the spot to attend.—And being asked, Whether Mr. Sumner, who was president at the select committee on the 4th of July 1765, ever suggested to him, or any other member of that committee, that he believed the presents before mentioned were freely and voluntarily made?—he said, He never did:—That the committee were unanimously of opinion to the contrary:—That he never heard Mr. Sumner intimate the least doubt of the veracity of Mahomed Reza Cawn's narrative, or what he alledged in the letter read at that committee, during his stay in India, nor since, till the second day before the time of this present examination:—That the witnesses never had any cause, either then or since, to suspect the veracity of Mahomed Reza Cawn's evidence, or that of the other witnesses all of whom were desired by the committee to consider with the utmost caution every matter, and to be careful to adhere strictly to the truth, without any exaggeration.—Being asked, Whether he thought that if Bussant Roy, and Mooteram, who were two of the witnesses examined by the committee, had not been put under a guard, they would have endeavoured to escape or abscond; and whether it is the custom in India to place guards or peons over persons wanted to be examined, if there is a probability of their absconding? he said, It was always usual so to do; they having none but armed men to employ on all those occasions:—That without that restraint, Bussant Roy and Mooteram very possibly might have attempted to have made their escape, because they might have had some intimation of the matter about which they were to be examined, and might think themselves liable to the censure of the committee for having been employed in obtaining the presents: that, in his opinion, no risque of censure they might apprehend themselves to be in, would induce them to give a partial evidence:—That they confessed all that they could apprehend being charged with, which he attributed to the natural aversion of the Hindoos to examinations upon oath, and which they would on all occasions willingly avoid:—That their evidence against the gentlemen who had received presents did not in any shape excuse themselves; and that the oaths of the Hindoos are held as sacred by them as the oaths of any other people whatever. Being asked, Whether he credited the nabob's representation of the 1st of June, alleging that Mahomed Reza Cawn had distributed the money without his knowledge? he said, That it appeared in June before the date of the nabob's letter, that the nabob had given him an order under his hand, or hand and seal, for distributing the money:—That in this instance he deemed the nabob wrong in his representation, and could easily account for it, by attributing to Nundcomar the drawing up of that letter for his highness: That he had no positive proof of it, but was led to think so by Nundcomar's being generally about the nabob's person, and employed in his private concerns.—And being asked, Whether he thought the presents from Mahomed Reza Cawn, and the nabob, were obtained from them against their consent?—he said, he must declare, as an honest man, that he believed they were:—And being asked, Why he joined in recommending Mr. Middleton, who had received a part of those presents, as a fit person to be continued in the East India Company's service: He said he did it from a long knowledge of him, and a thorough good opinion of his principles? And being asked, he said, Mr. Middleton is the next in succession to the government of Bengal at this time? and that he blamed him very much for taking any share of those presents; but that after his being thoroughly convinced of the impropriety of his conduct in that affair, and having offered to give security for the repayment of the money, in case the law determined the matter against him, and its being the only fault he ever knew him guilty of, he did esteem him a proper servant for the Company: and he farther said, that the whole matter relating to the presents was communicated to the council board before the committee wrote their letter to the Court of Directors: and being asked, If he thought Mr. Middleton was capable of making a declaration under his hand to the select committee, that was not strictly true? he said, No; nor does he recollect any circumstance relating to Mr. Middleton which led him to believe so; and the letter from Mr. Middleton to the select committee, 18 June 1765, and the resolution thereupon, being read, the witness said, He believed the contents of that letter were strictly true:—And being asked, Whether he communicated Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter, or any part of it, before the committee came to the resolutions on the 4th of July? he said, Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter of the 23d of June is entered on the committee proceedings the 4th of July following, where the resolutions of the committee stand recorded; and he therefore supposed that the letter was not communicated to the gentlemen of the board prior to those resolutions; and the oath by which the committee were bound not to communicate their proceedings to any body till they had been laid before the council, being read, he said, He remembered an alteration in that oath, and to the best of his recollection the distinction was, that according to the oath, as it first stood, secrecy was to be kept till the proceedings were laid before the board; and that in the additional clause the words were, "Or with the approbation of the committee," and that as he believed the alteration in the oath was made at the beginning of his government in 1767:—And being asked, If Nundcomar was dissatisfied with the treaty concluded by the deputies? he said, He did not know:—And being asked, If the nabob was dissatisfied with the appointment of Mahomed Reza Cawn? he replied, He could not say:—And

being

being asked, If Nundcomar was the minister before the appointment of Mahomed Reza Cawn, he said, He could not tell; that he was in a distant country, and had no correspondence with the court:—And being asked, who Nundcomar was? he said, He is a Gentoo; that he knew nothing of him except seeing him with the nabobs; that he could not delineate who or what he is; that he knew nothing of his rise in life; that he was generally employed by, and attending on the nabobs:—And being asked, If his character was good or bad? he said, He had heard various opinions respecting his character, but could not pretend to say what might be the general opinion:—And being asked, Who was Bullant Roy? he said, He thought it appeared on the records, that he was one employed by Mooteram, who was nominated to the foudary of Hooghly:—And being asked, If Mooteram was connected with any of the gentlemen in the deputation? he said, From the information the committee received, it appeared to them he was an agent of Mr. Johnstone.

Your Committee examined General Carnac, who said that Mr. Sumner having expressed a difference of opinion from what appears to be his on the select committee proceedings, respecting the presents made on the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah; he thought it incumbent on every member of that committee to state the grounds of his opinion, and expressed his satisfaction at being able to produce testimony what were his sentiments long before the meeting of that committee, as to the measure to be pursued on the death of Myr Jaffier; in confirmation of which he referred your Committee to certain letters and papers relative to that matter; which being read, he further said, that knowing the arrangement of the ministers, as made by the gentlemen in the deputation to be wholly repugnant to the young nabob's wishes, and that he could not but be highly dissatisfied with having a regent set over him, who had the whole executive power, under the odious appellation of naib subah, and that the person appointed to that office was particularly obnoxious to him, it was impossible he should think that Nudjum ul Dowlah would make, with a good will, presents to those who were the instruments of such an appointment: that as to Mahomed Reza Cawn, there was no reason for his being displeased:—That his ambition must have been highly gratified by the exaltation to so eminent a post.—That the Seets were not in the mode of making presents, neither was there any instance, as the witness remembered, of their having made any before this period; and that they were not desirous of holding offices under the government, which would rather have been an hindrance to their principal occupation as bankers.—And being asked, Why the naib subah was odious to the young nabob? he said, The appointment of a naib subah, which implies the person in whom the whole executive power is lodged, carries with it an idea that the prince under whom he is appointed, is incapable of governing; and that the gentlemen who effected the revolution in 1760, in favour of Myr Cossim, have asserted that nothing was originally intended except appointing him naib subah.—And being asked, If the confirmation of Mahomed Reza Cawn in his office was not as odious to the nabob in his first appointment? he said, He was certain that the having Mahomed Reza Cawn as his minister in any shape, was disagreeable to him; but that the thing being once done it would not perhaps have been so advisable to have made any material change therein:—That the appointment was certainly rendered less disagreeable to the nabob by changing the appellation of naib subah, which was particularly odious:—That his main objection to the proceedings of the gentlemen who formed the treaty, was their forcing ministers upon the nabob, who had been exceedingly obnoxious to the deceased nabob, and were equally so to the young one, his son: And he further said, That he objected to the article which gave a power to Mahomed Reza Cawn, that in his opinion ought to have been withheld:—That he approved of the article in the treaty which established the succession; but did not think the deputation was necessary; for that Nudjum ul Dowlah having been appointed chuta nabob, he was of course in the regular form of succession, and became nabob on his father's death; always supposing that he would receive confirmation of the same from the king. Then the 5th section of the letter from the select committee to the Court of Directors, the 30th of September 1765, being read to him, and being asked, Whether he meant thereby to impute any blame to the gentlemen of the deputation, and the governor and council, for having raised the natural son of the deceased nabob to the subahdarrec, in prejudice to the claim of his grandson? he said, He had before given his opinion on that subject; and that he did not mean to be understood, that by putting his name to that letter he agreed to every individual article contained in it, but that he subscribed his assent to the general tenor of it:—That it was his duty to have signed it, entering a dissent if there had been any parts so materially contrary to his sentiments as to have rendered it necessary:—That to his knowledge Roy Dullub was very much disliked by the nabob; and that the Seets who were by no means ambitious men, would gladly have dispensed with the share in the government that was given them. And being asked, Whether the arrangement made by the president and council, before the arrival of Lord Clive, prevented his lordship and the select committee from making any arrangements they thought proper? he said, That the succession, as settled by the deputation, being once established, could not have been set aside without the appearance of a revolution.—Then being asked, How he reconciled the assertion in the letter, that not a single rupee was stipulated for the Company, with the acknowledgment he had before made, that five lacks per month were stipulated for the Company? he said, That his idea therein referred merely to the solicitations for presents from the nabob, Mahomed Reza Cawn, and Juggut Seet. for the individuals of the council without any consideration to the

the Company, who, if persons were to be solicited, had a better right to them; but that he did not think the Company had any title to more than they got.—And being asked, If the Company got all they were intitled to, wherein their interest had been sacrificed?—he said, By the neglect of an opportunity that might have offered, if the majority of the committee had judged it prudent and adviseable to adopt a different mode of succession.—Then the 8th paragraph of the said letter being read, and the witness being asked, If he knew of any money being received on the accession of Nudjum ul Dowlah, from opposite parties and contending interests? (which are words used in the said paragraph) he said, He understood that Nundcomar as well as Roy Daliub had been offering teeps on all quarters, to secure to themselves the principal share of the ministry; but that he did not know that they were received, or that any promise was made them that they should have the place assigned to Mahomed Reza Cawn.—And being questioned, Whether he thought they were received?—he answered, He did not; that he believed he could produce several letters of the gentlemen concerned, acknowledging the offers.—And being asked, Whether, at the time of signing the general letter, he thought the evidence he had heard, relative to several lacks of rupees procured from Nundcomar and Roy Dullub, justified the state of that fact, as drawn up in the general letter?—he said, He thought there must have been some foundation for what appears to have been so strongly asserted; and that in regard to the last paragraph of the said letter, there was a list given in by Nundcomar, which he saw, and to the best of his belief it was written both in English and Persian; and he does not know that Nundcomar was brought before the Committee and examined respecting that list.—And being asked, What was the character of Shah Aalum? he said, He was a man of middling understanding, owing to his confinement, which deprived him of any great opportunity of improving himself, but that he believed him to have been rather a good man than otherwise.—And being asked, Why he said, in the letter from Lord Clive and himself to the select committee, entered on the select consultations, 12 August 1766, That it was not for the Company's interest or honour to maintain any connection with a man of so weak an understanding, and so very deficient in every principle of honor? he again said, That it does not necessarily follow, from his subscribing to any letter, that he assented to every individual article of it; that there never would be any letters sent, if all the parties to it were to be unanimous with respect to the whole.

Your Committee then called Francis Sykes, Esquire, who being asked who drew up the letter from the select committee to the Court of Directors, dated 30th of September 1765, said, That it was drawn up by Mr. Campbell the secretary, and that he, the witness, neither drew up or altered any part of it: and being asked, What part of the political conduct of the governor and council of Bengal he meant to find fault, in the second paragraph of the above letter? he concurred with General Carnac in disapproving the appointment of Mahomed Reza Cawn with such extensive powers; and added, that he blamed the gentlemen who settled the treaty with Nudjum ul Dowlah, for omitting the opportunity they then had of constituting a fund adequate to the expences the company were obliged to be at in protecting the country.—That the revenues were left too much at the mercy of individuals, and he thought the natural effect of those arrangements would be to put the nabob in such a situation as to enable him to withhold the necessary payment to the army, which whenever he did pay, it was with reluctance.—That he disapproved of making the concurrence and approbation of the governor and council necessary to the appointment and dismissal of the nabob's officers, and objected to the appointment of Nudjum ul Dowlah to the musnud, in preference to Myr Jaffier's grandson, particularly as the grandson had been declared the legal heir and chuta nabob in the public durbar, by Myr Jaffier, in the presence of the witness, in the year 1760, soon after the death of the nabob Myr Jaffier's son, Meeran; which transaction he said must appear upon the Company's records.—That there were 4 or 500 officers of the government present at the ceremony, and that he received a dress on the occasion.—And being asked what fact he could mention to shew that the gentlemen of the deputation received considerable sums from Nundcomar and Roy Dullub, to appoint them to the employment intended to be bestowed on Mahomed Reza Cawn, as stated in the 8th paragraph of the letter from the select committee to the Court of Directors, the 30th of September 1765? he said, He could not recollect the particulars of that affair; but that Roy Dullub did complain that a teep or teeps were procured from him, besides which, he complained of Mr. Burdett in particular, and desired to have his teep returned, which he believes was refused; and believes other complaints were made.—And being asked if he knows of any promise made either by the governor and council, or the deputation, to Nundcomar or Roy Dullub, that they should be appointed to the place which had been promised Mahomed Reza Cawn? said, He did not recollect any one fact that a promise was made, but it appeared to him at the time they were both struggling for the appointment.—And being asked, Whether, at the time of signing the general letter on the 1st of October, he had any positive proof of the facts he asserted therein, and did not now recollect, relative to the presents from Nundcomar and Roy Dullub? he said, He does not recollect, but dares to say that at the time of signing it facts did appear, sufficient to ground the paragraph upon. He did not recollect that the particulars relating to it were ever recorded, and he did not acquaint any of the gentlemen accused with these circumstances:—And being asked, What was his opinion respecting the facts asserted in the nabob's letter to the governor and council of 1st June

1765? he said, That with respect to the money which he complains to have been taken, which appears upon the Company's records, he believes the fact to be true. The following paragraph in the nabob's letter being read, viz. "After this, Mahomed Reza Cawn arrived and sat as Naib; " he for the better establishing himself in the Naibship, above twenty lacks of rupees has distributed among such people as he thought proper, without my knowledge"—And the witness being asked if he believed it to be true? he said, As to the fact of that paragraph, he could not depend upon it.—And being asked, If that paragraph had been true, respecting the twenty lacks of rupees taken by Mahomed Reza Cawn from the nabob's treasury, without his knowledge, he should have thought him proper, though irreproachable towards the Company, to have continued minister for the Company in the receipt of the Dewannee? he said, He had no idea that they were taken without his knowledge; that they were taken contrary to his free will and pleasure, the witness did believe; but as his conduct appeared to him irreproachable, with respect to any act in which he was concerned relative to the Company, he should have continued him in his office: That that part of the nabob's letter complaining of his poverty, and asserting that he had not money enough to pay his expences down to Calcutta, was not true; for that he knew that he had at this period twenty lacks of rupees at Calcutta, by the report of his own cashier:—And being asked, he said, He thought that the nabob's letter was dictated by Nundcomar:—And being asked, If, when he signed the letter from the select committee to the Court of Directors, on the 30th of September 1765, he believed that the presents mentioned in that letter were freely and voluntarily given? he said, That those from the nabob never were given with his free will and consent; that those given by Mahomed Reza Cawn certainly were, for he told him so; and that those given by Juggut Seet were given under the same circumstances as the nabob's:—And being asked, Whether any charge was given to the witnesses examined by the select committee on the nabob's complaint?—he said, That the charge, to the best of his remembrance, was this—when the matter of the nabob's complaint came before Lord Clive and the select committee, his Lordship desired the witnesses would not attend to any interest whatever, divest themselves of all party and faction, and give to the select committee the whole truth and nothing more:—And being asked, Whether Mahomed Reza Cawn was examined, or brought in a written narrative ready translated to the Committee? he said, He was questioned by Lord Clive and several members of the Committee, upon a visit a day or two previous to his being brought into the Committee; but he believes without any thing being put upon paper:—That at that meeting the same charge, with respect to speaking the truth was given to him as was always given to all the other witnesses:—That upon the nabob's letter of complaint, Lord Clive expressed great uneasiness at seeing the nabob so much displeas'd; and mentioned, as the witness thought, to Mahomed Reza Cawn, that in consequence of the nabob's determined resolution to obtain justice, he could not, consistent with his duty, avoid enquiring into it, and laying it before the select committee; that his lordship hoped, when that matter came to take place, that those who were particularly concerned would do justice to all parties:—That there was no regular meeting nor any examination then, or except when there were regular meetings of the committee:—That in consequence of Mahomed Reza Cawn having ideas, that he should be called upon to answer for his conduct in this particular affair, he drew up a narrative and brought it to the committee, which narrative the witness believed was drawn up between that meeting and the day that he was examined at the committee, and translated by a black man hired for that purpose:—And being asked, If Mahomed Reza Cawn was sworn at his examination?—he said, That he did not recollect:—And being asked, If Juggut Seet was sworn?—he said, He believed not—that when he was examined, Lord Clive desired him to be attentive to adhere to the truth; and he said with warmth in answer, that he had put his seal, and that that would go for a crore of rupees:—And being asked, If Mr. Sumner ever publicly or privately informed him, that he had changed that opinion relating to the presents which he had given upon record?—he said, Never till the day before his examination before this Committee.—Then the last paragraph of the supplement of the letter from the select committee to the Court of Directors, the 30th of September 1765, being read, and the witness being asked, What were the circumstances relative to the information therein contained?—he said, That the fact, as it appeared to him was, that Nundcomar did make such a representation to the governor and select committee, just before the departure of the Admiral Stevens; and that a list was delivered in, specifying the different sums the gentlemen were supposed to have been benefited—that the business of the settlement taking up the attention of the select committee, he understood prevented any immediate inquiry into the charge laid by Nundcomar:—That the report still prevailing, and many gentlemen giving credit to it, and the witness going to the city in the month of March 1766, he did ask Mahomed Reza Cawn, and other officers belonging to the nabob's treasury, questions relative to this transaction; and though Nundcomar did insist to the very last, that it was a fact, the witness said, He verily believed, from every light and intelligence he could gain, that the whole of the accusation contained in that paragraph was base and false.—And being asked, If the disbelief of that accusation was made known to the Court of Directors? he said, He did not know that it was.—And being asked, If it was customary for the gentlemen of the select committee to sign letters as the secretary drew them up,

without examination of each particular paragraph, and conviction that they were just in every part? he said, That all letters signed by the select committee were always produced to them by the secretary, were read to them, and if there was nothing material to cause a dissent, there was an acquiescence to the majority. The witness further added, with respect to the presents given by Mahomed Reza Cawn, as a further reason why they were voluntarily given, That the gentlemen, to whom the presents were made, had raised him to the utmost pitch of his ambition, and that he told the witness he had given the presents with his own free will.—That, to the best of the witness's recollection, this was said by Mahomed Reza Cawn to him in common conversation, about a year after the event; that he never had had any conversation with Lord Clive, or any other gentleman of the committee, upon that subject, from that time to this. And being asked, Whether he had given an opinion on the 4th of July 1765, in consequence of Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter of the 23d of June, That he had asserted, with the greatest appearance of truth, that neither the presents from the nabob himself were voluntary, but granted after some altercation and tedious negotiations with the gentlemen of the deputation, and which opinion had been transmitted to the Court of Directors, he did not think it his duty to have acquainted them likewise with the above confession? he said, That when he signed that opinion, it appeared to him that the assertions therein contained were true; and that the conversation which passed between him and Mahomed Reza Cawn, wherein he contradicted those assertions, being at a long time after the transaction had taken place, it never occurred to him to give information of it to the Court of Directors. And being asked, Whether, when he discovered the baseness and falsity of Nundcomar's representation, as mentioned in the last paragraph of the supplement of the letter of the 30th of September 1765, he acquainted Lord Clive, and the other gentlemen of the Committee, with his discovery? he said, He was certain he did mention his ideas on that matter to the gentlemen of the Committee, as well as many others—that he did not make the above discovery till March or April 1766; and that he did not know, that the select committee ever acquainted the Court of Directors with it, it being a matter he was only desirous of knowing for his own information, to invalidate private assertions at Calcutta.—And being asked, What distinction he found in favour of Mr. Middleton, to induce him to recommend that gentleman to the favour of the Court of Directors, and even to disobey the orders of the Court to commence a prosecution against him, while he wrote so strongly against the other members of the deputation? he said, That Mr. Middleton was at a subordinate station, and that the receipt of the covenants from their superiors were unknown, or at least had not been publicly tendered to him—that he deemed the gentlemen who resided at Calcutta more culpable than Mr. Middleton, because they were the agents for the Company, and it became their duty to put the covenants immediately into execution—that at the time of the deputies setting out, Mr. Senior was at a subordinate situation at Cossimbuzar, and Mr. Johnstone was resident at Burdwan, but upon the nabob's death, was called to the seat at the board at Calcutta.—And being asked, What distinction he made between Mr. Middleton and Mr. Senior, in their claims to the Company's favour? he said, He had an opportunity of knowing the public conduct of Mr. Middleton, but not that of Mr. Senior—that the plea respecting the presents allowed Mr. Middleton, equally favoured Mr. Senior; but that Mr. Middleton had declared himself ready to give security to answer any demands the Company might have upon him, which he did not understand that Mr. Senior did—that Mr. Leycester, upon being informed, that the presents received from Juggut Seet were not with his free will and consent, immediately returned his share of it to him, and that on the tender of return being made, Juggut Seet applied to the witness at Muxadabad, to know what he should do—that he told Juggut Seet, if the present was given with his free will and consent, he should allow Mr. Leycester to enjoy it, if not, that he should receive it back; which he accordingly did, and asked the witness whether he supposed any other gentlemen would follow his example.—And being asked, Whether, when he mentioned that Mahomed Reza Cawn said he had given the presents voluntarily, he understood that they were given unasked, or granted after some altercation and tedious negotiation with the deputies? he said, They were certainly asked for; and that if Mahomed Reza Cawn had not received the place of minister to the nabob in the room of Nundcomar, or some other appointment equal to his wish, he did not believe he would have made any presents with his free will and consent.

And to enable the House to form further judgment upon the evidence given to the select committee of Bengal, Robert Gregory, Esquire, a member of your Committee, and conversant in the customs of India, was asked, From the natural disposition of the natives of Bengal, what credit could be given to the evidence of an officer in the country government, when seized and surrounded by military guards? and he said, He could give but very little credit to an evidence so given—that he apprehended a native of that country, examined under apprehensions of his own safety, would give the evidence that would tend most to his own advantage. And he further informed your Committee, that if there is any thing criminal likely to come out against the man, and a place of refuge near at hand, he supposed there was a necessity in India of using a force to detain him, otherwise not—that in point of custom of the country government, they generally

used

used violence, and brought witnesses to the place where they wanted to examine them; but that it had not been customary in our settlements.

And in regard to oaths among Gentoos, the witness said he believed, under the form of oath delivered to the Gentoos, their testimony is to be depended upon as well as others, though there have been instances in which they have been found guilty of perjury; and that he does not know any instance of Gentoos having quitted their habitations upon their being called on as evidences, and that without their lives or effects were in danger, or their cast taken from them, he did not apprehend they would.

And Major Grant, who had been resident in India nearly seven years, being examined to the same point, confirmed the opinion of the foregoing witness, relative to the small degree of credit to be given to natives of Bengal examined under a guard. And being asked, Whether he would disregard the evidence of the natives of that country, though given under the forms of oaths which are reckoned most binding, according to the different sects? he said, That under the circumstances already mentioned of confinement, and the dread of consequences, he should not pay that regard to their evidence that he otherwise should, unless there were other concurring testimonies to enforce it.—And being asked, What regard has generally been given to the evidence of natives of all sects, when called upon at a court martial to give evidence in cases of life and death? he said, he had never seen any instance of that kind before a court martial, but imagined the court would pay every deference to an evidence where it appeared there was no influence or interest in view; that he had never sat on a court martial, though he had occasionally attended the court in Calcutta, but never the trial out—was never present at any instance of a witness being examined under a military guard.

And your Committee find, by the proceedings on the trial of Ram Churn, which were read, that the most solemn manner of swearing witnesses, according to the Gentoos religion, is with Tootsy and the Ganges water upon the cow's back, and the oath being administered by a bramin from Goligott.

And General Carnac being questioned to the same point, said, It was customary, with respect to the natives of India, to place guards or peons over persons who were to be examined; that there were no ministers of public justice, but armed men; and he thought it necessary to place a guard over Mooteram, because he was under accusation: that in regard to oaths of Gentoos, he believed from their superstitious zeal, and their strong attachment even to martyrdom to their antient rites, they are held very sacred.

It appears further, from the evidence of Mr. Sumner, that Mooteram was examined under a guard, as the witness understood, by direction of Lord Clive, on an information he had received of his having the bills and money transactions, mentioned above, in his particular care; and that he was seized to prevent his escape.

In regard to the political transactions proposed to be considered under the 4th head of the proceedings of the select committee of Bengal, your Committee found, that on the 5th of June 1764 the select committee taking into consideration many attempts which have been made to destroy the unanimity, and corrupt the integrity of the members of the committee, both separately and jointly, by the nabob, through the influence of Nundcomar, and other ill-disposed persons, who were admitted into his presence, Resolved, That all intercourse with the nabob, his ministers, and the country powers, be maintained and conducted by the right honourable the president, as the most effectual method to convince those ill-disposed persons that no motives of private advantage, no desire of encreasing their fortunes, can ever seduce the members of that board from the duty they owed themselves, the confidence they reposed in each other, or the steady resolution they had formed to pursue every method that tended to promote the Company's interest, and the peace, prosperity, and happiness of the country.

And your Committee took occasion, from what appeared upon the above resolution, to call Francis Sykes, Esquire, a member of the House; who being desired to state to the Committee in what manner the nabob, through the influence of Nundcomar, had endeavoured to corrupt his integrity, and that of the other members of the select committee, said, That when he was sitting at the board, soon after his arrival, he was called out by a servant to speak to Nundcomar, who was in a room contiguous to the apartment where the committee sat; that he of himself, proposed to the witness, to secure to the governor and select committee 25 lacks of rupees, if they were inclined to listen to his terms, without mentioning what those terms were; but the witness said, he conjectured the conditions he meant were to supplant Mahomed Reza Cawn, the then prime minister:—That he told Nundcomar he had better go and mind his business, and immediately left him, to attend his duty in the committee:—That no body was present at this conversation:—That Nundcomar did not say whether it was to be his own money, or the nabob's, whose name, the witness believed, was not mentioned at all:—That on his return to the committee, he mentioned Nundcomar's proposal to Lord Clive, who said he was a rascal, and had better go about his business:—That the witness never after, either directly or indirectly, knew any thing more about the matter:—That Nundcomar's political character was very bad, but
that

that the witness said that he had no doubt that if he had been made prime minister, he would have had it in his power to have fulfilled the proposal.

And in the political transactions referred to under this head, your Committee mean to comprehend the conclusion of the war with Sujah Dowlah; the establishment of the country government, after Lord Clive's arrival in India; the settling of the peace with Sujah Dowlah; the grant of the Dewannee, and of the four Northern Sircars, and the reversion of Lord Clive's Jaghire to the Company, upon the expiration of his Lordship's term therein. And first, with respect to the conclusion of the war, your Committee refer to letters from General Carnac, the commander in chief of the army, by the last of which letters, dated the 26th and 27th of May, contained in No. 84, hereunto annexed, the former inclosing a copy of a letter from Sujah Dowlah to General Carnac, and the General's answer; by which the select committee found that Sujah Dowlah, as his last resource, had thrown himself on the generosity of the English, and was at that time actually in camp, ready to receive such terms of peace as they should prescribe; which appearing to the committee a favourable opportunity for establishing the tranquility of the country on a permanent foundation, they resolved that instructions should be sent to General Carnac for settling the preliminary articles with Sujah Dowlah, which they sent accordingly:—That the select committee, on the 21st of June, gave instructions to Lord Clive, as entered in the select committee proceedings, copies of which are hereunto annexed; and the select committee, on the same day, taking into consideration the youth, inexperience, and incapacity of Nudjum ul Dowlah, the nabob of Bengal; the necessity of placing the administration in the hands of men capable to support the weight of government, and attached to the Company's interest; and likewise the great danger that might arise to the stability of the then establishment, from suffering the whole powers for the absolute management of the three provinces to rest in a single person, resolved that Mahomed Reza Cawn be advised to relinquish the title of naib subah, and also a part of the unbounded authority wherewith he was invested by the late treaty, as a measure not only agreeable to the nabob, but necessary to the safety of the present government and the future tranquility of the country: the further reasons for this resolution, and the appointment of other ministers, appear in the select committee proceedings of that day, a copy of which is annexed: and your Committee refer the House to the Appendix, N^o 84, wherein are contained the regulations of the three provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, in conformity to the above resolutions.

That on the 7th of July the select committee observing, by a letter from Lord Clive, dated the 3d instant, that their plan, formed with a view of giving stability to the nabob's government, by dividing the administration equally between Mahomed Reza Cawn, Juggut Seet, and Roy Dullub, was in danger of being subverted, through the ambition of the latter, and the excessive moderation or timidity of the former, they gave instructions to Mr. Sykes for the regulation of his conduct at the durbar, as appears in the proceedings of the select committee, 7th July 1765, which are contained in N^o 84 of the Appendix.

And your Committee find, by reading a letter from Lord Clive, dated Mootejil, 9 July, that the Nabob, Mahomed Reza Cawn, Roy Dullub, and Juggut Seet, had at that time signed the abovementioned regulations for the three provinces, and that his lordship had obtained the sunnud for the reversion of his jaghire, in perpetuity to the Company, conformable to the terms of his agreement with them before he left England; which he forwarded to Mr. Sumner and the council, and at the same time mentioned, that sunnuds for confirming the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah subah of the three provinces were to be obtained from the King, and that this would be a favourable opportunity for procuring sunnuds for the fresh granted lands about Calcutta, and likewise for the Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong countries in perpetuity; and that he had been desired by the president of Fort Saint George, to obtain sunnuds for the four northern provinces or sircars, which his lordship deeming a matter of great importance, determined to make a point of, observing at the same time, that as the nabob intended purchasing the King's favours at the price of five lacks of rupees, his lordship did not doubt that all the sunnuds required on the Company's account would be afforded gratis.—Your Committee find, by a letter from Lord Clive to the select committee, dated Great Ganges 11th July 1765, hereunto annexed, N^o 87, that amongst other matters, the nabob, on his lordship's representation of the great expence of such an army as would be necessary to support him in his government, to defray the large sum due for restitution, and to the navy, together with the annual tribute which was of necessity to be paid to the King, had consented that all the revenues of the country should be appropriated to those purposes, 50 lacks of rupees a year for himself excepted, out of which sum all his expences of every denomination, including Cavalry and Seepoys, were to be defrayed. That Lord Clive left the particulars of the above propositions to be settled by Mr. Sykes, if the select committee should approve of it.—That on the 28th of July Mr. Sykes informed the select committee, by a letter of that date, that the nabob had agreed to accept the annual stipend of 53,86,131 sicca rupees per annum, and to make over the management of the subahdarree, with every advantage arising from it, to the Company; that out of the above stipend he was to allow 2,76,000 rupees a year, to the different branches of his family.—That these payments were to be made by Mahomed Reza Cawn, Roy Dullub, and Juggut Seet, monthly; who were also to have the pay-

payments of all the nabob's troops, servants, &c. And that the select committee, by their letter of the 10th of August, expressed their approbation of the above regulations; but desired Mr. Sykes to reserve the ratification of them to Lord Clive and the select committee. Your Committee have annexed hereunto, No 88, a letter from Lord Clive and General Carnac to the select committee, dated Benares 3 August 1765, stating the particulars of the conference they had had with Sujah Dowlah, and the terms which they had offered to him for the treaty of peace, and also a copy of the letter from Lord Clive and General Carnac to the select committee, dated Allahabad 12 August, No 89, acquainting them with the negotiations between them and the king, and the terms which were then settled between them on the grant of the Dewannee to the Company. And your Committee find, by another letter from Lord Clive and General Carnac to the select committee, of the 20th of August, that the treaty of peace was concluded; but that Sujah Dowlah having expressed the greatest reluctance at consenting to the 8th article of the treaty, and having frankly confessed, that the encroachments of the English in Bengal, with regard to trade, and the great abuses and exactions committed by the Company's servants, and others countenanced by them, made him apprehensive of the consequence in his dominions, and had expressed to much uneasiness about the word factories, that they had at last agreed to leave it out of the treaty; and suggested the propriety of even withdrawing the factory at Benaras, as soon as the Company's engagements with Bulwanting should expire. That on the 7th of September 1765, Lord Clive resumed his seat at the select committee, and laid before them an account of his several negotiations with the country powers, during his absence from the presidency; videlicet, The treaty of peace with Sujah Dowlah—the royal grant of the office of the Dewannee of Bengal and Bahar, and Orissa—the grant of the reversion of Lord Clive's Jaghire to the Company in perpetuity, on the expiration of his lordship's term therein—the confirmation in perpetuity of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, and of the 24 purgunnahs of Calcutta, which had been formerly assigned to the Company by the Nabob Myr Jaffier—the confirmation of the Company's possessions in the neighbourhood of Madras, &c.—the grant of the northern sicars in perpetuity—also the articles of agreement with the king, for the due payment of the 26 lacks of rupees per annum to his majesty, and the agreement with the nabob for the annual stipend, as above stated, to be paid his excellency for the support of the nizamat. Copies of all which are hereunto annexed, N^o 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96.

And your Committee then read a state of the revenues of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, and the Northern Sicars; copies of which are also hereunto annexed, N^o 97.

And the opinion of the select committee with regard to the conduct of Lord Clive and General Carnac, in the aforesaid negotiations, being fully expressed in their letters to those gentlemen of the 7th of September 1765, your Committee have annexed hereunto copies of both the said letters, N^o 98 and 99.

And your Committee find, by the select committee's letter to the Court of Directors, 30th September 1765, and from Lord Clive's letter to the Court of Directors, dated the 30th September, paragraphs 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15, and from his lordship's letter to the Court of Directors 28th November 1765, a copy of which is annexed, N^o 100, written chiefly in cypher, and sent over land; that full information was given to the Company of all the above-mentioned negotiations, together with the observations of the select committee, and of Lord Clive, upon those important events.

And your Committee find, by a letter from Lord Clive to the council, 11th June 1766, that Sujah Dowla on that day discharged the whole of the treaty money.

Your Committee refer to the 5, 17, 18 and 19 paragraphs of the Company's separate letter to Bengal, dated 24th December 1765, hereunto annexed, containing the opinion of the Court of Directors upon the conduct of the Company's servants, in the course of the war against Cossim Ally Cawn, condemning the demand which had been made of the Gossipore country, and the intention of conquering Sujah Dowla's country for the King, requiring them to adopt some system which might clearly mark out the barriers of the country government and ours, and ordering the strictest inquiry to be made, whether any contributions had been exacted by the servants from the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla, on his succession to the subahship.

Your Committee have annexed, No. 101, an extract from the Company's general letter to Bengal, dated 19th February 1766, containing the further opinion of the Court of Directors upon the treaty with the King, upon the measures pursued on the death of Jaffier Ally Cawn, the appointment of independent duans, together with their strictures upon the treaty with the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah.

Your Committee refer the House to the 58th Paragraph of the general letter from the governor and council of Bengal, dated the 12th of November 1761, concerning their reasons for refusing the offer of the Dewannee of Bengal; which your Committee find were approved of by the Court of Directors in the 55th paragraph of their letter to Bengal, dated 9 March 1763, both of which are hereunto annexed.

Your Committee then requested the right honourable the Lord Clive to say, Whether in his opinion the grant of the Dewannee was really a grant from a prince who from his situation at that

time might be supposed capable of bestowing such concessions, or whether it was an instrument executed as a piece of form, which his lordship thought it expedient to take from political motives.—His lordship referred to the public records of the company, wherein his sentiments on that subject are entered, as well as a description of the then situation of the Mogul.—And being asked, If the Mogul had any troops at that time, and to what number?—He said, Some thousands; and in regard to lands or revenues to pay them, he believed he was in possession of Illahabad, and that Sujah Dowlah, and many princes of the country, made him large presents. And being asked, If the Mogul was at that time wholly dependent on the bounty of the English for protection and even subsistence?—he said, He did not know that the English afforded him any subsistence at that time, nor till the articles of peace were settled with Sujah Dowlah; when the treaty was made that he should have particular possessions, and a certain annual stipend—that he certainly expected assistance from the English; but that if he had been disposed to ask for assistance from other powers, all Indostan was open to him, and particularly the Marrattas—that the Mogul was not in the power of the English army at the time he granted the Dewannee, but was his own master, to do as he pleased, though his power in Bengal was totally annihilated.—And being asked, Who put the Mogul in possession of Illahabad?—He said, The Company did; and that he did not know of his having any other possessions at that time; and could not say whether, as the time was so short, he had collected any of the revenues of the place, or made any arrangement of government, from the time he was put in possession of it, to the time of granting the Dewannee. And being asked, If the Mogul could have refused the grant of the Dewannee, provided the English had insisted upon it, without risking his own ruin? he said, It was certainly his interest to grant it to the Company, who might have taken it without his consent; whether they would have done so his lordship could not say: that there was still so much respect for the Great Mogul, that the independant nabobs applied to him for their confirmation, which confirmation is generally attended with considerable presents from the princes so confirmed, who give them to the person they apply to as Mogul: that at the time of granting the Dewannee the Mogul was at Illahabad: that his son was then reigning at Delhi but always acknowledged that he acted under his father; but his lordship could not say whether the father acknowledged the son to be his delegate. And being asked, If he could particularize any nabob who made presents on application for confirmation to the Mogul at Illahabad?—he said, Nudjum ul Dowlah did.

Your Committee then called General Carnac, who being asked, If the Mogul, when he granted the Dewannee, was in such a situation as to induce him to suppose it was a voluntary grant, and that he was in possession of such authority as could enable him to do it? said, That Shah Aalum was really to all intents and purposes the Great Mogul, as much as any of his predecessors: In proof of which, the witness said, The two great honours annexed to that dignity he enjoyed equally with his predecessors, viz. the cootba or prayer for him as king was univerrally read, and money coined in his name, throughout the whole empire—that since the invasion of Nadir, the distant provinces have been very deficient in their payments of the royal revenues; but that to his certain knowledge the complimentary nazars or presents were sent to Shah Aalum by the neighbouring provinces; and as he believed the province of Delhi paid a yearly allowance to his son, who resided there as his delegate; that there is no doubt but the English might have forced the grant of the Dewannee from the Mogul, if they thought it prudent or just so to do; but that such a proceeding would have excited a general odium against the English throughout all Indostan, and that no such force was imposed on him—that he gave it voluntarily, and had offered it to the witness before—that his interest was now concerned in the grant, for there was secured to him a much more considerable annuity than would probably have been paid him by any nabob—that the Mogul had been in the hands of Sujah Dowlah, who had made use of the royal name to collect the revenues from the adjacent provinces; but that upon the defeat of Sujah Dowlah he again surrendered himself to the English, and was by them invested with the provinces of Korah and Illahabad in full sovereignty—that at the time of granting the Dewannee his main dependance was upon the English—that a part of the Company's troops were attending him at Illahabad, and that he never was without some of them while the witness remained in the country; for that the Mogul was jealous of Sujah Dowlah, and would have been very uneasy without them.

To complete their inquiries upon this head, your Committee find, by a letter from Lord Clive and General Carnac to the council, dated 30th April 1766 (Appendix N^o 102) that the first poonah for Bengal, since our becoming possessed of the Dewannee, was held on the preceding day, the forms of which were approved of by the Company, as appears by the 15th paragraph of their letter to the select committee, 16 of March 1768, as follows.

“ The forms established by Lord Clive at the solemnity of the poonah should in future be observed; and when the governor is not present, the resident at the durbar must represent the king's duan.”

And your Committee finding from the records of the Company, relative to the last period of their inquiry, that orders had been issued from the Court of Directors to enquire particularly into the circumstances of the death of Nudjum ul Dowlah a report prevailing that he had been poisoned, they desired Mr. Sykes to relate what he knew upon that subject; and he informed your Committee,

mittee, that to the best of his remembrance, when Lord Clive, General Carnac, and several other gentlemen, were on their way to Panta in 1765, his lordship proceeded from Muxadabad to a garden called Seradbaug:—That the nabob being delirious or wanting on his lordship at the garden, the witness accompanied him thither, where he staid till 10 or 11 o'clock at night; that Mahomed Reza Cawn was also present, and that his excellency complained then very much of being indisposed, and the witness advised him to return to the city, and not expose his person to the cold, he having as it appeared to him then an ague fit on him; and that he went to his own house accordingly:—That the witness hearing the next day, upon inquiry, that he was worse, went to see him, and found that he was confined to his bed in a high fever—that he continued growing worse three or four days, in which time the witness made him two or three visits—that his excellency the third or fourth day of his illness sent word he should be glad to see him—that he went accordingly, and on his arrival found him delirious and convulsed—that he remained very near him till he died, which was about two hours after his arrival—that he heard some rumours from the presidency at Calcutta, that he had not fair play, or that he was brought to an untimely end, or something to that purpose; in consequence of which he applied to the mother to know if she entertained any idea of that nature; that she assured him she did not, and that if there had been any suspicion in the nabob's mind, he would certainly have mentioned it to the witness; that he never heard any person at the city throw out any idea of suspicion upon that subject; that, as he believed, Mr. Verelst mentioned in a private letter, that there was such a rumour in Calcutta and that it was levelled at Lord Clive and the gentlemen in administration by their enemies.—And being asked, Whether the nabob eat or drank any thing at the garden, to which he imputed the sudden increase of his disorder? he said, He believed he drank some ice water, which as he was ill before, was certainly not proper for his situation; and that he does not recollect there was any entertainment, but what the nabob brought with him for his own family:—That the nabob was not guilty of any particular intemperance at that time; but that he believed an irregular way of living, a gross habit of body, and fondness of women hastened his death.—And being asked, Whether he considered the 24th paragraph of the letter from the select committee of the 8th of September 1766, to the Court of Directors, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, as a proper account of the death of Nudjum ul Dowlah? he said He should have subscribed it, except with respect to his eating, not being a judge how far he was intemperate in that—that the nabob had the venereal disease to a very severe degree, and that when he visited him in his illness, he imputed his approaching death both to the fever and the venereal disease—that he had been ill three or four days when he visited Lord Clive at Seradbaug, and had a fever on him at that time—and that he took the ice water for it; And being asked, If any individual benefited by his death? he said, He believed not; but the East India Company did, in that they took the opportunity of reducing the allowance that was made for the military establishment of the former nabob, by reducing it from 55 lacks a year to 41,81,131.

Your Committee then examined General Carnac, a member of the House, who being asked, If he knew any of the circumstances of the death of Nudjum ul Dowlah? said, That as he was going up the country in May 1766, he went through Muxadabad, where the nabob was very ill—that he waited on his excellency, and found him in so violent a putrid fever, that he used every argument to prevent his going to take leave of Lord Clive, who was then a few miles beyond the city at Seradbaug—that to the great surprize of the witness he came thither, and in a very few days after he heard of his death, at which, knowing the dangerous situation in which he left him, and being of a gross habit of body, he was no way surprized—that he did not remember any particular intemperance he was guilty of at that time, but that he was a very intemperate young man. And being asked, If he knew any instance of a nabob, or any other person of the country, being put to death by the English, except in battle? he said, He did not; and that there is no instance of wars being carried on in any part of the world, with more humanity than those in Indostan against the natives. And being asked, What is a fever affecting the nose? he said, A particular kind of putrid fever commonly in that country called the Ava fever, and which is said to be attended with an itching at the nose; and that the nabob had intimated to the witness such complaint.

And your Committee find, by the letter from Mr. Sykes, to the council at Fort William, dated 8th of May 1766, that the nabob died that day—and by a letter from Lord Clive, and General Carnac, to the council of the 9th of May 1766—that he died of that sort of fever that affecteth the nose, and is generally supposed incurable.

Your Committee proceeded next to inquire into the rise and progress of the salt society, and of other matters relative to that trade, and they have closed their evidence thereupon; but finding it impossible to arrange and transcribe so extensive a proceeding before the recess, they have reserved it for a future report, which they will lay before the House with all possible dispatch.

But your Committee think it expedient, before they dismiss the above proceedings, to take notice, that the following papers, which they thought necessary for their inspection in different parts of their inquiry, were not to be found; and in enumerating the said papers, your Committee have given their reasons why it appears to them they ought to have been upon the Company's records.

N. B. These two last letters are not entered in the regular Course of the Correspondence, but are brought in a full month after the date of their receipt, and entered posterior to 8 other letters received in that interval.

Letter from Mahomed Reza Cawn, 23^d June 1765, in the Persian correspondence, N^o 119, wrote in answer to one from Lord Clive, because he recapitulates the substance, and says, He was honoured with his lordship's letter; and further says, That his lordship desires he would immediately acquaint him, whether the distribution of the money was made by the nabob of his own free will, or by me, or by the directions of any other persons—Lord Clive's letter, to which it evidently refers, is not entered on the correspondence.

Letter from the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah, 24th June 1765, N^o 120, is evidently written in answer to one from Lord Clive, acquainting the nabob of its being fixed in council, that Mr. John Johnstone should continue no longer in the service:—The letter to which it refers is not entered.

Letter from Mahomed Reza Cawn, N^o 101, acknowledges a letter from Lord Clive to him, and recapitulates the purport thereof, viz. That he should have accompanied the nabob to Calcutta.—The letter of his lordship is not entered.

Letter from Mahomed Reza Cawn, 18 May 1765, N^o 102, referring to a letter received from Lord Clive; in which letter Mahomed Reza Cawn says, He hopes to be with his lordship in three or four days; and concludes, saying, “ And then with regard to what you mention in your letter, “ I will give you a full account of all particulars.”—His lordship's letter not entered.

Letter from the Burdwan raja, 23 May 1765, N^o 105, acknowledging he had the honour to receive his lordship's letter in answer to his address.—His lordship's letter not entered.

Letter from the nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah, 9 June 1765, N^o 109, acknowledging the receipt of a letter from Lord Clive—but his lordship's letter does not appear.

Letter from Lord Clive to Mahomed Reza Cawn, 22 July 1765, N^o 35, of letters sent; wherein his lordship acknowledges the receipt of Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter, in answer to one he had wrote him; and adds that he did well in preventing his excellency from writing an improper answer on the subject of the money.—Neither Lord Clive's letter, nor Mahomed Reza Cawn's answer, acknowledged by his lordship—appears to be entered.

And Mr. Johnson, a clerk of the India House, who has attended your Committee during the course of their proceeding, being examined, said, Mr. Morton and he had searched very diligently, in consequence of their being asked for, some time ago by a member of the Committee, but cannot find them; and apprehend they were never entered:—The books in which they ought to have been entered were received in August 1766.

And your Committee likewise think proper, at the close of this report to inform the House, That through the whole of their proceedings, they have taken the part to receive information from every person disposed to give it; and in putting of questions, not to insist upon an answer, which any persons declined to make.

A P P E N D I X.

No. 1.

Patna, the 31st July, 1761.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

ON Tuesday last his excellency the Nabob went in grand procession from his encampment to the Kella, in the city, and there received the usual salamnee.

In order to remove as much as lay in my power, the sentiments which the people were possessed of, that the English were not his friends, I had the honour to accompany him on the same elephant; and on his arrival in the Kella, presented him with the keys of the city gate.

The next day Raja Ramnarrain, attended by a single peon, found his way into that part of the Kella where his excellency was sitting, notwithstanding he had been before denied the presence. Upon this abrupt entrance, Raja Rajabullub was immediately dispatched by his excellency to desire I would get him away from thence; for as he would not retire by order of the Nabob, his excellency apprehended if he forced him out, it might be deemed by some that he had broke his engagement, which he is determined to observe inviolably. Upon this I sent for him to meet Rajabullub at the factory; who told him he was ready to sit on the part of the Nabob to examine the books of the Sircar; and delivered the Raja a list of those books he wanted to inspect, requiring at the same time the attendance of three persons who were in Ramnarrain's service.

After much altercation on both parts, and finding no probability of a compliance on the part of the Raja, I read to him your honour, &c's. instructions to me, under date the 6th instant, relative to him, and told him by not sending the books of the Sircar wanted, together with the people, he would lay your honour, &c. under the disagreeable necessity of withdrawing your request to the Nabob to preserve his honour; hereupon he promised to send the books that evening, but according to custom, this he evaded.

Yesterday, agreeable to appointment, Raja Rajabullub, accompanied by Rajahs Nobutroy and Seiterman, with the servants belonging to their different departments, arrived, and the Raja met them here without books or servants; being again repeatedly asked for the books, he sometimes said he had none, at other times they were coming, and that many of them were among the books he sent into the factory about six or seven days ago. On having those papers brought up and inspected, they said they were nothing to the purpose; being then asked for the three servants, whom the Nabob said could give us an insight into the state of the Sircar, he replied he would not let them appear without my giving him assurance their honour should be safe; for he suspected a design to punish them, even to the loss of life, if they did not make such confessions as were agreeable to the Nabob. Upon this I told him this was no Cutcherry, that I interfered now in adjusting the accounts in consequence of his Excellency's particular request; but since he entertained such an opinion of me, I would have nothing more to do in his affairs, and to make this declaration I was the rather induced, as it appears very plainly to me, he will never deliver in the accounts demanded of him, till he is turned over to the Nabob's Cutcherry; for whilst he finds your honour, &c. are mediators with the Nabob, not to dishonour him, he knows he cannot be obliged to comply, and under this shelter the Nabob must go without the accounts.

I remain with great respect, Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. M'GWIRE.

No. 2.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; president and governor, &c. Council of Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

THIS waits on you to advise, that his Excellency yesterday appointed Raja Rajabullub to the post which Raja Ramnarrain held under him in this province.

I am with great respect, Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Patna, 2d August, 1761.

W. M'GWIRE.

No. 3.

Letter from Governor and Council of Fort William, to William Hay, Esquire, Provincial Chief at Patna.

S I R,

WE have received your letter of the 21st instant. If Ramnarrain should settle his accounts with the Nabob, he will of course be of liberty wherever his interest or inclination may lead him; if on the contrary he has not yet settled his accounts, we think we have interfered long enough, and do not mean to encourage him in his obstinate and perverse dependance on our protection; in such case, therefore, we direct that he be delivered over to the Nabob's Cutcherry, there to be made to give an account of his administration, according to the laws and customs of the country; the patience which the Nabob has already had, together with what the president writes to him further, gives us reason to be satisfied, that he will not do any violence to Ramnarrain's person.

As the Nabob represented to the president, that Shitabroy's coming down to Calcutta will be detrimental to his affairs, we think it may be dispensed with, and the necessary enquiries be made of him before Mr. Ellis and the rest of the council at Patna.

31st August, 1761.

We are, Sir,

Your loving friends.

No. 4.

Letter from Mr. M'Gwire to Select Committee.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

EVER since the receipt of your instructions to the Colonel and me, I have used my endeavours to bring about the adjustments of the accounts of this Subahship, conformable to the plan your honour, &c. transmitted to us, and am concerned to say, hitherto without being able to succeed. The Rajah promises to deliver them in daily, but gives me to understand, the accounts for two years were lost in his battle with the Prince, and that he is necessitated to have recourse to the recollection of himself and writers for the forming the greatest part of them; in short, he seems to me to build his hopes of success in delay, whereby he expects to weary out his Excellency's patience.

Thus when the accounts are delivered in, you may easily conceive how liable they will be to objections, since they are to be formed by a man whom every one allows to be backward and evasive.

The only method which appears to me, if your Honour, &c. should continue determined to support him, to come to a true knowledge of his accounts, is to suspend him from his office, at least during this scrutiny; by which means those who have it in their power to give proper insights into his transactions will not be intimidated from giving their assistance whilst his authority is dormant.

But, Gentlemen, I request your permission to come more immediately to the point. We have thought it necessary to confer the Subahship of the three Sircars on Myr Cossim, under certain articles, and therein have agreed not to protect his servants, which agreement is mutual. He is come up here to put this Province upon a better footing than it was before, and is at no less an expence than eight lacks per month, which on account of arrears due to his troops, it is not in his power to reduce at present; he has not collected any of the revenues since

since his arrival, nor will he be able whilst the country people observe his power so limited, that he cannot turn out and put into power those whom he may think proper; thus he remains inactive, his debts increasing, and in all probability will be thereby reduced, by cruel necessity to as bad a state as Mier Jaffer was before the revolution.

I know well the principal argument for supporting Ramnarrain has been his attachment to the English; but this does no where appear from his actions, nay, I am certain the contrary will be evident, when the whole of his conduct is nicely examined into; that he is evasive and unfit for the government, I believe my predecessor will allow; where then is our merit in signing a treaty with Myr Cossim, whereby such manifest advantages arise to the Company, if we break it on our parts, by attempting to support a man in every respect obnoxious to him, so obnoxious, that he has been necessitated to make at least a shew of friendship with Raja Rajabullub, a man who from having been his competitor for the Dewanneeship, and mis-carrying therein, can never be in his real interest, any more than that of the English?

As we have made him Nabob, we ought surely to support him, so long as he behaves worthy of it, and not drive him to some act of rashness, which few besides himself would in my opinion have so long refrained from; for what must his situation be with such a rabble of an army, who find him to have no weight or authority?

I am, with respect, Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Patna, 21 June, 1761.

W. M'GWIRE.

No. 5.

Extracts from Governor Vansittart's letter to Mr. M'Gwire, dated 18th June 1761.

IF the Committee's orders of the 17th of last month had been complied with, every thing had been settled before now; they plainly implied a suspension of Ramnarrain's authority while the old accounts were under examination; and that the collection of revenues, and in short, the entire administration should be left to the Nabob. It is not easy to make people understand what they are unwilling to execute; however, I think the present orders cannot be mistaken, either on the subject of the Patna province and Ramnarrain in particular, or the Nabob's administration in general.—They are addressed to Colonel Coote only, with an order to consult with you, for the reasons therein mentioned. I send you inclosed a copy of this letter, the contents of which you may communicate to the Nabob; and deliver him that which I send you under this cover to his address.

The news by the Hawke you have no doubt had from your other friends. The Company's letter is only upon general subjects, mighty smooth and fair; but many private letters to me and others say, that they are extremely offended at the letter from home, per Royal George, and that all who signed it are to pass under their severest censure; I hope for many reasons it will not be so.

No. 6.

Extracts of the Governor and Company's letter to Mr. M'Gwire, dated the 26th of June, 1761.

WITH respect to Ramnarrain, it will be necessary to be more particular:—Colonel Coote is already directed to assist the Nabob, so far as to suspend him, Ramnarrain, from his government until the accounts are settled, and to put the Nabob's people into possession of all the revenues. This you will conform to, and let him be brought to an adjustment of his accounts by such measures as the Nabob shall think proper. The president has wrote to him so strongly in favour of Ramnarrain, so far as regards his life and honour, that we are persuaded the Nabob will not be desirous of carrying his resentment for his ill behaviour to any such length.

No. 7.

Extracts of a letter from Mr. Hay the provincial chief of Patna, to Governor Vansittart, dated 28th August, 1761.

I Have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 10th Instant, addressed to William M'Gwire, Esquire; or the chief for the time being.

The Nabob, before the receipt of your letter, was resolved not to demand any account at all from Ramnarrain, or even receive seven lacks of rupees which he had offered him for to clear his account; I told him that I was surprized that he would not receive the sum offered, as
he

he intended not to trouble Ramnarrain any further for his account. He answered me that as he had not settled the accounts of the province with Ramnarrain, it might be looked upon as an extortion if he received it, and desired me to write his resolution to the board, which I accordingly did, under date the 21st instant. He is now determined to have the account; but says he will proceed in such a manner as not to hurt the Rajah's honour. This I am in hopes he will be enabled to do, as Ramnarrain tells me he will do every thing in his power to satisfy the Nabob, which I have been continually persuading him to do as the only means to save his reputation. The Seapoy guard that was placed at the Rajah's house by Mr. M'Gwire, at the request of the Nabob, has been taken off, and a number of Hircarrahs, and Chubdars are now placed round the house, with a small guard under one of the Nabob's principal Zemindars, which Ramnarrain desired, after he found the Seapoys would be continued with him no longer. In this situation the Nabob tells me he shall let things continue for three or four days, by which time he supposes Ramnarrain will have sufficiently reflected, that he can receive no protection if he continues not to render him a proper account, and then send to him for his accounts, which if he does not deliver or agree to settle, he will send people to search for them in the house. This is the present situation of this affair, and as I think Ramnarrain will no longer refuse the Nabob what satisfaction it is in his power to give, in regard to the accounts, and observe the Nabob's moderation, I am in great hopes their accounts will be soon settled to your satisfaction.

No. 8.

Extracts of a letter from Mr. Hay, provincial chief of Patna, to Governor Vansittart, dated 7th September, 1761.

I Have had the honour of receiving your letters of the 26th and 29th ult.

The Nabob some days ago gave Ramnarrain a beetle, on his giving a paper to him in which he says it is impossible for him to give the accounts of the province; but consents and promises fifty lacks, twenty-five of which are to be paid immediately in money, and in bonds to Zemindars in the Nabob's service (who will accept them) the other twenty-five lacks the Nabob informs me are to be rather as a security for Ramnarrain's future good conduct, than as a bond he expects to have paid. As yet there has been nothing paid, Ramnarrain has always pleaded poverty to me; but I think he would hardly have signed such a paper as this, without intending to perform what he has agreed to do in it. The Nabob in this affair, though he was obliged to proceed in such a manner as a good deal to frighten Ramnarrain, has I think paid the greatest regard to your recommendation in regard to his life and honour.

No. 9.

Extract of the Governor's letter to Mr. M'Gwire, dated 30th December, 1761.

I Have received your favour of the 18th, with Mr. Walmough's letter inclosed. I was in hopes of hearing that he had arrived at Patna, as he was dispatched from hence the 22d September. On the 14th October, I dispatched to you under charge Mr. Menzie, 16,400 Mds. of salt, which, with the 20,000 Mds. by Mr. Walmough, is the whole of what arrived safe at Calcutta, out of the 40,000 which I promised to send on our joint account. I have read a letter, acquainting me that Mr. Menzie was at Itchamanny the 8th December; as soon as I can get the Account, Charges of the Salt from Inhelle, it shall be sent you.

No. 10.

Extract of Mr. M'Gwire's letter to the Governor, dated 28th July.

THE Raja has of late taken it into his head, that if he can gain me to his interest, his affairs must succeed: I told him very ingenuously, though from his behaviour he had no right to expect it, that I would give him advice, which if he would follow, he would be convinced was the only means left for rendering him service; and that was by advancing such a sum to his Excellency, joined to proper and public submissions, as would restore him to his favour; that he might be assured there was no other means left whereby he could succeed; for, however he might be spirited by people (who preferred their private interest to the public Good) to act in a contrary manner, he would find his error when too late for remedy. I presume this had some weight with him, for I found him in waiting
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at the Nabob's tent last night; but do not know at this time whether the Nabob admitted him to an interview or not.

The Nabob told me, That upon his arrival some of his Zemindars came to him, and said, If the English are your friends, why don't you put an end to these disturbances by decollation? when the Raja is no more, you will find they will only have then your interest to consult:—He is now in your tent, and it may be easily done. I represented to him, a step of this nature would not only forfeit my friendship for him, but would immediately make you as much his enemy as ever you was his friend:—That these steps which the Raja had taken to injure him with the English, would prove in the end of real service to him, by shewing him to the world a man of moderation; and that his innocence must appear more conspicuous, by patiently bearing up against those indignities at present, than by removing the Raja, which would confirm to the world, his enemies had some grounds for acting in this manner; and that by a little more patience he would find you would extricate him out of his present disagreeable situation.

No. 11.

Extracts of Mr. McGwire's Letter to the Governor, dated 31st July 1761.

ADDITIONAL to what I wrote the board, I am to acquaint you, that the Raja stayed with me some time after the departure of Rajabullub, and said there was no way left for him ever to get into the Nabob's favour, unless his excellency could be brought to a compromise. I told him his excellency had acquainted me, he before demanded of him either the books of the Sircar, or a crore of rupees; he said he had no money, but if the Nabob would restore him to his government, he said he believed he might be able to raise twenty-five or thirty lacks. I told him his excellency was determined to give the kelaut of Patna to Rajabullub; but waited only for a lucky day; but as you had recommended him to the Nabob, I would use my endeavours also to get him into the Nabob's favour, provided he empowered me to mention an handsome sum; and that after he had obtained a clearance for what was past, he would give the Nabob a true state of the revenues of the province, to prevent his being imposed on by any future Naib: He entreated me to propose a sum, and after frequent requests for this purpose, I thought he could not propose a less sum than eighty lacks; he then pleaded his poverty, and said he would endeavour to raise a lack; I begged him to apply to some one else to speak to the Nabob on his behalf, for that I could not mention a less sum than I proposed, without running manifest risque of losing the share I had in his excellency's confidence; at last he proposed giving five lacks, which if once restored to favour he believed he could have interest enough to raise; and thus we parted; however I expect him again to-morrow.

No. 12.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President and Governor, &c. &c. Council at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

ON receipt of your honour's, &c. &c. orders of the 10th instant, I applied to Mr. McGwire for the instructions he had received from you for his conduct in affairs with the government; and have received from him your letter to his address, dated the 26th June 1761, I shall make it my particular care to follow your orders therein contained. I yesterday waited on the Nabob, who after some conversation with me about the difficulty he had met in settling his accounts with Ramnarrain, told me, and desired I would write to your honour, &c. &c. that he was come to a resolution not to trouble Ramnarrain any further about them, or ever make any demand on him hereafter; and further, that he was now at liberty, either to remain here at Patna, or go out of the province, or to Calcutta; but that he should be better pleased if he chose the latter, and hoped it would be agreeable to your honour, &c. &c. I am with the greatest respect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs, your most obedient humble Servant,

Patna, August 21st, 1761.

W. HAY.

No. 13.

Fort William, 26th June 1761.

At a consultation, present,—The honourable Henry Vanfittart, Esq; President,—Peter Amyatt, Esq;—William Elli, Esq;—W. B. Sumner, Esq;—Culling Smith, Esq;

WE have thought proper to order Colonel Coote and Major Carnac to return to Calcutta with all the army, excepting two hundred Europeans rank and file, the European cavalry, fifty of the artillery, two thousand of the Seapoys, and two hundred country horse, the which are to be left at Patna, under the command of Captain Carstairs, to act under your directions.—As the province cannot be invaded by any foreign enemies during the rains, we think the above-mentioned force sufficient for the present purpose, which is only to assist the Nabob in settling accounts with Ramnarrain, and the several Zemindars of the Patna province.

This you are to do in general to the utmost of your power, in such manner as he may apply to you.—With respect to Ramnarrain, it may be necessary to be somewhat more particular: Colonel Coote is already directed to assist the Nabob, so far as to suspend him (Ramnarrain) from his government until the accounts are settled, and to put the Nabob's people in possession of all the revenues; this you will conform to, and let him be brought to an adjustment of his accounts by such measures as the Nabob shall think proper.—The president has wrote to him so strongly in favour of Ramnarrain, so far as regards his life and honour, that we are persuaded the Nabob will not be desirous of carrying his resentment for his ill behaviour to any such length.

If any part of the Nabob's demands upon Ramnarrain should appear to you unreasonable, you will acquaint us with the particulars, and wait our answer; desiring the Nabob to let such article remain undecided until our answer comes from Calcutta.

In all military affairs, we recommend to you to consult with Captain Carstairs, or the officer commanding the troops, and give due Weight to his opinion.

We desire the charges of the troops may be brought into the smallest bounds possible, by reduction of Batta, Coolies, Boats, Bullocks, &c. on all occasions that will admit of it; and you will observe to discharge all the country horse, except two hundred of the best, to be kept under the command of the Jemaudars, Ali Raza Cawn and Mirza Shawbaug Beg.

No. 14.

Major Carnac's Letter to Select Committee, 13 April, 1761.

Gentlemen,

THE Shahzadah does not think the assurances of your support and assistance so strong as to justify his waiting so many months for the fulfilling thereof; nor has he (he observes) a sufficiency for the subsistence of his people and himself in the interim; he therefore judges it most adviseable to take the advantage of Abdallah's absence, and try his fortune alone: I kept him off from this design several days; but the Nabob has at last so effectually counteracted me, by bribing some of the prince's favourites to urge to him the necessity of his immediate departure, that this counsel has prevailed; he quitted the city in the morning, and is now arrived at his tents; I imagine he will be for marching as speedily as possible. And as I have promised to accompany him as far at least as the Caramnassa, I have ordered half of Major Yorke's detachment to join us, leaving the rest under the command of Captain Robinson to attend the Nabob, agreeable to his request.

I have long had reason to suspect the Nabob had ill designs against Ramnarrain, and have now found my suspicions to be too true. His excellency made a heavy complaint to me yesterday, in the presence of Mr. McGwire, Major Yorke, Messrs. Lushington and Swinton, that there was a considerable balance due on the revenues of the said province; Ramnarrain has declared to me, that he was very ready to lay the accounts before him; however, as the two parties differ widely in their statement, Mr. McGwire and I proposed that they should each make out their accounts, and refer them to your board, who would fairly decide between them: This, which I thought was a reasonable proposal, was so far from being satisfactory to the Nabob, that he plainly declared nothing less could satisfy him than the Mahraja's being removed from the Naibat of this province before he returned to Moorshedabad. You are all I believe acquainted, Gentlemen, that Colonel Clive engaged to Ramnarrain, on the part of the English, that he should be continued
Subah

Subah Naib of this province as long as he chose to be so; and that the Colonel constantly opposed every attempt of Meer Jaffer, or the Chuta Nabob to remove him. This engagement should surely hold equally good against Cossim Ally Cawn, as being prior to any you have concluded with him. Thus far justice pleads in behalf of Ramnarrain, and it is certainly good policy to support the weight and influence of a person known to be so attached to the English interest, in order to counterbalance the Nabob, who, as far as I can judge, makes a point to take all power from out of the hands of those whom he finds to favour or be favoured by the English. Of this I have seen more instances than one; and he is now giving a fresh proof of it in the case of Roy Shitabroy, whom he is about to dispossess of his Jacquiers, though he deserves particular consideration, both from the Nabob and us, on account of the zeal and assiduity with which he served both, in the transactions with the Shahzadah.

I am directed, gentlemen, by your letter under date the 9th of February, to protect Ramnarrain against all violence and injustice that may be offered against his person, honour, or fortune. If you do not mean to include in these the continuance of the Subahdarree to him, it will be impossible for me to comply with your directions; and the moment that all power is taken from himself, he will be reduced to the necessity of seeking an asylum elsewhere, from the oppressions of the Nabob.

Signed

JOHN CARNAC.

No. 15.

Major Carnac's Letter to Governor and Council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

I Received a letter last night of a very extraordinary nature indeed, from Rajabullah, inclosed under cover to Mr. Lushington: The purport of his letter to me, was to beg I would assist him with my interest to procure him the Naibat of this province in the room of Ramnarrain; and his letter to Mr. Lushington was to engage him to intercede with me to that purpose—with the letters were two promissory notes under his seal, one for fifty thousand rupees to myself, the other for twenty-two thousand rupees to Mr. Lushington. We have both wrote to him in the terms his insolence deserves, and it gives me the utmost concern to find, that any man of the country should dare entertain the thought, that an Englishman was to be influenced by a bribe.—You have not been pleased, Gentlemen, to allow me to have any thing to say or do with regard to Ramnarrain; but if it depended on me, I declare no consideration whatever should induce me to give my consent to removing a man, whom we are bound to maintain by engagements prior to, and consequently more obligatory than, any we have since entered into with Cossim Ally Cawn. I have had hints before, with regard to this unfortunate Gentoo, to which if I would have listened, I might probably have turned my campaign to pretty good account; but indifferent as my circumstances are, I thank God I scorn enlarging them by any means that would not stand the most public inspection.

I have thought it my duty, Gentlemen, to acquaint you with this affair; and now submit it to your consideration, whether any good can be expected from a government, the head whereof has been detected in a most infamous forgery, and whose present principal favourite is capable of offering so barefaced a bribe.

Signed

Safaram, 16 June, 1761.

JOHN CARNAC.

No. 16.

President's Minute.

20th of July, 1761.

THE president observes, that as Major Carnac has nothing to do but to obey the orders of the board, and has no right to question or dispute upon them, his letter of the 7th instant will require no Answer.

It seems however by the tenor of many of the Major's letters, and this in particular, that he thinks himself the higher power, and the board accountable to him; upon this principle, after quoting the former orders of the select Committee in favour of Ramnarrain, dated the 9th February and 21st April, he proceeds to demand, Pray how are these reconcileable to the instructions addressed the 26th June to Mr. M'Gwire?

Although

Although the board might do themselves justice upon an officer who thus forgets the respect due to them, yet we chuse rather to refer it to the determination of our honourable masters, to whom it shall at the same time be made appear, that those orders in Ramnarrain's favour, are now the strongest judgments that can be produced against him, as they are incontestable proofs of our desire to protect him, although the engagements which have been so much talked of are no where to be met with:—It shall be proved also, that those who profess the greatest friendship for Ramnarrain, and who have permitted if not encouraged him in refusing or evading for five months together to render any account of his administration, are in effect his greatest enemies, by putting it out of our power to protect him longer in so shameful an injustice, in which he has already been upheld until he had well near carried his point, that of bringing the Nabob to ruin by a disgraceful residence at Patna at an immoderate expence, without any income from the province:—This it is imagined will hardly be said to be the intent of the supposed engagements; and therefore if any have made Ramnarrain believe the meaning of them would be so far stretched, it is they that are the cause of his tears, and it is they that must answer for his unhappy death, if he should destroy himself, as Major Carnac seems to apprehend:—It is however more probable that he will not prove quite so desperate; and that when he is convinced he is not independent of the Souba of Moorshedabad, he will do what he ought to have done five months ago, that is, render to the Nabob an account of his administration; and in such case he will be treated better than he pretends to expect, better a great deal than he deserves.

He has yet hopes that Major Carnac may keep the command of the army: A delay of twenty days, and Colonel Coote's coming down to Calcutta, might produce fresh orders: A man of Ramnarrain's disposition will construe such a possibility into a certainty, and while he can hope for such a protector at the head of our army, he will continue to think he has a right to an unlimited protection, and continue to evade rendering the Nabob any accounts.

Major Carnac declares himself very freely on this occasion, and gives at the same time a fresh instance of the respect he has for our authority—This passage of his letter of the 7th instant is worthy the observation of the board, as well as of our honourable masters, who seldom write to their presidents and councils with so great an air of superiority.

“ I esteem myself extremely happy in being removed from the command of the army, as I could not have suffered it, while I was at the head thereof, to be employed on the purposes for which I find it is intended, without a direct breach of the declaration I have formerly made to you in regard to Ramnarrain.”

If more instances of a like nature are wanting, they may be seen in many of the major's letters, particularly in one to the select Committee, dated the 16th June 1761:—His own opinion and declaration shall be the rule of his actions, and shall supersede the orders of the board:—If our declarations had merited a part of his attention, Ramnarrain would not have been deceived so long:—The repeated orders of the select Committee for obliging him to settle accounts with the Nabob, shew, that it was never our intention to screen him from that just demand: The first of those orders was in a letter to the major so long ago as the It is true we did not fix a day for Ramnarrain's rendering his accounts, which is a proof of the regard the board have shown him, and of the moderation with which they have acted throughout the whole affair.

Week after week we expected to hear that the accounts had been laid before the Nabob; instead of that, excuse came upon excuse. At length on the 17th of May we sent the colonel particular directions in what manner to have the account settled; That Ramnarrain should be regarded as the deputy of the government of Moorshedabad, that he should give the Nabob a faithful account of the outstanding balances, and the Nabob send his own people to collect them:—Who could have imagined, that after this, fresh evasions would be admitted for two months more, notwithstanding the Nabob's intreaties and representations of the ruin in which he must soon be involved by his useless expences?

The president wrote more than once to Ramnarrain, in consequence of the resolutions of the select Committee, that our protection would depend on his rendering a just account to the Nabob; but he is lately advised by Mr. McGwire, that Ramnarrain, instead of collecting the revenues in a regular manner, has taken or rather accepted from the Zemindars large sums by way of presents, which not being brought to account make their balances appear much larger than they really are, and his own as much less:—An unwillingness to confess this fraudulent attempt seems to be the true cause of his seeking so many shifts and evasions.

Much more shall be said on this subject hereafter, in order to prove to our honourable masters, that the resolutions lately taken by the board (or as Major Carnac politely expresses it, the business that is likely to be carried on) were absolutely necessary for preserving the present tranquility, for maintaining the constitution of the government of these provinces, and fulfilling on our part the treaty subsisting between the Company and the Nabob, as he has so faithfully done on his.

RAMNARRAIN's computed ACCOUNT of Three Years Government of the PATNA PROVINCE, conformable to his Agreement.

Dr.	Cr.
Rupees.	Rupees.
To the Bengal Subah each Year Three Lacks - - - - - 9,00000 To Ditto for Moratta Chout or Dillie 10 Lacks - - - - - 30,00000 To the Jagheerdars 12 Lacks - - - 36,00000 To the Maintenance of the Troops agreed on 11½ Lacks - - - 34,50000 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> 109,50000 To Profit and Loss, which Ramnarrain would have gained - - - - 10,50000 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> 120,00000	By supposed produce of the Province of Patna each Year 40 Lacks <u>120,00000</u> Number of Troops, viz. Horse 3000 at 25 - - 75,000 Foot 4000 at 4 - - 16,000 Tote Connah 700 at 3 2,100 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> 93,100 per Month.

No. 17.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

WE have received your honour, &c. council's favours of the 4th instant, inclosing list of goods to be provided at this factory, which we shall endeavour to comply with as nearly as possible.

We must beg leave to observe to your honour, &c. that, within these few days, every boat which we have sent out of the river, hath been stopped at the different Chowkeys. Notwithstanding they have the Chief's Dustuck, our Gomastahs and people are confined, and used ill, and a very exorbitant duty demanded, and our servants in general greatly insulted all over the country. Upon our sending to some of these places, to inquire the reason of this extraordinary behaviour, answer was given, That they had orders from the Nabob to stop and levy duties from every English boat that passed, and on no account to let them go free, as the English Dustuck was now of no consequence in the country; and for this stoppage the force at every Chowkey is augmented. This has occasioned an entire stoppage to our trade, greatly to the detriment of our private fortunes, as we have now large quantities of goods detained at the different Chowkeys, which we cannot get released, unless we submit to pay the extravagant custom they require; and, were we to do that, our boats are liable to be stopped at the very next Chowkey, and the same duty again demanded. Of these circumstances we think it necessary to inform your honour, &c. and hope speedy measures will be taken to procure us redress. We are under daily apprehensions, that a custom will be demanded on our cloth purchases, which must be of great prejudice to our honourable employers.

We are, with great Respect, Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble Servants,

Luckypore, October 4th, 1762.

WM. BILLERS.
SAM. MIDDLETON.

No. 18, 19.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

TO prevent any blame being thrown hereafter on us, for the deficiency of our investment, we are now to inform you, That at Johannabad, the principal cloth aurung, our Gomastahs, Delolls, &c. have been peremptorily ordered to desist from purchasing, and to quit the place. Upon their noncompliance, they have been threatened and abused in the most vile and gross terms, and the washermen employed in whitening our cloths have been actually beat, and peons put on them to prevent their going on in their business.

Rajah Nobut Roy (to whom the Chief has twice complained of these proceedings) declares, that the person (Peru Roy) who thus insults us, and impedes the Company's business, is independent of him, so that it would seem he is sent by the Nabob merely for this purpose.

If such insolence is suffered to pass unnoticed, we can have no hopes of completing our investment; for who will serve us, whilst they thereby subject themselves to such severe and ignominious treatment from the country Government.

For the carrying on the Company's business 'tis evident, we must be obliged to repel force by force, and shall do so, unless we receive your honour, &c. orders to the contrary.

We are, Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

Patna, the 7th October, 1762.

W. ELLIS.

No. 20, 21.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

WE think it our duty to inform you, that the outrages committed in these parts by the Government people, for this month past, have arrived to such a height, as to put almost a total stop to our business. At every Chowkey our boats are stopped, the people insulted, and the flag used with the utmost and most gross contempt. Our advices from Syblet give us the same intelligence; further adding, that Muchulaws have been taken from many inhabitants, prohibiting them, on no account to have any connections with the English. As this spirit of insolence increases to a very surprising degree, and we have daily the mortification to hear of repeated insults and violences offered to our privileges, we are under an apprehension, that the Company's business will, in a few days, share the same fate as all private has. To prevent and remedy these evils, we must depend on the measures your honour, &c. council may take in consequence of this information.

As appearances are so very unpromising, we have wrote to the gentlemen of Chittigong for a reinforcement of a company of Seapoys, which shall be again returned them, when affairs begin to clear up.

We are, with respect, Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient Servants,

Dacca, the 8th October, 1762.

JOHN CARTIER, THOMAS FRENCH.

P. S. Since concluding this letter, I am informed, that eight boats loaded with the Company's chunam, with my dustuck, are stopped at a place called Jafferawbuze, near Ruttangunge, and the Buxuries on the same are plundered and ill used. The Manjus of the boats are returned from that place, and gave me this intelligence.

JOHN CARTIER.

No. 22.

From the Governor and Council, to William Ellis, Esquire, Chief at Patna.

Sir,

THIS instant we have received your letter of the 7th; and inclose a letter from the President to the Nabob, on the subject of your complaint, and hope it will be effectual in removing all interruption in the Company's business. — But, at all events, as we have it sufficiently in our power to procure satisfaction for any injury that may be done to the interests of our employers, you are on no account to make use of force, without our express directions.

You

You do not mention, in your letter, that you made any application to the Nabob to put a stop to the difficulties you represent, and which certainly you ought to have done, when you was informed, that the person you complain of was independant of the Naib of Patna; at least, it should have occurred to you, that such application was necessary, before you should propose to make use of force.

Fort William
16th October, 1762.

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient Servants.

No. 23.

To John Cartier, Esquire, Chief, &c. Council at Dacca.

Gentlemen,

WE have received your letters of the 2d and 8th instant.

In answer to your last letter, relative to the dispute between your Gomastahs and the government people, we must needs say, that by the information we receive from the inclosed copies of letters delivered in by the president, there is reason to fear your Gomastahs and agents have made use of very unwarrantable practices in their trade, and perhaps your disputes with the government's people, and the interruptions you complain of, have been owing to that cause; but as we are always able and willing, when the necessity of circumstances may require it, to procure your redress for any injuries you may suffer in your trade, or otherways, we direct that you forbear, in such cases, making use of force without our permission and orders; and therefore desire you will return to Chittagong immediately the company of Seapoys which you've wrote for from thence; and if any complaints of interruptions in your business are hereafter made by your Gomastahs, let Mr. Cartier send a person to enquire into the truth of the affair, with a letter to the proper officer of the government, to desire that he will put a stop to such obstructions.

Inclosed are letters from the president to Jeserat Cawn, the Naib, and Mahomed Aly, the collector of the revenues, which, we hope, will prevent any further disorders, at least until the president can make the necessary regulations in concert with the Nabob.

The abovementioned copies of letters we have forwarded to you for your information and reply, in case there should be any facts in them misrepresented. And we desire you will send, on your parts, a particular state of your complaints to the president, who will take the proper measures to obtain satisfaction and indemnification for all losses and damages. You will likewise take effectual care, that none of your Gomastahs or agents do in future use any kind of force or authority in carrying on your trade, lest the disputes occasioned by such practices should in the end affect the Company's business.—Neither must your Gomastahs be suffered to set themselves up as magistrates in the country, in hearing disputes between the inhabitants, imposing fines, &c. &c.

The Court of Directors have this year sent out a gentleman, named Mr. Delaporte, to assist in regulating and improving their cloth investment; and he having declared to us at the board, that he thinks he can be of the greatest use at your factory, in sorting and packing the variety of mulmulls and doreas, we have directed him to proceed thither accordingly with all convenient expedition. And we desire you will give to each other such mutual advice and assistance, as may most tend to the benefit of our honourable employers.

It may be proper to remind you, that the time limited for Mr. Chevalier's coming to Calcutta is expired.

Fort William,
18th October, 1762.

We are, Gentlemen, your most obedient Servants.

No. 24.

To William Billiers, Esquire, Chief, and Mr. Samuel Middleton, at Luckypore.

Gentlemen,

AS we learn by our letters from the gentlemen at Dacca, that many disputes have lately happened between their Gomastahs and the government's people in the course of their trade, we have thought it necessary to lay the following down as a standing rule, which you will please to observe, in case any disputes of the like nature should occur with you.

If any complaints of interruptions in your business are hereafter made by your Gomastahs, let Mr. Billiers send a person to enquire into the truth of the affair, with a letter to the proper officer of the government, to desire he will put a stop to such obstructions: we are hopeful this will have the desired effect, at least until the president can make the necessary resolutions in concert with the Nabob; and in the mean time you are not, and likewise take effectual

care

care that none of your Gomastahs or agents do in future use any kind of force or authority in carrying on your trade, lest the disputes occasioned by such practices should in the end affect the Company's business: neither must your Gomastahs be suffered to set themselves up as magistrates in the country in hearing disputes between the inhabitants, imposing fines, &c. &c.

Fort William,
18th October 1762.

We are Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servants.

No. 25.

To William Billers, Esquire, Chief, and Mr. Samuel Middleton, at Luckypore.
Gentlemen,

WE have received your letter of the 14th instant. In answer to which we must refer you to ours of the 18th, for directions how to regulate yourselves regarding the obstructions you complain of—till such time as the president can arrive with the Nabob, and enquire into the cause of these interruptions, and settle a solid plan for the future safety and freedom of our trade.

In the mean time, as Mr. Billers has acquainted the president that you have always paid the Shabunder duties, but that now fresh customs are demanded, we desire to know what the amount of the Shabunder duties are, and the particulars of these fresh customs which are now levied, that the president may guide himself thereby in settling with the Nabob.

Fort William,
26th October, 1762.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servants.

No. 26.

Translation of a letter from the Nabob to the Governor, dated 12th Rebbec o'Sannee (1st November) received 8th November 1762.

I Have received with great pleasure, your friendly letter. You write that you learn from Mr. Ellis, the chief of the factory at Patna, that cloths have been provided for many years at the Auring of Ichanabad, for the Company; now Perva Roy, the Aumil of that place, obstructs the weavers in providing the cloths; and whenever they are made hinders the washermen from dressing and washing them, to the great prejudice of the Company's Gomastahs, and to assist them on every occasion.—Sir, wherever that Gentleman has an opportunity, he fails not to make complaints of his business. As he has found my officers in no instance faulty, he has wrote to you the impertinencies and complaints of the washermen: You well know, Sir, that the washermen pay no duties, and that the Aumils have no authority to interrupt them, or prevent their washing and dressing the cloths: Was this affair really true, he would have informed Rajah Nobitroy of it, and he would immediately have wrote to the Aumil about it; but as it is altogether without foundation, he chose to make a false complaint to you. Do you yourself, Sir, consider this affair: Nevertheless I have sent strict orders to the Rajah, to write to the Aumil, that he on no account obstruct the currency of the Company's business; and that on application from the Gomastahs of the factory, he afford them due aid and assistance.

No. 27.

To Peter Amyatt, Esquire, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Council at Fort William.

Gentlemen,

I Find that the Interruptions the Gentlemen at Chittagong, Dacca, and Luckypore, have met with for some weeks past are owing to the bad disposition of Mahomid Aly, the person last appointed by the Nabob to collect the rents of that part of the country. Syed Mahomed Cawn, the Deputy Governor of Muxadabad, expresses as much resentment against that man as we do ourselves, and assures me that he has represented him in such a light to the Nabob, that he is persuaded he will immediately be dismissed from his office: this is a point I shall urge to the Nabob, if it is not done before I arrive at Mangein; and further that he be punished for his insolence, and obliged to make satisfaction for all losses which may have been incurred by the delays he has occasioned. In the mean time I have the honour to transmit you four orders from Syed Mahomed Cawn to the said collector, warning him of the

bad

bad consequences of his present conduct, and charging him not to obstruct the business of our factories; I send likewise one from myself. These, forwarded to the respective factories, will, I hope, remove all obstructions; and on the other hand, Syed Mahomed Cawn desires that our Gentlemen will take all possible care to prevent their Gomastahs and Agents from interfering in the business of the government, or using force in buying or selling.

I have not yet the Nabob's answer concerning the disputes between the uncle and nephew for the Zemindary of Baboopoor: As soon as I receive it I shall forward it to you, that you may give the necessary directions to the Chief, &c. at Luckypore.

The answer I have received from the Nabob to Mr. Ellis's complaint I now inclose with a translation.—I think it would be proper to send a copy to that gentleman, with directions to apply to the Naib at Patna, if in future he should meet with any interruptions in his business; and if the Naib either refuses, or has not authority to remove them, then to apply to the Nabob himself, from whom if he does not obtain such redress and assistance as the case may require, then to make his representation to the board with copies of his letters to the government, and the answers received; by this we shall be saved the trouble of hearing complaints, except in cases where our interposition becomes really necessary.

I shall set out from hence for Mongeir the 11th.

I have the Honour to be, with great Esteem,

Cossimbuzar,
the 9th November 1762.

Gentlemen,
Your most obedient, and most

Humble Servant,

HENRY VANSITTART.

No. 28.

From the Governor and Council, to John Cartier, Esquire, Chief, &c. Council at Dacca.

Gentlemen,

WE have just received a letter from the president at Cossimbuzar, acquainting us that he understands, from the conversation he has had with Syed Mahomed Khan, that the interruptions to the business at your factory, and those of Luckypore and Chittagong, have been owing entirely to the bad disposition of Mahomed Aly; therefore the president assures, that dismissal from his employ is a point he shall urge to the Nabob whenever he arrives at Mongheer; and further insist that he be punished for his insolence, and obliged to make satisfaction for all losses which may have been incurred by the delays he has occasioned.

In the mean time the president has transmitted us four orders from Syed Mahomed Khan, and one from himself to the said Mahomed Aly, warning him of the bad consequence of his present conduct, and charging him not to obstruct the business of our factories: The same we now forward you, inclosed to deliver to the collector, and hope they will have the effect of removing all obstructions.

You will please immediately to advise the gentlemen at Luckypore and Chittagong of the receipt and tenor of these orders; and again, when you are sensible of the effect they may have on Mahomed Aly's conduct, of which you will likewise please to advise us.

Fort William,
11th November 1762.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servants.

No. 29.

To Peter Amyatt, Esquire, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Council at Fort William.

Gentlemen,

I Arrived yesterday at the quarters prepared for me by the Nabob, about two miles from the fort of Mungeer; his uncle, Terab Aly Cawn, met me at Goorgutty, and the Nabob himself about four miles from the fort. This morning I went with Mr. Hastings, and all the rest of the gentlemen, to the fort to return his visit.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 15th of November: I have not as yet entered upon any business with the Nabob, but I perceive he has many complaints to make against the Company's dependents in different parts of the country, as we have against his: I have, however, found him in the disposition I wished and expected, very desirous of having our respective pretensions equitably discussed, and such regulations made as may prevent, as far as possible,

any disputes between our people and his in future. He is as sensible as we are, that in so extensive a connection, complaints will frequently be received on both sides, but he looks upon such accidents as too trivial to affect the friendship between him and the Company; and desires only, that on all such occasions time may be taken to make a candid and dispassionate enquiry; promising, on his part, to punish with severity any of his people who shall be found guilty of oppression, or want of respect towards the Company's dependants; and expecting the same Justice from us.

I shall proceed with Mr. Hastings's assistance and concurrence, in such inquiries as shall be necessary on the subject of the complaints now in question; and in establishing such rules between the Nabob and us as may prevent them for the future.

Mungeer, the
15th December, 1762.

I am, with Esteem, Gentlemen.
Your most obedient humble Servant,

HENRY VANSITTART.

No. 30. and 31.

To Peter Amyatt, Esquire, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Council at Fort William.

Gentlemen,

ENCLOSED I send for your perusal two Persian letters, delivered to me by the Nabob, with their translations.

One from Mr. Cartier to Mahomed Aly, the collector of the Dacca districts, which, if I understood it right (for the expressions are rather obscure) is wrote in a very improper style, as it tends to encourage and promote that evil which we have taken so much pains to remedy; I mean a jealousy and distrust between us and the Nabob: I request you will be pleased to call on Mr. Cartier for an explanation of his meaning, and give him such a caution on the occasion as to you shall seem necessary.

The other, from Messrs. Johnston, Hay, and Bolts, to Shyr Aly Cawn, Fouzedar of Purnea, indorsed by Mr. Bolts in English, and written, I imagine, by him, in the name of the partnership. Whoever reads this letter must naturally conclude no other Government subsisted among us; since it was left to Mr. Bolts to assert the privileges of the Firmaun, and vindicate the name of the English, the freedom of the Company's Dustuck: Such notions propagated in the country must needs be prejudicial to the Company's affairs, by weakening their Government; and it is for this reason the Company have forbid letters to be written to the country Government by any person, excepting the president, or with his approbation. I never refused to apply for redress for any grievance that the Gentlemen in the service, and all other inhabitants of the settlement have applied to me about, and in case of my illness or absence Mr. Amyatt was ready to give them the same assistance: I must therefore recommend to you to inflict such censure or punishment on Mr. Bolts as shall seem to you necessary for preventing such irregularities in future: I could wish also that it were made a rule for the chiefs of the subordinate factories, and all others, when they write letters to the country Government, to sign them, that in case of their being produced afterwards they may be known to be authentic.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that, to this time there is no appearance of the tranquillity of these provinces being disturbed by any enemies: Shaw Allum and Shujah Dowla remain near Correginabad, and seem to have nothing in view but maintaining the possession of those conquests they have made last year upon the Marattas near the banks of the Jurarma. The Rohellas, Tants, and other Chiefs about Delly, divided as they are upon other points, agree in opposing Shujah Dowla, which, no doubt is the reason he does not attempt to advance further towards the capital, and which occasioned him to apply to the Nabob and ask for an assistance of forces. The Nabob does not judge it advisable to comply with this application, nor in any manner to engage in the contest, which he says would be attended with a great expence and a risk of involving himself in trouble. I think this advice is also most suitable to the circumstances of the Company's affairs: Our chief object should be to preserve what we now hold in tranquillity; and indeed the continual reduction of our forces, by casualties, without any recruits, puts it out of our power to spare any considerable detachment. The Nabob keeps about four thousand horses in the Barigepore country to guard that frontier, and intends, about a month hence, to march to Betaea to compleat the regulation of that district, and with some view to the reduction of the adjoining province of Napante.

I shall wait here till major Adams's arrival, in order to introduce him to the Nabob; after which I purpose to visit the Puhia factory, and then return to Calcutta

Mungeer,
15th Dec. 1762.

I am, with esteem, Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servant,

HENRY VANSITTART.
No. 32.

To Peter Amyatt, Esquire, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

WE have had many conferences with the Nabob, on the subject of the late complaints which appear to have been chiefly occasioned by the private inland trade, or the trade from place to place, in the country. He enlarged much on the licentiousness and oppressions exercised by our Gomastahs, especially in those distant parts of the province where his government is less established, and too remote for our enquiries into their behaviour. He argued, that the trade of those parts consisted chiefly in articles produced and sold in the country, from which former Nabobs had always restrained all Europeans, and to which he did not conceive that we would claim any right for our Firmaun.

We agree with the Nabob in opinion, that the true intent and natural meaning of the Firmaun granted to the Company was to give to them and their servants a free trade, clear of all customs, in all articles of commerce to be imported or exported by shipping: From such commerce a mutual benefit is derived to our country and to this; but the trade from place to place in the country, in salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, and other commodities produced here, bringing no general benefit to the country, but to particulars only, who had the same in their hands, we do not think the Firmaun can be understood to include them within the privilege of the Duffuck, or to grant us a right to trade therein, on any other footing than the natives themselves; that is, paying the usual customs to the government; for if we had a right therein to trade custom-free, and the natives must pay, it follows, no one but ourselves could carry on any trade, which we cannot suppose the Firmaun intended.

It is fact that the Nabobs of these provinces did formerly restrain the Europeans from carrying on this trade upon any footing, and by farming out the several articles to particular merchants, draw to themselves a considerable revenue.

After the defeat and death of Seraja Dowla, and the establishment of Jaffier Aly Cawn in the Subahship, by the assistance of the English, we began to take a share of this trade, which share has been from day to day increasing. It has, however always been a subject of dispute with the country government, our right never having been admitted by them, nor regularly claimed and established by us; and the government's duties have generally been paid.

But not content with this, the English Gomastahs, in different parts, have lately begun to insist upon this trade as a Firmaun privilege, equally with the foreign trade, and refused to pay any customs: The government's people, on their part, demanded the customs, and upon the refusal stopped the goods; and this contest has been the occasion of many of the complaints received by us and by the Nabob.

As on one hand, we do not see any reason why the English gentlemen, and other inhabitants of Calcutta and the subordinate factories, should carry on the inland trade with the Company's Duffuck, or in any respect more advantageously than the country merchants, so, on the other hand, we think it would be a great hardship, if we and all belonging to us were not admitted upon an equality with the merchants and inhabitants of other parts of Bengal, and suffered to trade on equal terms in all commodities, and in all places, provided our agents and Gomastahs do not set up for magistrates in the country, and carry on their business by force and oppression: practices of this sort in many of the English agents and Gomastahs, and an abuse on the part of the Nabob's officers, of the power put into their hands for the restraint of such practices, have been further causes of the many complaints lately received.

In these sentiments, the regulations we have proposed to the Nabob for fixing the manner of carrying on this trade in future, and preventing any disputes between his officers and our agents and Gomastahs, are as follows:

1. That for all trade imported or exported by shipping, the Company's Duffuck shall be granted: and it shall pass unmolested and free of custom as usual.
2. For all trade from one place to another, in commodities produced in the country, as salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, &c. the Company's Duffuck shall not be granted, but it shall go with the Duffuck of the Buckbundar, or other officer of the country government.
3. That at the Time of taking out the said Duffuck, and before the dispatch of the goods, the duties shall be paid according to the rates, which shall be particularly settled and annexed to this agreement.
4. That the said duties so to be paid before exportation shall be the whole that are to be paid; so that after the dispatch of the goods nothing shall be paid at any Chokies in the road, nor at the place of sale.
5. Thus all goods being furnished, either with the Company's Duffuck, or that of the government, shall meet with no obstruction or delay.—The guards and Chokies in the road shall have nothing more to do than demand a sight of the Duffuck, unless they shall observe the

boats

boats to be laden with a larger quantity of goods than are mentioned in the *Dustuck*, or with other sorts of goods than those mentioned in the *Dustuck*; in which case they are to give immediate notice to the nearest English factory, as well as to the nearest officer of the Government, that orders may be sent to have a strict examination, but they are not to detain them in the road.

6 If any one should attempt to pass goods without a *Dustuck*, either from the government or the Company, or shall clandestinely procure a Company's *Dustuck*, to pass salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, or other produce of the country, from place to place for inland trade, such goods shall be seized and confiscated; the guards and *Chokies* in the road are to stop them, and give notice to the nearest English factory, as well as the nearest officer of the government.

7. If any person, not having a *Dustuck*, shall attempt to pass boats or goods clandestinely, under the cover of, and in company with other boats or goods, having a *Dustuck*, such boats or goods so attempted to be passed clandestinely shall be seized and confiscated.

8. The *Gomastahs* in every place shall carry on their trade freely, and as merchants, and shall on no account use force in buying or selling: If any dispute arises in the course of their business, they shall not attempt to redress themselves, but shall make their complaints to the *Fouzedar*, or other officer of the government, and have the matter tried before him; in like manner, if any merchant or inhabitant shall be aggrieved by an English *Gomastah*, he shall make his complaint to the *Fouzedar*, or other officer of the government; and the *Gomastah* being duly summoned, shall appear before him to answer to the charge, and have the matter determined.

9. To deter the *Fouzedar* and the officers of the government from being guilty of any partiality, they shall be enjoined to transmit to the Nabob, copies of their proceedings upon all trials where English agents or *Gomastahs* are concerned, and likewise to give a copy to the agent or *Gomastah*, who, if he thinks himself aggrieved, may send the same to his principal, and he may make his complaint to the president, who, if the case requires it, will apply to the Nabob for redress: and when any *Fouzedar*, or other officer of the government, shall prove guilty of such partiality, the Nabob shall punish him in the most exemplary manner.

We think it would be unreasonable to desire to carry on the inland trade upon any other footing than that of the merchants of the country; and that the attempting to carry it on free of customs, and with the Company's *Dustuck*, would bring upon us an universal jealousy and ill will, and in the end prejudice the Company's affairs as well as our own.—In the course of our conferences upon this subject, the Nabob observed, that if the English *Gomastahs* were permitted to trade in all parts and in all commodities custom free, as many of them now pretend, they must of course draw all the trade into their hands, and his customs would be of so little value to him, that it would be much more for his interest to lay trade entirely open, and collect no customs from any person whatever upon any kind of merchandize; which would draw a number of merchants into his country, and increase his revenues, by encouraging the cultivation and manufacture of a larger quantity of goods for sale; at the same time that (he added) it would effectually cut off the principal subject of disputes which had disturbed the good understanding between us; an object he had more than any other at heart. This scheme we discouraged all in our power, as it would immediately render the *Dustuck* useless, and prejudice our honourable masters business by enhancing the number of purchasers; and it is an argument why we ought readily to consent to the regulation now proposed, not to risk hurting the Company's interest for our own private advantage.

The Nabob desires that our orders may be repeated, That none of the Company's servants agents, *Gomastahs*, or other persons employed by them, shall be permitted to hold offices under the country government, nor to purchase, rent or hold, lands, gunges, or markets, nor to lend money to the *Zemindars* or collectors; as all these are sources of dispute between the Company's people and the governments.

We have sent to Mr. Helas the Nabob's orders for the free purchase of timber wanted for the new Fort; and the Nabob has expressed to Shyr Aly, the *Fouzedar* of that district, his highest displeasure at the obstructions he before laid in his way, and the ill treatment which the English *Gomastahs* in general complained of from him.

Inclosed we send the Nabob's orders to Mahomed Aly, the collector of the *Dacca* districts, enjoining him to release all boats that may be stopped by him, or any other person under his jurisdiction; to demand for customs nothing more than has hitherto been paid upon the inland trade of those parts; and to refund all that may have been extorted beyond that: likewise another order to the same person, requiring him to transmit a more circumstantial account of the dispute between the uncle and the nephew, about the *Zemindary* of *Baboopoor*, and how it happened that three or four of our *Seapoys* were killed there; but as both in this affair and that of *Tangepoor*, dependant on *Purnea*, where one of Mr. Gray's *Gomastahs* was killed, a severe example seems highly necessary, we have agreed with the Nabob to send a person on our part along with one of his, to enquire upon the spot, and bring a full and impartial

impartial account of each of those events; and the Nabob has promised to punish his people with the utmost severity if they prove to be as guilty as they now appear. Mr. Hastings will go to Tangepoor to finish that enquiry; and we desire you will direct Mr. Billers to produce the necessary proofs to the person who may be appointed by the Nabob to enquire concerning the other affairs.

Mongeer,
15th December, 1762.

We are, with esteem, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servants.

Henry Vansittart,
Warren Hastings.

No. 33.

Translation of a letter from Messrs. Johnstone, Hay, and Bolts, to Meer Sheer Ally Cawn, the Fouzdar of Purnea, recorded on Fort William consultations. December 27th 1762.

OUR Gomastah Ramchurn-Dofs, being gone into those parts, meets with obstructions from you in whatever business he undertakes; moreover, you have published a prohibition to this effect, That whoever shall have any dealing with the English, you will seize his house, and lay a fine upon him. In this manner have you prohibited the people under your jurisdiction. We were surprized at hearing of this affair; because that the Royal Firmaun, which the English nation is possessed of, is violated by this proceeding; but the English will by no means suffer with patience their Firmaun to be broke through: we therefore expect that upon the receipt of this letter, you will take off the order you have given to the Ryotts; and in case of your not doing it, we will certainly write to the Nabob, in the name of the English, and send for such an order from him that you shall restore, fully and entirely, whatever loss the English have sustained, or shall sustain, by this obstruction, and that you shall repent having thus interrupted our business, in despite of the Royal Firmaun. After reading this letter, we are persuaded you will desist from interrupting it, will act agreeable to the rules of friendship, and so that your amity may appear, and will by no means stop the Company's Dustucks.

No. 34.

Extract of the Nabob's letter to Mahomed Ally, the Naib of Dacca.

THE governor writes to me that you interrupt his own Gomastah: notwithstanding in the paper of regulations, there is no distinction of private and public, yet as the governor is my friend, I accordingly write to you, not to impede the Gomastah of his private trade, that may have with him either the governor's or Company's Dustuck.

No. 35.

To Peter Amyatt, Esquire, &c. council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

WE did ourselves the honour to write to you yesterday, and have since been surprized by the receipt of two papers (which come inclosed for your perusal) from the Naib, and from Mahnud Ally of this place, who desired to be informed what degree of regard we intend to pay the orders they contained; to which we replied, That we did not dare to acquiesce with the terms of those papers, as the president and council of Calcutta, on whom alone it rested to give sanction to such commands, had not thought proper to transmit us any such instructions. We know not in what light you will look on these directions to the Naib of this place, but hope will approve the reply we made, and will pardon us the liberty of addressing a few lines on this subject. The immediate circulation of these articles throughout the country will be attended with very bad consequences to the Company's investment, and must intirely ruin most of us at this place, who on the faith of treaties or public indulgences have large concerns abroad, which never can be collected in, if the privileges, without any previous notice, be snatched from us. The protection of our Gomastahs and servants from the oppression and jurisdiction of the Zemindars and their Cutcherries, has ever been found to be a liberty highly essential both to the honour and interests of our nation; and we apprehend the utility of it for carrying on every kind of business, but especially the provision of cloth, is so well known to you, gentlemen, that it is needless for us to add more, as you will at once perceive the numberless vexations and interruptions we shall meet with, if the Zemindars have authority, on every slight dispute, to summon and confine our Gomastahs whenever they think proper. The injunctions with respect to Dustucks affects every article of commerce, except such as are imported on shipping, Mr. Cartier being enjoined not to give any one for any article that is the produce of Bengal, and to pay a duty of nine per cent. to the Nabob on every merchandize not brought in or sent by sea. This surely cannot be meant, but the

words seem too equivocal, not to make us wish to have your sense of them, on so important a point. A duty once fixed, would scarce be a burden; but if, added to this, we are subjected to vexatious applications to the Nabob's officers for Dustucks, it will be a grievance we shall indeed feel. The dignity and benefit of our Dustucks are the chief badges of honour, or at least, the interest we enjoy from our Phirmaund, and has been held in such esteem, as to secure our effects from those depredations which the natives suffer, in passing their goods through the country; and if these new duties on all the products of the country are thought just, may not the Nabob be properly secured of them by the Shawbunder's receipts for the customs being always affixed to the back of every Dustuck, previous to its being signed? This will surely ascertain in the most ample form, the duties to the Nabob, and free us from the principal grievance we can feel from their increase. The prohibition with respect to Tofalls is a restraint not even put on the Moguls and natives; the liberty of erecting new ones, so far from being injurious to the Nabob, absolutely enhances his customs, by clearing lands that would otherwise have been uninhabited; and the order to purchase every thing for ready money, amounts nearly to an exclusion from all such branches of trade, as the venders will then impose on us whatever prices they judge proper.

With respect to Assam, we must beg leave to observe, that the Nabob, or his Phoufdar of Rang Mattee, can have no more right to regulate the terms of our commerce with the natives of that country, than with those of China; all the power he exerts over our Gomastahs is arbitrary and oppressive; and neither justice or ancient customs can warrant such abuses, or regulate his officers in the collecting of taxes. Though the whole direction is now referred to his Droga Rangamatty, no duties have ever yet been paid on lacks, Muggadooties, and other goods brought from Assam: Those goods may surely be esteemed imports when they are brought into Bengal, and may be intitled to our Dustucks.

All our privileges, all our fortunes, and future prospects, depend upon the result of your deliberations on these points: And we hope, let what will be your sentiments, you will be pleased to suspend the execution of them, till our present concerns are collected in with our ancient indulgencies. No treaty of commerce in any country has been carried into execution, or fresh duties levied, without a previous declaration for as long a term as was adequate to the settlement of those concerns that were to be influenced by such new regulations; and we flatter ourselves, that we shall not become objects of unexampled severity on this occasion. The trade of the servants has ever been thought intitled to your protection; and we hope, if particular branches are now to be given up, we shall still be indulged with the influence of your authority and privilege of our Dustucks, till we can finish our present engagements: If you refuse us this request, Gentlemen, you undo us at once, as the publication of these orders from Mungheer, with the stamp of your authority, will so affect our national credit and influence in the country, as must for ever disable us from collecting in the large sums we have outstanding.

If we have obtruded on the board more than is deemed fit, or presumed in any part of this to advise where obedience was due, we crave your pardon, and shall be ready to pay the utmost respect to any orders transmitted by your board; being with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servants,
JOHN CARTIER,
A. W. SENIOR,
R. LEYCESTER,
THO. FRENCH.

Dacca, 10th January, 1763,

P. S. We are just now informed, that Mahimud Ally has obliged the different Zemindars (in consequence of these letters from Mungeer) to give Mokulkaws to have no further business with the English, or to allow of any to be transacted with them in their different Zemindaries. This, Gentlemen, in all probability, will bring on such a scene of rapine and destruction to our properties, as may reduce us to the same distress as we were brought to in the memorable year fifty-six.

JOHN CARTIER,
A. W. SENIOR,
THO. FRENCH.

No. 36.

To Peter Amyatt, Esquire, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Council at Fort William.

Gentlemen,

I Have been favoured with your letter of the 27th December, with a copy of a letter from the director and Council at Chinsura, on the subject of the disputes between our factory at Patna and theirs, concerning the purchase of opium; also extract of a letter from our chief and council at Cossimbuzar, about the difficulty they meet with in exchanging the Calcutta siccas.

I had left Patna before your letter reached me; but as we had before received many complaints from the Dutch about the opium purchases, I made it my business to get all possible information on the subject, during my short stay at that place; particularly as Mr. Taillefort wrote me to request I would endeavour to put an end to those disputes. It has been frequently urged by the Dutch, that Mr. Ellis took obligations from the merchants and Picars, that they would not, under a penalty, sell opium to any but him; I asked the Dutch chief upon what he grounded this accusation, and whether he had ever seen such an obligation, or even a copy; to which he replied, that he had not, but that he had been so informed by his Agents. The Amuldar of Bahar having made a complaint of the like nature to the Naib, I asked the Amuldar, if he could produce such an obligation, or a copy; he answered, that a merchant of Bahar had made a complaint to him, that the English Gomastah had extorted a bond from him not to purchase opium (which had been his usual trade) for that he, the English Gomastah, was to receive the whole from the Picars; that he could therefore not pay customs as before to the government; at the same time producing a paper which he said was a copy of the bond, but did not deliver it to him.—It remained therefore a doubt whether this charge against the English Gomastah was a fact, or only a pretence of the merchant to evade paying the customs.—Mr. Ellis assured me, that he had forbid his Agents in the strictest manner from any such practices, and that he would severely punish the Bahar Gomastah, should the charge against him prove true; and I desired the Naib to send for the merchant and require him to prove what he declared to the Amuldar.

Although I had not time to trace the affair to the bottom, it is very certain that some abuses must have been practised, to the great detriment of this trade, by the persons employed in the provision of opium; for the English factory has provided this season scarce three hundred chests, and the Dutch only one hundred and fifty; whereas the two factories and the French used to purchase without difficulty near three thousand chests.

I conclude this subject with acquainting you, that I made an accommodation between the English and Dutch chiefs, for carrying on their opium purchases for the future, in concert and in the same manner as formerly; by which I hope all disputes will be prevented, and both be provided with larger quantities.

With respect to Mahomed Ally, the Dacca collector, I should not refuse a proposition so reasonable as what the Nabob made; that is, That he should have an opportunity of answering for himself. Inclosed I send you copies of his addresses to the Nabob, on the subject of the complaints against him.

Mirza Ally Reza is appointed Ameen to go and inquire upon the spot; and orders should be sent to the chiefs at Dacca, Chittigong, and Luckypore, to produce what proofs they can of the facts complained of to the said Ameen.

I can venture to assure you, the Nabob will not be backward in punishing Mahomed Aly, if he proves guilty. Toorutsing, the Amuldar of Tangepoor, being convicted of killing Mr. Gray's Gomastah, has received sentence to be hanged at the place where the murder was committed; and Shyr Ally, for endeavouring to screen him, and his ill behaviour to our Gomastahs in general, will be dismissed from his government of Purnea.

I observe what you mention concerning the inland trade in your letter to Mr. Hastings and me jointly; the Company's Duffuck never having been granted for those articles of trade by any former governor, neither shall I think myself empowered to grant them without the orders of our honourable masters; and therefore, to prevent our being liable to have our goods stop'd for duties at many different places, as is the case with the Company's merchants, I wished to have those duties made up in the most reasonable manner into one sum, to be paid at one place, before the dispatch of the goods; after getting what informations we could, I agreed with the Nabob that they should be rated at 9 per cent. upon the purchase price, which being paid before the dispatch of the goods, and the Duffuck of the country government taken, they should be liable to no further demands throughout the three provinces:—You will observe that is less than the Luckepour Gentlemen in their letter of the 6th November last, mention they have always paid upon salt and tobacco, which are the principal objects of this trade:—In my way
down

down I took an account from the agents of some Patna and Houghly merchants of what they had paid, and were liable to pay, for the salt under their charge; by which you will perceive that the fireary duties only, without reckoning the Duffore taken at the several Chokeys, amounts by the lowest of the several informations to more than 25 rupees per 100 maunds:—I have sent a copy of this account to the Nabob, and recommended to free the merchants in general from such a variety of demands, by receiving from them in like manner a reasonable rate of customs in one place only.

I yesterday sent for the principal Shroffs of the city, and enquired of them why they refused to exchange the Calcutta Siccas, and as they are struck with the name of Murshedabad, how they could distinguish them from those which are struck in the Murshedabad mint. They replied, that the stamps were not so well made at Calcutta, and that the rupees for the most part are too broad and thin, by which they could easily distinguish them:—I desired Mr. Batson to send for some; and upon examination found the observation of the Shroffs to be very true; however they agreed to receive them, and promised to do so in future. The Nabob's deputy was present, and assured me he would enforce it whenever Mr. Batson may apply to him; but it is necessary that our Mintmaster take all possible care to make our rupees equal in every respect to those of Murshedabad, and if possible so alike, that they may not be distinguished one from the other.

Having received from Mr. Amyatt the news of the French Cruisers in Balasore Road, I shall set out from hence to-morrow morning, with relays of Bearers to Mirzapoor, from whence I shall proceed in a light boat to Calcutta; so that I shall possibly arrive as soon as this letter.

I left Major Adams at Patna, and he intends to return by the Pachact Road.

I have the Honour to be with Esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

HENRY VANSITTARI.

Cossimbuzar,
13th January, 1763.

No. 37.

Mr. Vansittari's Remarks on Proceedings of the Board, on Consultation 1 February 1763, Fort William.

I Have read with great surprize the minutes of your consultation of the 17th ult. upon Messrs. Johnstone and Hay's letter of the 14th, and upon the Dacca letter of the 10th, accompanied with my answer to the Nabob upon the subject of the supposed regulations for the private inland trade; I will endeavour to point out the wrong you have done me, and the injustice as well as the indecency of the reflections with which Messrs. Johnstone and Hay's said letter is filled; and I wonder it should escape your censure, much more that they should gain upon your approbation.

The honourable the court of directors, as well as their servants here, have always understood a distinction between the trade in articles imported, and to be exported by shipping, and the private inland trade; that is, the trade from place to place in the country, in commodities produced and consumed in the country, of which salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco are the chief articles. For the former trade the Company's Duffuck has always been granted, but the latter has been carried on with the Duffuck of the country government, and their duties paid; but those duties being different in different places, and even varied at the same place, according to the disposition and authority of the Nabob's collector, and the degree with which the English Gomastah could back his refusal, a fixed resolution was thought necessary, to prevent numberless disputes occasioned by this commerce in different parts of the province. Our honourable masters have expressly ordered in more than one of their letters, that the trade in salt and beetle-nut shall not be carried on to the prejudice of the revenues of the country government; and yourselves, gentlemen, in your letter of the 15th November, transmitted me a list of the Shawbunder duties, paid by the gentlemen at Luckypore upon salt and tobacco, in order to assist me in finally settling these matters with the Nabob upon a solid plan: Can that plan be solid where nothing is fixed; and where the English Gomastahs shall be under no controul, but, regarding themselves far above the magistrates of the country where they reside, take upon themselves to decide not only their own disputes with the merchants and inhabitants, but those also of one merchant or inhabitant with another? Or is it possible the government can collect their due revenues in such circumstances?

The plan for carrying on the private inland trade, contained in my letter to the Nabob, is the same in substance as the articles which in my joint letter with Mr. Hastings of the 15th December, we mentioned to have proposed to the Nabob. It is such a plan as seemed to me to be conformable to the Company's intentions in respect to that trade, most consistent with the true rights and interests of their servants here, and with common

common reason and equity; and I call on you, gentlemen, in the first place, to prove that I have assumed a right to which I was no ways authorized; that the regulations proposed are dishonourable to you as Englishmen, or tend to the ruin of all public or private trade; which are the terms in which you have been pleased to express your opinion: And in the second place, to form a plan yourselves which shall be more conformable to the good purposes before mentioned; and without regard to which, I am persuaded our honourable masters will not give the sanction of their approbation to this new trade. Form such a plan, gentlemen, and I will subscribe to you with pleasure, and engage the Nabob will do so too.

For my own part, I think that the honour and dignity of our nation would be better maintained by a scrupulous and careful restraint of the Duffuck, than by extending it beyond its usual bounds; and putting our Gomastahs under some checks, than by suffering them to exercise an authority in the country every one according to the means put into his hands, and thereby bringing an odium upon the name of the English, by repeated violences done by the English.

The Dacca Gentlemen in their letter of the 10th, represent, that they shall suffer greatly if such regulations take place. It is not as to the duty they complain, but the being obliged to apply to the Nabob's officers for Duffucks, and having their Gomastahs and servants subjected to the jurisdiction of the Zemindars and their Cutcheries. The Gentlemen at Calcutta have never found any difficulty in getting the Houghly Duffuck, for our salt to go up the country; nor have we ever thought it either inconvenient or dishonourable to apply for it to the officers of the government: This is the only article we deal in here that falls under the description of the inland trade: The Dacca Gentlemen either do not, or will not, understand that description; they say the chief is enjoined by the governor's letter to the Nabob, not to give a Duffuck for any article that is the produce of Bengal, and to pay a duty of 9 per cent. to the Nabob on every merchandize not brought in or sent by sea. The distinction mentioned in my letter to the Nabob is, that all goods imported, or for exportation by shipping, shall go as usual with the Company's Duffuck, and be subject to no kind of demands; and all goods, the produce of this country for inland trade, shall pay duties to the country government, and go with their Duffuck. Now the principal articles of this inland trade are, as I have mentioned in all my letters to the board, salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, produced and bought in one part of this country, and sent to other parts of the same country for sale and consumption; articles which before the troubles we were forbid to trade in, but which our influence since has enabled us to deal in, altho' with many objections from the country government, and frequent complaints from the country merchants, who used to live by that trade; however, it has never been regarded as a part of our Firmaun privilege, and we have been contented to carry it on with the Duffuck of the country government, and paying their duties. The present regulation is intended only to give us a confirmed right to a benefit heretofore always disputed, and upon terms which seem to me very reasonable.

Now as to the Gomastahs, it is proposed in my letters to the Nabob, that orders shall be given to forbid them injuring the country people or inhabitants, or protecting the dependants and servants of the Sircar; that in case of their having a dispute with, or complaint against, any merchant or inhabitant of the country, they shall lay such dispute or complaint before the officer of the government, to be determined in the proper course of the jurisdiction of the country; and in like manner, if any one should have a dispute with, or complaint against, the Gomastah, the Gomastah shall appear before the officer of the government, to have it settled: In both cases, if the Gomastah thinks himself aggrieved by the decision he may appeal to his employer, and he to the governor at Calcutta. Nothing here is meant to affect or can affect our rights over the weavers, who received advances for the Company's cloth, and who having nothing to do with rents or employments under the country government, are not understood to be their dependants or servants, and therefore may and ought to be protected against any unjust demands of the government's officers, at the discretion of the chief of the factory to which they belong: But it is not to these Gomastahs so many acts of oppression are charged, their business is plain and simple; they have only to make the usual advances to the weavers, and see that they perform their contracts, and being immediately under the eye of one or other of the factories, they cannot be guilty of great extravagancies; the complaints come from the distant corners of the provinces; as Rumpore, Purnea, Dinagepore, Rangamatty, Gualparah, Silet, Backergunge, &c. where if those complaints are true, the English Gomastahs being under no controul of their masters, despise and ill treat the officers of the government, set themselves up for judges and magistrates, hear disputes between the inhabitants, and extort fines; force the merchants to buy their goods at more than the market price, and to sell what they require as much below it: The complaints I have received of this sort are innumerable; I have done my utmost to find out the truth and get redress, and put an end to them, by forwarding copies to the chief of the factory nearest the place where the cause of complaint has arisen, and desiring him to enquire into it; but for the most part I have got no other satisfaction

than the Gomastah's flat denial of the facts: the place being very distant, a proper examination of witnesses is almost impossible, either before this board, or any of the subordinates; how then are such disputes to be settled, or the truth discovered? I am far from saying that the method I have proposed is free from objections, because I am sensible that many of the officers of the government will not exercise their authority impartially, and many will gladly take every opportunity of obstructing our Gomastahs, and particularly in this commerce; but I cannot think of a better plan; and it is certainly more agreeable to reason, and the practice of all nations, the jurisdiction should be in the hands of proper officers of the government, than of our agents and Gomastahs, who are permitted to reside there only as trading factors, and where neither the laws of our country nor the powers intrusted to us by the Company do give us any judicial authority.

I wish, Gentlemen, you may form a better plan, since you do not approve of mine; but if it should appear that this trade cannot be carried on without investing our Gomastahs with an armed force, and authority to exercise that force over the inhabitants at their discretion, I think it should be forbid; and we content ourselves with carrying on our trade as far as the Company carry theirs, and so far we shall be sure of the protection of their forces under the direction of one or other of the factories, who will be answerable to the board for the use they make of them, which the Gomastahs are not, and therefore such an authority should not be trusted in their hands.

Messrs. Johnstone, Hay, and Bolts, complain that I sent a person to enquire into the truth of the complaint against the English Gomastahs in the country, and they dignify a poor Banyan with the title of an inquisitor. My letter to those gentlemen from Mongheer will shew the only authority with which that person was invested; and as they have not laid before you a copy of the letter, I have subjoined it hereunto, as it is at least as material as some of those pieces they refer to. As soon as this inquisitor returns, his report shall be laid before you; and as every step I can take for the redress of the inhabitants of the country is complained of as an encroachment upon the privileges of the English, and also proves ineffectual, I shall for the future lay all the petitions from the inhabitants before the board, hoping that by your resolutions some effectual method will be provided for restraining the excesses of the Gomastahs: the most material of those that have lately been presented to me are hereunto annexed; and I think the putting a stop to any abuses that may be practised under the authority of the English flag, is an attention so worthy of this government, that one or more members of the board, or some of the senior servants, should be sent to inform themselves upon the spot how far the complaints are true, and make their report to the board.

Messrs. Johnstone and Hay assert, That the Nabob's ordering the Rangamatty Fouzedar to receive the usual duties on goods for inland trade, is contrary to our treaty with the Nabob, and reduces us again to those privileges we enjoyed before the time of Meer Jaffier. I have referred more than once to the treaty with the Nabob Jaffier Aly Cawn, and do not find that it grants us any new privileges of trade; and Colonel Clive, who certainly understood that treaty as well as any one, never would grant a Dustuck for salt, or any other article of trade, which had not usually been granted by former governors.

Messrs. Johnstone and Hay insinuate throughout their letter, in terms not to be misunderstood, that my reason for wishing to restrain other gentlemen's Gomastahs, is, that my own may have the more power, and procure for me the greatest profit: although I am satisfied, that such insinuations would obtain little credit, yet it may not be improper to produce some instances, that I suffer equally with others, when any obstructions do happen in our trade; and that I am the first to practise upon my own concerns the restraint which I think should upon our Gomastahs in general. For the first, I appeal to Mr. Amyatt, whether a number of boats of salt belonging to me were stopped at Cutwal, by the collector of the Gaut, at the same time with others, and detained as long. For the last, I refer to my orders of the 17th of December, and 10th January, to Mr. Moore, my agent at Rungpour, and Mr. Baillie, at Rangamatty; of which copies are hereunto annexed.

As you have been pleased to give us your opinion, that Messrs. Johnstone, Hay, and Bolts, did properly, in writing a letter to Sheer Aly, the Fouzedar of Purnea, in their own name, instead of applying to the president, of course every other merchant will take the same authority. I am by no means sorry to be relieved from the trouble of such applications, yet I think it my duty to give it as my opinion, that this intire levelling and equality will not be for the good of the Company's affairs, nor the benefit of the society; and therefore do declare my disapprobation.

One reason Messrs. Johnstone and Hay give for writing this letter, deserves to be taken notice of; an unwillingness in the president to believe complaints of this nature. I request the board will call on them to produce any one instance where I have refused or delayed to give them, or any other merchant, every assistance they have asked of me, in the carrying on their private business, and obtaining redress for their grievances.

In short, gentlemen, their letter throughout is so injurious to me as a gentleman (to say, nothing of my station) that I should have applied to you for justice against them, did I not perceive that instead of shewing your displeasure at such behaviour, you have thought proper to give

give it the sanction of your approbation. I refer myself therefore to the honourable the Court of Directors, who, I am persuaded, will do me more justice.

I shall be glad to see the number of members at the board increased, and wish it could always be kept so; but if I had proposed to send for particular members from the subordinates, to give their opinion on a particular subject, I should surely be accused of an intention to make a majority to carry a particular point: and it is a precedent that may be at some time applied to that purpose, and therefore I think a bad one.

As to the major, he is to be a member of the board, according to our honourable masters directions, when military affairs are in debate: how a regulation of a method for carrying on our trade in salt, and beetle-nut, and tobacco, can be brought under that title, I cannot conceive; nor how he can be supposed to be a judge of such a subject. Yet if you conceive his advice can be of use, I am far from objecting to his being present. The matter in question is not with me a point of contest or party; I wish only to see such rules laid down, that the Nabob and we may know our proper limits, and prevent our servants from transgressing them; which will require both time and patience, and much care and attention. The best laws will be sometimes transgressed; but the inconveniencies which arise from such transgressions ought not to be objected against the laws themselves, but against the transgressors, who can only be restrained by the constant care of government.

No. 38.

Fort William, 3 February 1765.

MR. Amyatt lays before the board the following minute, in reply to that which the president delivered in, last council day:

In consequence of my having presided at this board during the absence of Mr. Vansittart, I shall now take the liberty to reply, in part, to the minute which he laid before council on the 1st instant.

First, as to the subject of his letter to the Nabob, in respect to the transaction therein contained, I shall leave it to be debated and determined at the full board, when the rest of the members arrive, and when I make not the least doubt, having received the assistance of their deliberations, but we shall be enabled to form a set of regulations equally equitable with the president's, and every way as conducive to the interest of the Country government and our own; and, I trust, of a much greater tendency to prevent future jealousies and animosities between us, of which the clause for subjecting us so thoroughly to their judicature must have proved an inexhaustible source.

What I have therefore chiefly to point out, is, that the president in this transaction has acted without a proper authority. It was but last council day, gentlemen, that the proceedings in this affair were read at our board; and although I gave the greatest attention to the perusal, I could not distinguish that we vested the president with the powers he pretends; nay, I observe that he himself can only pick out one phrase to answer his purpose; from perverting even the literal sense of which, and entirely the well known meaning of the board, he draws a sanction of ours for what he has done. Right sorry am I to find that recourse is had to playing upon words, because I think it is a custom which ought to be utterly excluded in matters so serious as generally prove the business of this board; and orders from them which are not explicit should rather be scrupulously followed, than in a vague and unlimited sense. It is needless to enlarge much more on the subject, for our proceedings on receipt of the articles from the president and Mr. Hastings (which we then understood to be only proposed) plainly demonstrate that we never gave, or intended to give, them power to conclude those, or any other; of course the president's doing it was an authority assumed: but, if he could so well understand the meaning of the board in the above particular, and act in consequence, how happens it, I should be glad to know, that their directions and earnest recommendations for procuring restitution for the late losses of any individuals, were not paid an equal regard to?

Next, with respect to the letter delivered in by Messrs. Johnstone and Hay, (which I always held as a mere secondary matter, but which I find the president has expatiated upon very largely) I must in the name of the board deny that it met from them the approbation which he alleges. Their minute, of which I think the sense cannot well be perverted, serving no further than to express their opinion, that the apology of those gentlemen was, for the transaction in question, to them satisfactory. Although I cannot implicitly agree with the president that the said letter is filled with unjust and indecent reflections, yet I concur entirely that our honourable masters should become the judges in this, as of all our other proceedings.

No. 39.

From Nabob Cossim Ally Cawn to Mr. Vanfittart.

February 22, 1763.

I Received your friendly letter, which gave me much pleasure. You write that concerning the inland trade of this country, (that is to say) salt, tobacco, beetle-nut, dried fish, which being purchased in this country shall be carried for sale to other parts of the country, a duty of 9 per cent. was agreed between me and you to be paid; but that the Phouzdars and managers do not regard it, but that they want to put a stop to the whole trade; likewise that they demand duties on cloth, &c. belonging to the Company, having a dustuck with the Company's seal, and which never was known to pay duties; that Shake Hybut, a peon upon Rainkunt Holdar, your own private Gomastah at Pantipoor, did not regard the Company's dustuck, but by force took from him the amount of 110 rupees on account duties, and as yet has not taken off the peon; also that Kaujah Aikafuk, who through the means of Kaujah Warrens was appointed to transact your own private business at Jangyinagur, and had agreeable to the Company's dustuck, provided 30 bales of Cloth, 28 of which he sent first, and afterwards the two others; but that Mahomed Ally Beg Tussaidar intercepted, and detained, and demanded duties thereon: and desiring I would speedily write very fully to all the Phouzdars and managers concerning this, not to take duties on any thing without reason. — What you write, I understood. — The translates of your Gomastah's letter I have seen.

The whole of the dispute is this: The merchants, &c. whose names are entered in my office, always pay duties. Now you purchase goods through their means, therefore the managers to the government know not whether the goods belong to you or the merchants. Through the will of God, your Gomastahs and houses are every where; therefore, why do not you purchase and sell goods through the means of your own Gomastahs, and your own houses? and if the merchants were to have no share in it, no noise or dispute could possibly arise. Goods being purchased from the merchants who always paid duties on the goods they bought and sold, and now do not, is the cause of these disputes.—Therefore you will please to defer trading with those merchants, who from former time have belonged to the government; then there will be no disputes between your people and mine.

Inclosed.

I have wrote very fully to the managers at Nudia, Dacca, &c. not in any respect whatever to intercept or molest any goods belonging to the Company at any of their places of trade, having a Company's dustuck with them. If any of the managers belonging to the government should be uncertain, whether the goods belong to the Company, or the gentlemen, or the English Gomastahs, and do not see the Company's dustuck, what can I do? For which reason, should the managers belonging to the Sicar, if the Company's dustuck is produced, interrupt goods, or disregard my perwannah, the Gomastahs belonging to the English, through their own pleasure or pride, will not shew the Company's dustuck; therefore direct all the Gomastahs very fully not to delay shewing the dustuck.

No. 40.

*Instructions to Messieurs Anyatt and Hay.**To Peter Anyatt, and William Hay, Esquires.*

Gentlemen,

Fort William, the 28th March 1763.

1. THE trade of our factories on behalf of the Company, as well as the inland trade carried on by the agents and Gomastahs of English merchants, having for some months past met with the greatest interruptions in all parts of the country from the officers of the Nabob's government, and this having further proved the source of numerous disputes and complaints on both sides; we have had under consideration the settling of certain rules, agreeable to our respective rights and pretensions, whereby to carry on our trade, and be the means of preventing such disputes from happening in future in these points: We have already come to some regulations, and having the greatest reliance on your abilities, prudence, and zeal, as well for the interest of our honourable masters, as for the welfare and good of the community, we have thought proper to depute you to make known to the Nabob those resolutions.

2. In the first place you must again acquaint the Nabob, that the regulations made with him by the president being disapproved, are of course become void; and you are therefore to demand the letter which contained them; you are also to insist, in case he has not before issued such

such orders, that he do revoke all those orders which he sent to his officers in consequence of the said regulations, and inform him, that trade is in every respect to go on in its usual channel, until he (the Nabob) has settled with you the business of your deputation.

3. Accompanying this you will receive English and Persian copies of the phirmaun, and Hushbulhookums and treaties, on which we found a right to free trade; these we have concluded, give us an indisputable privilege for any of our trades, as well foreign as inland, throughout the provinces of this Subah, free of any deductions to the country government; you must therefore carefully and clearly explain to the Nabob, the tenor and substance of all those grants, and the justice that it follows we have on our side for abiding thereby.

4. When you have fully asserted and convinced the Nabob of these our rights and privileges, you will make known to him the resolution of council the 2d instant, for allowing him a duty on salt, with our motives therefore; first, because from general informations taken, it appears this article has from custom always paid a certain, though unsettled, duty. Secondly, because it is not our intention through too scrupulous an assertion of our rights to detriment or diminish the revenues of this government, or in any respect to lessen to him the advantages reaped at our hands by his predecessors the former Subahs; that allowing these sentiments to weigh as far with us as the regard for the interests of our employers and the community, and for the tenor of our said grants, will possibly admit, we have resolved to allow him (the Nabob) a fixed duty on the article of salt, at two and a half per cent. on the Rowannah price; but as we have no grounds for extending this consideration further, we cannot admit of duties being levied on any other articles of trade whatsoever.

5. To ascertain the payment of this duty, and at the same time maintain in its full force the authority of the English duffuck, the article of salt shall be circulated equally with other articles by means of a duffuck, and be liable to no further scrutiny or interruption, provided the Bucksbunder or Shawbunder for the aforementioned duty appears properly granted and entered on the back thereof.

6. For regulating in future the conduct of our agents and Gomastahs, and the officers and dependants of the Nabob's government, with respect to injuries committed on either side, and disputes which may arise between them, we have agreed on the following rules, which you must intimate to the Nabob, and as we think they will every way answer the ends required, you must acquaint him that they are therefore to be punctually observed.

7. The Nabob having lately affected an ignorance of the nature of this government, and the powers of the council, the president, in his answer, endeavoured to set him right on that head; but it will still be necessary that you again explain this matter personally to him by commission from the board, that future pretensions of the like ignorance may not be the means of detriming our affairs.

8. There further appears in the course of his correspondence, certain expressions which imply a diffidence of the friendship of several members of the council towards him; these ill founded suspicions you must use your most strenuous endeavours to remove, and on the contrary, to convince him, that we shall be always, with one voice, agreeable to assist and support him and his government, provided no attempts are made towards the infringement of our rights and privileges; but that from a just observance of them, and a steady obedience to the repeated orders of our employers, we can never put up with attempts that have in the smallest degree such a tendency.

9. With respect to the regulations for trade, we think it will be the most proper method to have our rights acknowledged, and under the Nabob's own hand and seal, taking care that there is no expressions inserted in it contrary to the sense we entertain of our rights by our former grants or treaties, or that may tend in any degree, to invalidate them. To such writings you may accede, reserving to us the power of finally ratifying the same.

10. As we think it absolutely necessary, both for the interest of our affairs and the Nabob's, to have a gentleman in the service, resident at his court, we have appointed Mr. Thomas Amphlett to accompany you in the deputation, and afterwards remain with the Nabob in that capacity; you will therefore introduce him to the Nabob accordingly, and acquaint him, that all transactions between him and us are, after your departure, to be carried on by this resident; and that all orders which are issued through the country relating to the English, are to be first intimated to and approved by him. At your departure you will leave in charge with Mr. Amphlett any part of these instructions which you may not be able to finish, and give him such further directions as you may think necessary.

11. Having had repeated instances of the ill disposition and bad behaviour of Mahomed Aly, the collector of the Dacca districts, we here inclose you a particular proof, in copies of letters which he wrote to Syed Buddul Cawn; and we must desire that you will insist on his being dismissed from his offices, and obliged to make reparation for all the losses he has been the occasion of, since the beginning of these disturbances.

12. The orders by which we took possession of the lands being only Amuluanas, we must desire that you will apply to the Nabob for proper Lacqueeny Sunnuds, to confirm the Company's right to the three provinces.

13. You must likewise demand from the Nabob payment of a sum of money which Mahomed Reza Cawn disbursed out of the revenues of the Chittagong province, on account of

the Tippeza expedition: to instruct you in which, we have ordered the particulars to be transmitted you by the accomptant of the committee of lands.

14. Since we began to draw up those instructions, we have received intelligence of the Nabob's having published a Sunnud, containing an exemption from all duties on every kind of trade for the space of two years; copies of the Sunnud and a Perwannah, which accompanied it to Nobut Roy, the Naib of Patna, you will receive herewith; and as we are of opinion, that this step is taken with a design to prejudice the Company's trading business, and counteract the measures we have been hitherto taking for the welfare of trade in general, we desire that you will insist on the Nabob's revoking that Sunnud, and collecting duties as before.

15. We further transmit copy of a minute entered on this day's consultation by Messieurs Johnstone and Hay, and we desire you will make the inquiry therein recommended.

We wish you success in your deputation; and are, with esteem, &c.

No. 41.

To the Honourable Henry Fanshott, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

YOUR favour of the 24th ultimo we received the 2d instant, and immediately dispatched your letter inclosed therein to the Nabob: as far as we can judge, he inclines not to pacific measures; for since the receipt of your letters of the 7th and 11th ultimo, he has been constantly sending troops into this city. The commanders of his forces in different parts of the country hereabouts, are under orders to assemble at Patna, and some of them actually in motion, by which it seems as if he intended a blow at this party; on that head however we are perfectly easy, but under the deepest concern for the fate of the city, which we are hourly apprehensive will be plundered by the licentious undisciplined rabble within its walls. The suburbs are already entirely deserted, and the wretched situation of people of all ranks is more easy to conceive than describe.

Meer Mindi Cawn is the name of the person whom the Nabob has appointed his Naib here; but to this time he has not paid the chief the usual compliment of acquainting him with his arrival. He carries on the preparations for attack or defence (for as yet we know not which to call them) with more vigour than his predecessor, and thereby adds to the terror and alarm of the inhabitants:—The night before last the whole of his people were under arms on the walls, and firing their guns and small arms till morning; great part of yesterday the gates were kept shut, and the relief of our Hospital Guard refused admittance; upon which the chief wrote him a letter, a copy of it we now inclose, as likewise of his answer. The guard has been since admitted, but the Burbunna gate still remains shut.

It is commonly talked that the Nabob has sent this Mindi Cawn to drive out the English; but your honour, &c. will judge that there is not much danger to be apprehended from a man, whose talent seems chiefly to lie in founding his own praise; his insolence may however reduce us to the disagreeable necessity of taking the city from him.

With the greatest difficulty we have collected money sufficient to pay our Europeans for this month, and our Seapoys for March, and have not at this time a single rupee in cash. We therefore request your honour, &c. will take the most speedy method of supplying us.

We are with respect, Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble servants,

Patna, the
5th April 1763.

W. ELLIS,
HENRY LUSHINGTON,
SAMUEL HEWITT,
W. SMITH.

No. 42.

Fort William Consultations, 14 April 1763.

THE board being come to concert the measures proper to be taken, in case that a rupture should happen between us and the Nabob, the several cases were fully considered and debated on; and the following resolutions were in consequence planned and agreed.

Although it is to be hoped that the disputes with the Nabob will yet come to an amicable issue, it is thought necessary to be prepared with a plan of operations, which may be most expedient to ensure success, in case of a contrary event.

It is therefore resolved, first, that in case of a rupture with the Nabob, and the Nabob should march towards Patna, in order to attack our troops and factory there, they

they shall endeavour to possess themselves of the city, if they think they can possess themselves of it without much loss, and there remain until they receive further orders from us or Major Adams; but if they should by attacking the city think they run a risk of failing in the attempt, or losing of many men, they must then take such post as they think they can best defend themselves in, and if they can, cover the factory until they shall receive further orders as abovementioned; that in either case they must be careful to secure all the provision they can of every kind, and also draught and carriage bullocks.

Secondly, that in case of a rupture with the Nabob, and he shall remain at Mongheer, the Patna party shall act as in the first case.

Thirdly, that in case of a rupture, and the Nabob marches down this way, the Patna party shall, after attacking and possessing themselves of the city, move down as far as Rowoonullah, to be in greater readiness to join Major Adams, and there wait for orders from Major Adams, unless from an alteration of circumstances their own discretion shall direct them to act otherwise.

That in any of the foregoing cases these are our present thoughts; but that we do not mean by such a plan to restrict them from taking any advantage that may happen, in case of a rupture declared.

This plan being settled for the Patna party in case of a rupture, the question is put,

How they shall be informed of a rupture, or what they shall construe as such?

Mr. Johnstone thinks the Nabob's stopping our communication by letter, and moving in consequence with his army and artillery towards Patna, when there is no other enemy in the country adjacent, against whom he may have cause to move, or ought in reason to be believed, that he directs the march of his army this way, attended by any correspondent act of hostility of his forces stationed at or round Patna, such as stopping their provision or communication with the country, or opposing our people in the execution of their business; might in the present circumstances be construed by them as a rupture; and that they might immediately proceed to act as directed in the plan.

The president thinks, that Mr. Johnstone's proposal is extremely vague, and leaves it in the power of the Gentlemen at Patna, by an error in judgment, to involve us in a war, which we would rather avoid; and therefore would propose, that the orders to the Gentlemen at Patna should be after this manner: That they will be instantly informed from us, if we should be obliged to declare a rupture with the Nabob; and that therefore they must wait for such information before they act upon such a plan laid down, keeping in the mean time well on their guard, and defending themselves and the Company's rights against all attacks: That he proposes these limited orders the rather, as he looks upon the party at Patna to be of such a strength as to run no risk from any attack of the Nabob.

The question being put to the rest of the board, which of these opinions shall be adopted?

Messrs. Watts, Marriot, Hastings, Cartier, and Billers agree to the president's.

Mr. Batson is of Mr. Johnstone's opinion, because, after the Nabob has once commenced hostilities against us, the tying up our party at Patna from acting on the offensive as well as the defensive, will give him an advantage in cases of exigency that may happen.

Major Adams thinks that the Gentlemen at Patna ought not to commence hostilities without the orders of the board; but that should the Nabob march a large force towards Patna, without any apparent reason, or otherwise commit any acts of hostility, that they should take any step for their own security, even to the taking of the city of Patna, if it should be deemed absolutely necessary, and there defend themselves, without proceeding further until they receive the orders of the board.

No. 43.

To the Honourable Henry Vanfittart, Esq; President, Governor, &c. Council.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

WE have received your favour of the 14th instant, with the resolutions of the board, which, as far as we comprehend them, will not allow us to construe any act of the Nabob's as hostile, although ever so greatly tending to our ruin; but are to wait until we have notice from you of a rupture being declared, although who there may be then to receive your commands is hard to say; but most probably neither any of us, nor of the party now here, as we shall clearly evince.

We have had good intelligence (not from Harkarrahs) that if the army should move from Calcutta, the Nabob intends marching here to attack us; in which case he will instantly remove our dawkes, and cut off all communication by that channel. It will be the third day of his march before we can receive certain advice of it, and a single cafile will be twelve days reaching Calcutta, provided he meets with no impediment;

but

but it is more probable that at such a juncture he never gets there; and still more so, that your answer never reaches us. How then are we to act? This factory, it is well known, is not tenable if attacked from the city, and to abandon it will, amongst many other evils, give such a shock to the spirit of our troops, as may induce the greatest part of our Seapoys (in whom our principal strength consists) to desert us, and go over to the Nabob, where they are better ensured of success, and will meet with ample encouragement, which has not been spared, even when there was no appearance of a rupture, to those who would desert with their arms. Another substantial reason why we cannot leave the factory is, our having sent our ammunition for its greater security in the lower part of the house, the magazine where it before lay being liable to be blown up by a common rocket.

But let us suppose for a moment, that on the Nabob's marching against us we quit the factory and take post, are we to sacrifice our surgeons and sick, who reside in the city; for it cannot be supposed that they will be permitted to come out, or if they could, the situation of most of them is such, that they being brought into the air will be attended with certain death? When we have fortified ourselves in this post, our affairs are not at all mended; for the Nabob has only to surround and starve us, whilst we, dying by inches, sit waiting for your orders, which can never arrive but with the army, and that at the soonest will be forty days after his march from Mongheer. How are we to subsist all this time? The Nabob seizes all provisions coming from Bengal; and such is the scarcity here, that had it not been for the gunge which so much pains was taken to abolish, we had long ere now been obliged to take up arms to procure our daily sustenance; but was there plenty, we have not a rupee to purchase it. With the utmost difficulty we have scraped money together to pay our troops for these two months past, and at this time have not sufficient to discharge a fourth part of the demands that will be upon us in a few days, although we acquainted your honour, &c. of the lowness of our cash so long ago as the 2d of February.

This party, 'tis true, runs no risque from the Nabob, provided we are allowed to act and make the most of every advantage, that may offer; but if our hands are tied, our destruction becomes inevitable; such a body as this must ever act offensively and vigorously, and nip the designs of their enemy in the bud; 'tis by such conduct only that they can hope to preserve themselves; and surely it is just and laudable to make use of any means providence has put in our power, to defeat the attacks of a cruel and faithless enemy.

Our safety lies in mastering the city by a coup de main, before the Nabob gets into it, for afterwards it may be impracticable; and the consequence of our acting on the defensive, any where but in the city, we have already pointed out. Our distance from Calcutta is very great, and whenever the Nabob marches this way, our communication will be cut off, and most probably not opened but by your army: If therefore we should obey nature's first law, we hope we shall not be found culpable, though it may not perfectly coincide with your honour, &c's. orders.

We cannot conclude, without observing to your honour, &c. that we think we have no ways merited the diffidence you express, nor given the least reason even to suspect, that we would involve the Company in a war by any rash or unpremeditated step; we rather think that we have given proofs of a contrary disposition, in bearing the many insults we have received, particularly since Mendy Ali Cawn has been appointed Naib here, whose people have even dared to abuse and call us opprobrious names, aloud from the walls.

We shall be as far as any, to whom the management of the Company's affairs are entrusted, from bringing them into difficulties; but when it is really necessary, shall endeavour to act with a spirit that becomes subjects of Britain, and servants of her greatest commercial body.

Your honour, &c's. letters are always one and often two days earlier in date than any others from Calcutta, which gives the Nabob a great advantage over us in point of intelligence. We therefore request you will order them to be dispatched with the utmost expedition.

We are with respect, honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

W. ELLIS,
HENRY LUSHINGTON,
SAMUEL HEWITT,
W. SMITH.

Patna, 24th April 1763.

No. 44.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

WE waited on the Nabob the 15th, to acquaint him of your resolutions; and in conversing on the different articles, we found it impossible to discuss separately on them; and he desiring us to write down what he had to say to him, we delivered to him a Persian translate we had made of our instructions; the same being read, he desired we would leave it with him, as also the Phirmaunds, &c. which we acquiesced to. The next evening he sent his Moonshy Hafiz Isferrat Cawn to us, to desire we would sign that Persian translate, or draw out a list of such demands as we were commissioned to get complied with, which we accordingly did, and sent it to him, signed and sealed. Copy of which is here inclosed. We again waited on him this morning, to desire his answer if he would comply with these articles, and give us the satisfaction required; he replied, it would take up some time to consider on them, and desired two days to give his answer. We had a good deal of conversation with him on different subjects; in which it appeared, he had considered himself as in a state of war with us for some time past, and issued orders and made preparations accordingly, which has been the cause of some of the interruptions and insults our people have met with lately; and most of the others, he said, had been occasioned by Mr. Vansittart's letter, which he then looked on as a treaty the governor had been authorized to enter into with him, which caused him to send these orders over the country to his aumils, the executing of which we now so much complain of. We remarked to him many of these interruptions we had laboured under before that letter. As far as we can judge from our last conversation, he seems somewhat convinced that our intentions are not hostile, so long as he doth not attempt to infringe our rights, (which we have used our best endeavours to persuade him) and gives us satisfaction for the losses sustained by, and insults offered to, the English by his officers in different parts of the country. This we are in hopes he will comply with, though he makes great use of the argument of his having acted by Mr. Vansittart's agreement. We cannot write you at present with any certainty of his intentions, but hope to be more so in our next. We shall again wait on him for a further conversation on the many articles he is to comply with, before the time appointed by him for giving his answer, to endeavour further to convince him of the reasonable use of them; when we shall mention to him the moving our troops to Patna, which hitherto we have declined on account of his suspicions.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble Servants,

Mongheer, the 18th May
1763.

P. Amyatt,
W. Hay.

No. 45.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

WE have not seen the Nabob these four days, he being indisposed, which caused us to importune him by letters, for an answer to the several demands you ordered us to insist on his complying with. This morning he sent it by Nobut Roy, which we now inclose you. We had before flattered ourselves, he intended giving us a favourable one, though he all along continued to insist on our people being the aggressors, and complained of our seizing his Aumils, when he was always ready to redress our grievances, without entering into just arguments, but confining it to occurrences lately happened, since his orders issued in consequence of Mr. Vansittart's letter; but he seemed to agree, by his conversation, that the method we now wanted our business to go on in, properly observed, was just; and to appearance, he was free from apprehensions of our wanting to quarrel with him: That we now must conjecture his behaviour was only to delay time for some purpose or other.

The boats with the arms, for Patna, arrived here yesterday, and were stopped by the Nabob's Chowkey: we immediately applied for their release, and gave them a Dustuck, mentioning they contained arms; which they have kept, and the boats still continue detained: the Nabob promised an answer by Nobut Roy, this morning, who said, they were detained by having arms in them.

The letter written him to-day we have sent, hoping it will have some effect upon his mind, reflecting that our going away must necessarily bring on a rupture, to prevent which it may

make him hearken to reason, and still be brought to comply with the articles required; therefore, if he desires us to stay, and releases the boats, we shall continue here till such time as we receive your orders how we are to act in case of his non-compliance with any or every article; but if he continues the hostile action of detaining the arms, we shall move from hence, either towards Bengal or Patna, as most convenient, if we have reason to suspect his wanting to stop us.

If you send the army, it will be necessary you take precautions about grain, which is very scarce, and none to be had on this side Muxadabad, on this side the river: we take the liberty of advising you not to think of sending the forces through the hills the Pachiet way, as it is very unwholesome, this time of the year, to go that way, from the excessive heats, as well as interruptions from the Nullahs being full, now the rains are coming on.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble Servants,

Mongheer, 26th May
1763.

P. Amyat.
W. Hay.

No. 46.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, president and governor, &c. council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

IMagining we might soon be in want of money to defray our charges, we applied to the Nabob for ten thousand rupees, who immediately let us have it, for which we have given him a set of bills of exchange for ten thousand Patna Sunnaut rupees on you, payable at sight.

Notwithstanding our repeated remonstrances to his Excellency, setting forth the hostility of the action, he has not yet released the boats with the arms, neither does he shew the least confidence in what we say, and declares (at the same time hinting to us the former resolution) he shall not put any in us, till we remove the detachment from Patna to Mongheer. We beg leave to offer it as our opinion, That the having the troops intended to be quartered in this province stationed here, at his request, would be very advisable, but cannot be thought of till such time as he complies with our demands, as it is probably made by caprice or design.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servants,

Mongheer, 29 May
1763.

P. Amyatt.
W. Hay.

No. 47.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, president and governor, &c. council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

THE inclosed is a duplicate of our last, dated 29th instant, on which day we sent you a cypher, made out here, which we imagined might be useful in carrying on our correspondence, in case of a rupture: a copy of the same was likewise forwarded to Mr. Ellis at Patna.

Whatever we urge to his Excellency, in regard to the release of the boats with arms, or the necessity of his placing a proper confidence in us, his general reply is, That we have terized his Aumils; that the words of the English are not to be trusted; and that he will not release the boats, till such time as we remove our troops from Patna, either to this place or to Calcutta, although he will take no steps towards a reconciliation, or to give us satisfaction, yet he, upon all occasions, mentions his desire of peace: in short, his aim seems to be entirely to gain time.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble Servants,

Mongheer, 31st May
1763.

P. Amyatt.
W. Hay.

No. 48.

At a consultation; P R E S E N T,

Stanlake Batson, Esquire, president.—William Billiers, Esquire.—John Cartier, Esquire.
—Warren Hastings, Esquire.—Randolph Marriott, Esquire.

BEFORE the business of the council commenced, the secretary reported to the board, that after yesterday's consultation, having waited on the governor, to get the letter for Messieurs Amyatt and Hay transcribed in cypher, he expressed his sentiments to him in the following terms: That he thought the orders to Mongheer amounted almost to a plain declaration of war against the Nabob, and left nothing in the power of Messieurs Amyatt and Hay

Hay

Hay to treat or promise further, even if they should find him in a disposition to conciliate, neither contained any instructions to them on a supposition that the Nabob did release the arms, and not insist on the removal of the troops from Patna as a preliminary; that the governor therefore directed the secretary to wait on Mr. Batson on his return to town, and desire him to summon another council as this day, when he would transmit to the board his full opinion on this subject, and afterwards leave to them to send such orders as they thought proper, and that on this account he desired the dispatch of the letters might be delayed till to-day; that he the secretary, accordingly intimated this to Mr. Batson, who in consequence ordered him to summon a council, and delay the dispatch of the letters.

The secretary lays before the court the following letter, which he this morning received from the governor.

To Mr. secretary Graham,

Sir,

As my late indisposition prevents my attending the board, I must take this method of delivering my opinion upon the instructions which should be sent to Messieurs Amyatt and Hay, in answer to the last advices received from them.

If the Nabob persists in detaining the boats with arms, I think it must be deemed a declared act of hostility, and Messieurs Amyatt and Hay directed in such case to take their leave.

If the Nabob refuses to treat further with those Gentlemen, without removing our troops from Patna, by way of preliminary, I think in that case likewise they should take their leave, as I am not for consenting to make any change in the station of our troops upon such a demand.

But supposing the arms to be released, and that Messieurs Amyatt and Hay find the Nabob in a disposition to treat, without insisting on the removal of our troops from Patna, as a preliminary, then I think those Gentlemen should be furnished with instructions what further to say to the Nabob; and those instructions I think should be, with respect to the troops at Patna, to represent to the Nabob that they were stationed there with the view of being in readiness to assist him, wherever his affairs might require it, and that they should be ready to act in conformity to that as soon as the present differences between us were accommodated; they should be further acquainted to call upon the Nabob for his particular objections to the several articles or demands delivered him; and having transmitted the same to the board, it should be considered which of them are material to be insisted on.

Some answer should likewise be sent to Messieurs Amyatt and Hay regarding Mahomed Ally, and the other officers of the government, at present kept here prisoners: the Nabob says, As we have seized them, and have them in our hands, we may take our own satisfaction for the losses some have suffered in their private trade; we should either tell Messieurs Amyatt and Hay that we will do so, or else we should send those officers up to them, with instructions to deliver them up to the Nabob, desiring him to oblige them to make good such losses; at the same time receiving from the government's officers the accounts of losses they say they have suffered by the violences of some English agents and Gomastahs; and this second method I think the most proper.

Neither the Company's nor private trade meets at present with any interruption. This is an essential reason why we ought to avoid, if possible, engaging our employers in any expensive war, and involving the country in troubles to their great loss, as well as that of the settlement in general.

The low state of our treasury, and the peace in Europe, by which the French will be repossessed of their settlements in this country, are in my opinion strong reasons why we should if possible, keep on good terms with the Nabob.

Finally, I think that further instructions should be sent to the gentlemen at Patna concerning their manner of acting in case a rupture with the Nabob should be unavoidable, with reference I mean to the season, which would prevent the troops from hence marching by land to join those at Patna, and going up in boats would take up a long time; upon this article I submit myself to the judgment of Major Adams.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

Henry Vanfittart.

The same being read, and duly considered ;

Agreed, that we write in consequence a further letter to Messieurs Amyatt and Hay, acquainting them, That supposing the arms to be released, and they should find the Nabob inclinable still to treat, without insisting on the removal of the troops from Patna, as a preliminary, they may assure him that those troops have been always stationed there for the security of his government, and to maintain the tranquility of the country, and that they shall still continue to act in conformity to this view : That they shall then call upon the Nabob for his particular objections to the several articles or demands delivered him, and transmit them to us ; when we shall consider and determine which of them are so material as to require being still insisted on, and which may be moderated : That if the Nabob should again make mention of Mahomed Ally, and the other prisoners here, we leave it to them to judge whether we had best prosecute the enquiry against them ourselves, or send them up to them to have it finished in presence of the Nabob, and to give him their answer accordingly : that they may receive from the government's officers the accounts of any losses they say they have sustained by the violences of English agents and Gomastahs, upon their being properly authenticated ; and again assure the Nabob, that for whatever appears to be just he shall receive full satisfaction.

On the further subject of the governor's letter, the board are of opinion, That their utmost endeavours have been already used to prevent the country's being involved in troubles, or their employers engaged in an expensive war, and that they can now only leave it to time to satisfy them whether these endeavours will prove effectual : That the circumstance of a peace in Europe, and the supposition drawn from thence, that the French will obtain a re-settlement here, is rather a strong reason why we should employ the most spirited methods to become immediately assured of the Nabob's intention and disposition towards us, and not delay time in fruitless negotiation : That with regard to the last paragraph of the governor's letter referred to the judgment of Major Adams, the Major, with the rest of the members, think it is necessary to send further instructions to Patna than those contained in the letter of yesterday to Messieurs Amyatt and Hay, and whereof a copy was transmitted to the factory.

WM. BILLIERS,
WARREN HASTINGS,
RAND. MARRIOTT,
H. WATTS.

No. 49.

Fort William, 13th of June 1763.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Vanfittart, Esquire, President,

William Billers, Esquire, — John Cartier, Esquire, — Randolph Marriott, Esquire, —
Hugh Watts, Esquire.

RECEIVED a letter from Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, dated the 6th of June, advising that the arms still continue stopped with a strong guard over them, and no discourse concerning business now passes between them and the Nabob ; that he is intirely buoyed up in the notions of his own strength and power to oppose our troops, and therefore to oppress our trade as he pleases ; that no English boats pass by Mongheer but with much difficulty, and after many days detention ; that daily some aggravating circumstances or other happen to corroborate his intentions of not complying with our demands, but really designing to break with us ; that they have great reason to suspect the Armenians urge him on to refuse our measures ; that they are informed he some days ago received 17 chests of arms, which were said to have come from the Dutch ; that he had stopped some boats of rice with an English Dustuck, going to our guns at Patna, and has detained them under pretence of its belonging to some merchant of his ; that there has been many boats with seapoys sent towards Bengal within these four days, and all preparations for war are making both at Mongheer and Patna ; that the Nabob has received two Persian letters, the contents of which they have not been made acquainted with, and therefore desire they may be advised thereof. Their letter further ends with the following paragraph in cypher : Notwithstanding we should not think of breaking with the Nabob, they think it impossible to avoid it, and that we should get them out of his power as soon as possible.

In respect to the remark which Messrs. Amyatt and Hay make of the two Persian letters received by the Nabob, the president desires they may be acquainted that they were his ; one informed

formed the Nabob of his being out of order, and the other contained some particulars of the Europe news; and that all his other letters, to the best of his recollection, have been transmitted through the hands of Mr. Amyatt.

Agreed, that we write an answer to Messrs Amyatt and Hay, advising them that if they continue to think a rupture with the Nabob is unavoidable, and suspect that he may have designs to detain them, or would recommend to them to temporize, in any manner they can to get themselves out of his hands, without declaring any thing that may give him room to imagine we have such intentions; and further acquaint them with the substance of the president's minute.

No. 50.

Fort William Consultations 17 June 1763.

RECEIVED a letter from Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, dated the 8th instant, acquainting us, that the Nabob has complained of our troops, which are gone towards Kachar, having seized his Daroga appointed for providing alloes wood, and Elephants teeth, &c. that he still continues to repeat, We may declare to him as often as we please our peaceful intentions, but that he cannot put any confidence in, or believe us, till such time as the troops come from Patna; and that they have drawn on us a bill of exchange for Crs. 2000, payable at 10 days sight to Mr. Thomas Amphlett. Received also a note in cypher, dated the 18th, advising us that the Nabob had that day sent a thousand horse towards Moorihedabad, and that powder and ball is delivered to all the Nabob's forces at Patna.

Received two letters from Mr. Ellis at Patna, dated the 5th and 6th instant; the first acquainting us, that the Nabob had set about inveigling away our Seapoys, by promising the men double pay and the officers promotion in rank; and in the attempt has succeeded so well as to procure the desertion of 200 men since the first instant, consisting of officers and old seapoys: that in order to bring all the force he can against us, he has made up matters with Kamgar Cawn, and put him in possession of his country; and that the Seapoys who were stationed there to the number of a thousand, are returned to Patna. The second letter advises us, that the seapoys still continuing to desert in great numbers, he has ordered the whole party to be in readiness to march at a moment's warning, and thereby intitled them to Batta, as the only means of putting a stop to the desertion.

Agreed, we add a further paragraph to the letter for Mr. Ellis, acknowledging the receipt of these, and acquainting him, that notwithstanding the great expence which will be incurred by putting the detachment on Batta, yet we must concur in and approve of that measure, until the present disputes with the Nabob are brought to an issue.

No. 51.

The 18th of June 1763.

At a consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President,

Thomas Adams, Esquire, Major, — William Billers, Esquire, — John Cartier, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire, — Randolph Marriot, Esquire — Hugh Watts, Esquire.

RECEIVED this day the following letters from Messrs Amyatt and Hay at Mongheer, one dated the 11th, acquainting us that they wish impatiently for the receipt of our orders, in answer to their letter of the 26th ultimo, as from that time they have not had any meeting with the Nabob, or entered on any business, he always insisting on the removal of our troops from Patna, and satisfaction for the grievances done him; further that three of their gentlemen having been that morning stopped, as they were out a riding, by a party of the Nabob's horse, and brought back to camp in a disgraceful manner, they had wrote to the Nabob on the subject, and should transmit us his answer. A note in cypher, of the same date, informs us, that the Nabob will never treat: That parties of horse are all round them, to prevent their escape; and if they are detained, they desire us to pursue measures for the English honour, without regarding them; that 500 men are ordered to Bengal; that Burdwan and about Calcutta will be attacked; that the Nabob's forces every where are six battalions of Seapoys and 30,000 horse; that their Dauke Cossids will be drove away. Their last letter is dated the 12th, and advises us, that the Nabob has sent orders to Shir Ally Cawn, to send all his collections in grain, and to prevent any body's purchasing in Purnea; and complains that Mr. Peacock

has rented all Morung Junguls from the Zemindar for 5000 Rs. and that duties are demanded at Burdwan on the cloth his people are purchasing as usual at Keerpooy: It further incloses us a copy of the Nabob's answer to their last mentioned letter, wherein they observe that his people, to justify their proceeding, had misrepresented the affair to the Nabob, for that their gentlemen who rode out had no kind of arms with them; and that they have yet received no satisfaction for the affront: they also inclose us copies of a letter, received from Patna, which clears up the affair of the rice.

The board, having duly considered the substance of these letters from Mongheer, are of opinion, that from the intelligence contained in the note of the 11th, and the aggravating circumstances which daily occur between Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, and the Nabob, it will not be in their power to effect an accommodation; and although we do not immediately declare a rupture, that we ought to be provided against such an event, and form a plan for guiding the operations of our army, if a war does ensue.

It is agreed, therefore, in order to form a front for the protection of the Company's Aurungs and lands, to secure their investment and revenues in the best manner possible, and to endeavour to collect what we can from the other provinces, to answer the expences of the war, that our troops be immediately prepared for taking post.

No. 52.

The 23d of June, 1763.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President,

Thomas Adams, Esquire, Major,——William Billers, Esquire,—John Cartier, Esquire,—Warren Hastings, Esquire,—Randolph Marriot, Esquire,—Hugh Watts, Esquire.

RECEIVED a letter from Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, dated the 14th instant, advising us, That it appears to them from the Nabob's disposing of his troops, and what he has dropt in conversation that he intends at the same time attacking both Burdwan and the troops in Patna, in hopes of subduing them before they can be secured: That he continues to treat them with the greatest slight, and they almost daily meet with insults from his people: That they are doubtful what the event may be on their delivering to him the governor's letter, which expressly requires the release of the arms; as the last time they were with him, he told them that peace or war depended on the removing our troops from Patna, with which, if we complied, he would then talk on business: That their gentlemen were again stopped that morning at the same Chokey, and carried prisoners to the Nabob through his army; for which he has been pleased to say he has confined his people, and will give them satisfaction; and that they have drawn on us a bill of exchange in favour of Mr. Anselm Beaumont for Crs. of 610.

Received also a note in cypher, dated the 15th, advising us, that they delivered the governor's letter to the Nabob that morning; on reading which, he immediately declared there was war, but told them that they might wait till they received the governor and council's orders, and send him under their hands and seals the amount of them, when, in case they did not order down our troops at Patna, he would send them passports to go to Calcutta; but that he would detain Mr. Hay for security of his Aumils and people in our hands being delivered up; That they concluded the Nabob's view in this is principally the safety of Petrusé, and therefore recommended the immediate securing of that man, as Mr. Hay's only security, who has agreed to remain with the Nabob.

Ordered, the Mongheer bill to be accepted and paid: And,

In consequence of Messrs. Amyatt's and Hay's representation,

Agreed, That the president be desired to keep a strict watch over Petrusé; and in case he should make any attempt to quit the settlement, immediately to secure him.

Received two letters from Mr. Johnstone, at Burdwan, dated the 20th instant, giving us a particular account of the intelligence which he has received of the motions of the Nabob's troops, and their designs against Burdwan province; and therefore requesting that he may be properly reinforced, to endeavour to render their attempts unsuccessful.

No. 53.

No. 53.

The 2d July, 1763.

At a consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President.

Thomas Adams, Esquire, Major. — John Carnac, Esquire, Major. — William Billers, Esquire. — John Cartier, Esquire. — Warren Hastings, Esquire. — Randolph Marriott, Esquire. — Hugh Watts, Esquire.

RECEIVED a letter from Cossimbuzar, dated the 28th June, acquainting us particularly with the circumstances of the stoppage of our danke, &c. that it is reported with them the occasion thereof is owing to Mr. Amyatt's proceeding to Patna after having been refused leave by the Nabob: that at Duckery bridge he met with some opposition from the Nabob's troops, but made his way good; and its said he left one gentleman a prisoner behind: that they can by no means depend upon this for fact; but from the concurrent circumstances of not having received any packet from Patna these three days, they thought it necessary to acquaint us: they further enclose an indent for medicines, which they request may be complied with; and inform us, that as the times are so precarious they shall not make any further advances for the investment without our orders.

Received a letter from Mr. Johnstone at Burdwan, dated the 30th June, acquainting us, that the inhabitants on the frontier towards Cutwall, are under great apprehensions of the Nabob's people, and that 40 buxeries from Cutwall came in the night, and carried off one of the farmers: He therefore requests to know, whether Lieut. Glen might not advance to that frontier with 600 seapoys; or, if we keep yet on terms with the Nabob, whether a company or two might be stationed there to check any disturbance to the Ryotts from the Phousdary of Cutwall? and desires to know further, whether he is to send pay for Captain Long's party at Amboa?

The president acquaints the board, that in a letter of the same date from Lieutenant Glen, he is advised that the troops at Cutwall remain in the same situation as he wrote in his last, and are building bungaloes: that he (Lieutenant Glen) thinks that the apprehensions of the inhabitants arise from the calling in their seapoys; and that if they had a proper force stationed in the frontiers, the heart of the province would continue quiet.

No. 54.

The 4th July, 1763.

At a Consultation: P R E S E N T.

The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President.

Thomas Adams, Esquire, Major. — John Carnac, Esquire, Major. — William Billers, Esquire. — John Cartier, Esquire. — Warren Hastings, Esquire. — Randolph Marriott, Esquire. — Hugh Watts, Esquire.

RECEIVED the following note in cypher, directed on the back, "To William Ellis, Esquire:

"We are made prisoners, as far as the seizing our boats and surrounding of us can make us; the boats with arms were stopped a few miles from hence.

"Mongheer, the 21st June, 1763.

"N. B. To the bearer give 100 rupees."

The president acquaints the board, that this note came to him this morning by the hands of a Hircara, from whom, upon a strict examination, he received also the following report; that Mr. Amyatt dispatched at the same time a note to Calcutta, and another to Patna, which through mistake of the head Hircara may have been exchanged, and occasioned the Patna note coming here: that he (the Hircara) heard the English troops at Patna had taken the city: that Mr. Lushington came down near to Mongheer with a battalion of Seapoys; and that Mr. Amyatt having joined him, they returned to Patna: and that Bahadre Aly Cawn, one of the Nabob's principal officers, had joined Mr. Ellis.

Although particulars of this news are not to be depended on, yet the members of the board think it sufficient to shew that the breach between the Nabob and us is now irreparable.

No. 55.

The 5th July 1763.

At a Consultation ; P R E S E N T,

The honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President,

Thomas Adams, Esq; Major, — John Carnac, Esq; Major, — William Billers, Esquire,
 — John Cartier, Esq; — Warren Hastings, Esq; — Randolph Marriot, Esquire,
 — Hugh Watts, Esq;

R E C E I V E D two letters from Mr. Amyatt, the first dated from Siepgunge the 25th June, advising us, that from all the Nabob's actions Mr. Hay and he judge that he intends war, and that he will attack our troops at Patna: That, four days before the date of his letter, an Armenian commander, with a strong reinforcement of horse, foot, and cannon, went to Patna: That the Armenians solely manage him, and urge the disputes. The last is dated from Looty, the 30th June, and advises us, that on his arrival at Cossimbuzar factory, he shall comply with our orders of the 23d, and proceed himself to Calcutta, if consistent with his safety; that the Nabob has sent a man with him, and given him a Dustuck for him and his party to proceed to Calcutta.

Agreed, we write an answer to Mr. Amyatt's letters, acquainting him, that as our intelligence of yesterday has proved false, we shall suspend our determinations until his arrival; and that we therefore desire he will proceed to Calcutta as fast as possible, either without his party, or with such a part of it as he shall esteem necessary for his safety.

Henry Vansittart,
 W. Billers,
 Warren Hastings,
 Ran. Marriot,
 H. Watts.

No. 56.

The 6th July 1763.

At a Consultation ; P R E S E N T,

The honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President,

Thomas Adams, Esq; Major, — John Carnac, Esq; Major, — William Billers, Esquire,
 — John Cartier, Esq; — Warren Hastings, Esq; — Randolph Marriot, Esquire,
 — Hugh Watts, Esq;

L A T E last night we received a letter from Cossimbuzar, dated the 3d, advising us, that Mr. Amphlett's confumah had just made his escape from his Master's Budgerow, and brought them accounts, that Mr. Amyatt, attempting to go there, was stopp'd, upon which he made some resistance: That Lieutenant Cooper and some Seapoys were killed, and the whole made prisoners.

The president further reports to the board, that this morning the two packets dispatched to Cossimbuzar the 2d and 3d, were returned from Agur Deep, with a letter from the writer of the Daukes at that Chokey, advising of all the Chokeys between that and Cossimbuzar being drove away; that he had heard Mr. Amyatt and his party were attacked by the phoufdar of Rajamaul's people; that one or two Gentlemen had been killed, and the rest taken prisoners; and that he was informed Mahomed Tucky Cawn had received orders to surround Cossimbuzar factory.

After this the board are unanimously of opinion, that they have no further resolutions, but to make the best use of our forces, for bringing the war to a speedy conclusion, and firmly establishing the Nabob Meer Jaffier again in the government.

No. 57.

The 7th July 1763.

At a Consultation ; P R E S E N T,

The honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President,

Thomas Adams, Esq; Major, — John Carnac, Esq; Major, — William Billers, Esquire,
 — John Cartier, Esq; — Warren Hastings, Esq; — Randolph Marriot, Esquire,
 — Hugh Watts, Esq;

R E C E I V E D a letter from Mr. Johnstone at Burdwan, dated the 5th, inclosing the following note from Mr. Motte:

Sir,

Sir,

I have just received advice, that yesterday Mr. Amyatt's party on their return from Mongheer were attacked, and put to the sword, by Mahomed Tuckey Cawn. Two Gentlemen much wounded are escaped to Mahutter, and I have sent palankeens to fetch them hither; who they are, I know not; but they are in a most miserable condition. I hear also, Cossimbuzar factory is surrounded.

Kewgong, the 4th July 1763.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

T. Motte.

Also, another letter from him, dated the 6th, confirming the melancholy news of Mr. Amyatt's party being cut off by the Nabob's people, in proceeding from Moradbaug to the factory at Cossimbuzar, as it has been related to him, by a Harildar and Seapoy of the grenadier company, who have escaped, and were witnesses of what passed. The Gentlemen of the deputation to the Nabob (Meer Jaffier) report to the board, that they waited on him again this morning, and delivered him the articles copied in the Persian language, which he partly read; but before he would proceed further, still requiring that Nundcomar might be appointed to his assistance; they applied to the governor for his release, who immediately ordered it, and they presented him to the Nabob. That he then perused the articles with Nundcomar, and agreed to them under a few exceptions, which he said, he would specify in a copy which he would himself draw up, and promised to sign and ratify them as soon afterwards as they could be got ready.

Agreed therefore, that the treaty be made ready for signing as soon as possible; and that in the mean time the following proclamation be engrossed fair, and to-morrow signed and published throughout the town.

No. 58.

Copy of the Proclamation of the Nabob Meer Jaffier.

Consultation, 7th July 1763.

THE Nabob Meer Mahomed Cossim Allee Cawn having entered upon and committed acts of open hostility against the English nation, and the interest of the English United East India Company, we on their behalf are reduced to the necessity of declaring war against him; and having come to a resolution of placing the Nabob Meer Mahomed Jaffier Cawn Bahader again in the government, we now proclaim and acknowledge him as Subahdar of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa; and further, as the said Cossim Allee Cawn has likewise exercised acts of violence and oppressions over many of the principal merchants and inhabitants of the country, to their entire ruin, we do hereby require all manner of persons under our jurisdiction, and also invite all other officers and inhabitants of the country, to repair to the standard of Meer Mahomed Jaffier Cawn Bahader, to assist him in defeating the designs of the said Cossim Allee Cawn, and finally establishing himself in the Subahdarree.

Given in Council at Fort William, the 7th day of July 1763, under our hands and the seal of the said United East India Company.

L. S.

John Graham,
Secretary.

Henry Vanstuart.
Thomas Adams.
John Carnac.
Stanlake Batson.
William Billiers.
John Cartier.
Warren Hastings.
Randolph Marriot.
Hugh Watts.

No. 59.

The 8th July 1763.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President,
 Thomas Adams, Esq; Major, — John Carnac, Esq; Major, — William Billers, Esquire,
 — John Cartier, Esq; — Warren Hastings, Esq; — Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
 — Hugh Watts, Esq;

RECEIVED the following note from Cossimbuzar, dated the 4th July, at ten at night.
 Honourable Sir and Sirs,

We yesterday informed you of the fate of Mr. Amyatt and his party. We were then in expectation of being surrounded; and now forces are all around us with cannon, and we expect to be attacked before morning. We do our best to keep the factory till relief can be given us, to which purpose we have wrote to Amboa, or where the party reported to be marched may be.

We are, honourable Sir and Sirs,

6 or 7,000 men and 8 pieces
 cannon now are on the road,
 'tis said.

Your most obedient humble Servants,
 John Chambers.
 J. P. Lyon.

Read again the translation of the letter, received last night from the Nabob Cossim Aly Cawn; which having likewise considered,

The board are of opinion, that it leaves no room to doubt that our troops at Patna have met with a defeat; and therefore think that Major Adams should be instructed to proceed with caution, and leave nothing in his rear which may in any manner endanger the settlement.

The proclamation drawn up last night, being wrote fair, was now laid before the board ready for signing; whereupon the president and Mr. Hastings entered the following minutes:

The president, sensible that it will be more for the public service we should appear unanimous in every measure now entered upon for prosecuting the war against Cossim Aly Cawn with the utmost vigour, and supporting the alliance with Jassier Aly Cawn, to re-establish him in the government; and particularly, that it will be a satisfaction to the Nabob Jassier Aly Cawn; consents to sign the proclamation, and all other public deeds which shall be made in consequence: Now recording once for all, that he does not mean hereby to prejudice his former declarations and opinions entered on the consultations.

Mr. Hastings's Minute

It is long since I foreboded that our disputes with the Nabob would terminate in an open rupture; but as from the ill opinion which I had of his strength, I expected that our contentions with him would be of a very short duration, nor otherwise affect the interest of the Company than in the further ill consequences of a broken and disordered state; and as I had not the same tie upon me with the president, with respect to any military charge, it was my resolution, as soon as war should be declared, to resign the Company's service, being unwilling on the one hand to give authority to past measures of which I disapproved, and of a new establishment which I judged detrimental to the honour and interests of the Company; and apprehensive on the other, that my continuance at the board might serve only to prejudice than advance the good of the service, in keeping alive, by my presence, the disputes which have so long disturbed our councils, and retarding the public business by continual dissents and protests: But since our late melancholy advices give us reason to apprehend a dangerous and troublesome war; and from the unparalleled acts of barbarity and treachery with which it has opened on the part of the Nabob, it is become the duty of every British subject to unite in the support of the common cause; it is my intention to join my endeavours for the good of the service, not as long as the war shall last, but as long as the troubles consequent from it may endanger either the Company's affairs or the safety of this colony: On the same principle, and to remove every appearance of disunion amongst ourselves, I will freely set my hand to the declaration published by the board; though I still abide by the sentiments which I have all along expressed in the measures taken in the course of all our disputes with the Nabob here, by confirming all that I have declared in my former protests and minutes, which stand upon record in our consultations.

These minutes being entered, the proclamation was signed by the whole board, as recorded on last night's consultation.

No. 60.

The 9th July 1763.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq; President,
 John Carnac, Esq; — William Billers, Esq; — John Cartier, Esq; — Warren Hastings, Esq;
 — Randolph Marriott, Esq; — Hugh Watts, Esq;

REceived a letter from Mr. Johnstone at Burdwan, dated the 7th instant, acquainting us, that he had received advice of Cossim Aly Cawn's having sent Camgar Cawn with a detachment of 6,000 horse and 5,000 foot by the way of the hills to enter Burdwan; and that if he drives us out of it, he is to have the Zemindary of Beerboom.

No. 61.

No. 61.

The 11th July 1763.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,
The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President,
John Carnac, Esquire,
William Billers, Esquire,
John Cartier, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Hugh Watts, Esquire.

THE treaty with the Nabob Myr Mahomed Jassier Cawn having been finally executed yesterday between him and the members of the council, is now brought in and read at the board.

Ordered, That a copy of it be here recorded, and the original deposited with the other treaties.

No. 62.

Extract from Mr. Fullerton's Letter to the Board.

MR. Ellis, with the rest of the gentlemen, were inhumanly butchered by Shimroo, who came that evening to the place with two companies (he had, the day before, sent for all the knives and forks from the gentlemen) he surrounded the house with his people, and went into a little outer square, and sent for Messieurs Ellis, Hay, and Luffington, and with them came six other gentlemen; who were all terribly mangled and cut to pieces, and their bodies thrown into a well in the square, and it filled up; then the seepoys were sent into the large square, and fired on the gentlemen there, and rushing upon them, cut them into pieces in the most inhuman manner, and they were thrown into another large well, which was likewise filled up.

The 7th, the Nabob sent for me, and told me to get myself in readiness to go to Calcutta, for that though he had been unlucky in the war (which he asserted with great warmth had not been of his seeking, nor had he been the aggressor, reproaching the English with want of fidelity, and breach of treaty) yet he said he had still hopes of an accommodation. He asked me, what I thought of it? I told him, I made no doubt of it. When some of his people who were present mentioned the affair of Mr. Amyatt's death, he declared that he had never given any orders for killing Mr. Amyatt, but after receiving advice of Mr. Ellis having attacked Patna, he had ordered all his servants to take and imprison all the English in the provinces, wherever they could find them; he likewise added, that if a treaty was not set on foot, he would bring the King, the Morattas, and Abdallas, against us, and so ruin our trade, &c. He had finished his letters, and ordered boats and a guard to conduct me, when upon the advice of some of his people he stopped me, and said, there was no occasion for me to go. After his sending for me at first, he ordered the seapoys, in whose charge I was, to go to their quarters, two Moguls and twelve Hircarras to attend me, but to let me go about the city where I pleased. I then applied for liberty to stay at the Dutch factory, which was granted. I applied to Mendee Allee Cawn for his interest in behalf of the gentlemen in the Chelston, who were seven in number, and were not killed till the 11th of October; but when he was petitioned about them, he gave no answer; but still sent orders to Shimroo to cut them off. I likewise applied to Allee Ibrahim Cawn, who interceded for them; but he gave him no answer either, though I was present when Ibrahim Cawn petitioned for them.

The 14th of October, on the approach of our army, Cossim Allee decamped with his troops in great confusion, and marched as far as Fulwarre, five coss to the westward of the city. The Hircarras that were with me having no orders about me, I gave them some money, which made them pretty easy.

The 25th, after giving money to a jemmatdar, that had the guard to the westward of the Dutch factory, by the river side, I set out in a small pulwar, and got safe to the boats under command of Captain Wedderburn, that were lying opposite to the city, on the other side of the river; and at eleven o'clock that night, arrived at the army under the command of Major Adams, lying at Jonfy.

No. 63.

Fort William Consultations, 17th September 1763.

Letter from the Governor to Cossim Ally Cawn.

I Have received from Major Adams the copy of your letter to him, dated the last of Suffer. Mr. Amyatt and Mr. Hay were sent to you as ambassadors, a title sacred among all nations, yet in violation of that title you cause Mr. Amyatt to be attacked and killed on his return, after having given him your passports; and Mr. Hay you unjustly kept as a prisoner with you:—You surrounded and attacked our factory at Cossimbuzar, and carried away our gentlemen from thence prisoners, in a most disgraceful manner, to Mongheer, although they had

had no concern in the war, nor resisted your people. In like manner, in all other parts you attacked the English agents, who were carrying on their trade quietly; some you killed, and some were carried away prisoners, and their effects every where plundered:—After these proceedings, do you ask for what reason Major Adams was sent with an army?—You know the laws of God and man. It's you declared you would turn the English out of the country, and had proceeded as far as you could towards it; it became necessary for us to take measures for our own defence, and for the care of our own reputation: thanks be to God that success has attended our army thus far! and they will continue their march in the same manner as far as the Carramna, that the country may be freed from disturbances, and the inhabitants relieved from the horrors of war. And although we are shocked, as must all people, of all religions and all nations, at the revenge which you threaten to take upon the lives of our chiefs, who have been unfortunately and unjustly taken prisoners by you, yet the honour of our nation, and the interests of the Company will not be sacrificed to this consideration, nor the operations of the army stopped. To put prisoners of war to death, is an act which will appear shocking and unlawful, not only to Christians and Musselmen, but to the most barbarous Pagans; such sentiments are no where to be met with but among the beasts of the field. After the battle of Ouda Nulla above a thousand of your officers and men were prisoners in the hands of Major Adams, who released them without the least hurt or injury:—Reflect on this, and on your own character, both in this world and the next; and remember also, that if you had followed my advice, this war would not have happened.

No. 64.

The Mongheer Treaty.

FIRST, That for all trade imported or to be exported by shipping, the Company's dustuck shall be granted, and it shall pass unmolested, and free of customs as usual.

Second. For all trade from one place in the country to another, in commodities produced in the country, as salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, &c. the Company's dustuck shall not be granted; but it shall go with the dustuck of the buxbunder, shahbunder, or other officer of the country government.

Third. That at the time of taking out the said dustuck, and before the dispatch of the goods, the duties shall be paid according to the rates which shall be particularly settled, and annexed to this agreement.

Fourth. That the said duties so to be paid before exportation shall be the whole that are to be paid; so that after the dispatch of the goods, nothing shall be paid at any chokeys in the road, nor at the place of sale.

Fifth. That all the goods being furnished either with the Company's dustuck or that of the government, shall meet with no obstruction or delay. The guards and chokeys on the road shall have nothing more to do than to demand a sight of the dustuck, unless they shall observe the boats to be laden with a larger quantity of goods than are mentioned in the dustuck; in which case they are to give immediate notice to the nearest English factory, as well as to the nearest officer of the government, that orders may be sent to have a strict examination; but they are not to detain them in the road.

Sixth. If any one should attempt to pass goods without a dustuck, either from the government or the company, or shall clandestinely procure a company's dustuck to pass salt, tobacco, or other produce of the country, from place to place for inland trade, such goods shall be seized, and confiscated; the guards and chokeys in the road are to stop them, and to give notice to the nearest English factory, as well as the nearest officer of the government.

Seventh. If any person not having a dustuck shall attempt to pass boats or goods clandestinely, under the cover of, and in company with, other boats or goods having a dustuck, such boats or goods so attempted to be passed clandestinely, shall be seized and confiscated.

Eighth. The gomastahs in every place shall carry on their trade freely, and as merchants; and shall on no account use force in buying or selling: if any disputes arise in the course of their business, they shall not attempt to redress themselves; but shall make their complaints to the fouzedar or other officer of the government, and have the matter tried before him: in like manner, if any merchant or inhabitant shall be aggrieved by any English gomastah, he shall make his complaint to the fouzedar, or other officers of the government; and the gomastah being duly summoned shall appear before him to answer to the charge, and have the matter determined.

Ninth. To deter the fouzedars, and other officers of the government, from being guilty of any partiality, they shall be enjoined to transmit to the Nabob copies of their proceedings, upon all trials where English agents or gomastahs are concerned; and likewise to give a copy to the agent or gomastah, who, if he thinks himself aggrieved, may send the same to his principal, and he may make his complaint to the President, who, if the case requires it, will apply to the Nabob for redress; and when any fouzedar or other officer of the government shall prove guilty of such partiality, the Nabob shall punish him in the most exemplary manner.

No.

No. 65.

Mr. Amyatt's Minute.

Fort William, the 5th April, 1762.

THE minute given in by the President the 22d March, has not in the least altered the sentiments of Mr. Amyatt, in regard to the demand proposed by him to be made from Cossim Aly Cawn, of the twenty laaks of rupees for the use of the Company, as he finds nothing in the minute to invalidate the reason which induced him to propose that the demand should be made; nor did any minute or expression of Mr. Van Sittart's ever imply such money was not to be received, but the contrary; and only rested the payment of it to the Nabob's generosity, after his other expences were defrayed, which was not risking much; for whilst we remain so powerful in this country, such a promise the Nabob will look on as binding as a bond; and the taking a bond might bear a bad appearance; for it's acknowledged that a paper was received from him, containing a promise of 20 laaks of rupees to Messrs. Van Sittart, Caillaud, Holwell, Sumner, and M'Gwire. Now it's not to be imagined he would have offered so large a sum to these gentlemen, to the exclusion of the other members of the council and select committee (an offer before unprecedented) but as a consideration to engage them to conclude with him a treaty, from whence he was to reap so much advantage, without regard to the opinions of the rest of the board: as therefore they could have no right to receive money upon such terms, and Mr. Amyatt is willing to believe they have not, if they thought proper of themselves to sign a treaty on the part of our honourable masters, the consideration for so doing ought to be paid to those who were to be the only losers in case of ill consequences arising therefrom. The parallels between the present received by Mr. Amyatt in common with the whole board, as well as with the army and navy, and this of twenty laak, intended for five gentlemen only, is as unjust as it would be to make a parallel between the two revolutions; the one established in consequence of the overthrow of a common enemy, the other in direct breach of the former engagements; the act of only part of the council, and to which, had all its members been consulted, the majority would probably have objected. Mr. Amyatt wishes he could agree with the President, that the Nabob is well disposed towards us: if that were the case, there would be no necessity at this time of our sending Mr. Hastings up to him; the whole tenor of his conduct demonstrates the contrary; he is keeping up and daily increasing a rabble of an army at an immense expence, which he can do from no other motive than from distrust, and a desire of being independent of us; as he may command, by virtue of the treaty, the service of our troops for all occasions: he now remains at the extremity of the country, through his suspicions of us; and, in order to be at a greater distance from our settlements, has determined on removing the seat of his government to Rajahmahal; and indeed it is no wonder he should entertain these suspicions, as he can have no security that we will keep our faith with him better than we did with his father-in-law; to whom we were bound by engagements more solemn than those since entered into with him; nor can he ever acquit himself of his treachery to Jaffier Aly Cawn, which must ever keep alive the suspicions now burning in his breast.— Mr. Amyatt does not allow the smallest degree of merit to Cossim Aly Cawn, for having discharged the payments due to the Company and his troops: his being in a condition to do so was entirely owing to the happy change of affairs, by the defeat of the Shahzadah: the same success would have equally enabled Meer Jaffier to do so. But moreover Cossim Aly Cawn has taken the opportunity of the tranquillity of the country to commit the most unheard-of exactions and oppressions, and (as a farther proof of his regard for us) more particularly against such as were our avowed friends, Ramnarain with many others are now the unhappy instances thereof; by the giving up of whom, and becoming in every thing since subservient to the Nabob's views, without keeping up any interest or friendship with any other of the leading men in the country, there is not a man of any rank or consequence that dare so much as visit or have the least connections with any of our chiefs or commanders, as their letters to this board at different times testify.

No. 66.

Fort William Consultation, 4th July, 1763.

MAJOR Carnac now delivers in his opinion, in the manner following, viz.

“ Though Major Carnac entirely disapproved the revolution in favour of Cossim Aly Cawn,
 “ and did not deem the authority, by which it was effected, sufficient, from a conviction, if
 “ the whole council had been consulted, the majority would have been against it; yet, from
 “ the moment we had the advice of our employers having acquiesced therein, it became our
 “ common duty to support to the utmost the new Nizam, so long as our rights and privileges
 “ were not infringed by him; and the Major can safely aver, no person at the board is more
 “ truly concerned than himself at the measures we are under the indispensable necessity of
 “ taking. The Nabob Cossim Aly Cawn has, for some time past, shewn such an indisposi-
 “ tion towards us as would render it the height of folly to place any confidence in him; and,
 “ however

“ however inclined the board have shewn themselves by their long forbearance, and their sending deputies, to the establishment of a mutual friendship, he has, by his late acts, absolutely put it out of our power, consistently with honour, to come to an accommodation with him; we shall therefore be justified to the Company and the world, in exerting our endeavours for the restoration of Meer Jaffier, an atonement which Major Carnac looks upon as due to him for the injustice which he thinks was done him in deposing him; and he is of opinion he should be proclaimed at Calcutta, and taken up by Major Adams to Moorsheadabad, and there placed upon the Musnud; and that a manifesto should be published, setting forth the reasons for the change of government; and there is no doubt but that as Meer Jaffier, from the consideration in which he has for many years been held, must have a number of friends, several of the most considerable persons in the country will flock to his standard.

“ Major Carnac begs leave to submit to the board the terms which, in his opinion, should be made the ground work of a treaty to be concluded between us and the Meer Jaffier.

“ The confirmation of the cession of the three provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, with this alteration, that they be now made over to us in property, instead of their revenues only being assigned to us, as is the case at present.

“ An universal freedom of trade to be allowed us, and the other privileges which the deputies were commissioned to demand of Cossim Aly Cawn.

“ The defraying the expences of the war, and a full indemnification to be made to the private sufferers, as well as to the public, for all losses sustained. To enable Meer Jaffier to do so immediately, the treasure of Cossim Aly Cawn, if laid hold of, to be put into his hands; but in case of failure herein, the revenues of the Nuddea province to be mortgaged to us till every body is reimbursed.

“ The farm of the Purnea Petre to be given to the Company.

“ The ill consequence of suffering an overgrowth of power in a Nabob being but too apparent, he should in future be limited in the number of his forces, as to be obliged to have his main dependence upon those of the English: the principal of our troops should therefore be stationed at Burrumpoor (where there is a piece of ground already marked out and given to us) where proper cantonments may be erected for them at the Nabob's expence, and the single batta also paid by him. There they will be at hand to be detached wherever he has occasion for their services; and this disposition will preserve our military, it being a very healthy spot; whereas they have fatally experienced (the two last seasons particularly) the unhealthiness of Calcutta.”

No. 67.

Fort William, the 8th December, 1763.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President,
Commodore John B. Tinker,
Warren Hastings,
Randolph Marriott,
Hugh Watts,
A. William Senior, Esquires.

AGREED we write a letter to Major Adams, acquainting him that we have paid due attention to the contents of his, as well as of the other letters from Shuja Dowla, Shitabroy, &c. That we shall immediately fix on some proper person to send as our agent to Shuja Dowla's court, from whom being informed of the state and interests of the several chiefs of the empire, we may be enabled to judge of any particular engagements Shuja Dowla may propose to enter into with the Company. That in the mean time we have determined thus far, that Shuja Dowla's dominions lying contiguous to the provinces of Bengal, it will be for our mutual interests to maintain a friendship and defensive alliance; and that we do therefore empower him to promise in our name that we shall be ready to assist Shujah Dowla, either against Cossim Aly Cawn, or any other enemy who may invade or attack his dominions: that in return however we shall expect from him to declare himself openly an enemy of Cossim Aly Cawn, and use his utmost endeavours to seize and deliver him up with all his effects: and unless an alliance of this nature is first concluded with Shujah Dowla, or an invitation received from him, Beny Bahadre, or some other officer of note empowered to make it, we would not have our army pass the Caramassá: that if in return for this advance of ours towards an alliance, Shuja Dowla on his part incline to send a principal person to treat at Calcutta, we desire he will furnish him with the necessary passports; but that if, contrary to our expectations, Shujah Dowla should join his army with Cossim Aly Cawn, we desire he will on the first appearance of such a junction write to Shujah Dowla in high terms; declaring that we look upon it as an open act of hostility against us, and shall pursue him with all our forces wherever he goes.— That he (the Major) will accordingly in such case advise us, and we shall immediately, with the assistance

assistance of the squadron, reinforce him to the utmost of our power, to enable him to enter Shujah Dowla's dominions—That we observe from these letters Shujah Dowla and Beny Behadre are desirous of our becoming security for the payment of the King's revenues, in return for the subadary saneds to be granted to the Nabob; but this we would on no account agree to; neither do we think, considering the King's present situation, and the state of the empire, that these saneds are of any such consequence as to make the Nabob anxious for obtaining them at the great expence which has hitherto attended applications to the court—That of these our sentiments he will acquaint the Nabob, and recommend to him not to make any promise of money on that head, pointing out to him at the same time that the weight and security he derives from our protection is greatly superior to any that can be conveyed him by these saneds, and that all the money he can collect will be wanted to pay his own troops, and fulfil his agreements with the Company—That from what appears to us of Shuja Dowla's circumstances, we think it very possible he would give all his assistance for obtaining the saneds, for the sake only of our offered alliance—And upon this footing therefore, he (the Major) may acquaint the Nabob that he shall request them—That as these negotiations, the neighbourhood of the King and Shujah Dowlah's army, and the large force with which Cossim Aly Cawn has retired from the province, may open scenes of business of great consequence to our nation in India—we must earnestly repeat our request that he will remain in the command of the army until the event of these doubtful affairs is become more certain.

2d February 1764.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,

The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President.

William Billers, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Hugh Watts, Esquire,
Ralph Leicester, Esquire,
John Burdett, Esquire.

To Major John Carnac.

Sir,

Agreeably to the resolution of council the 30th December, you will please to proceed with all expedition to the province of Bahar, and take upon you the command of the army now stationed there. On your arrival at camp you will direct one hundred Europeans and a thousand seepoys to return to Bengal, as we intend a detachment of that force, with two pieces of artillery, shall always be cantoned at Ghyrottee, and kept in readiness to execute any services which may be requisite below.

As Cossim Aly Cawn has now fled out of these provinces, into the dominions of Shuja Dowla, the principal object of the army under your command will be to watch his further motions, and guard and maintain the tranquillity of the frontiers; and you will therefore please to canton the troops as near the boundaries of the province as you may think necessary for these purposes.

From the disposition which the King and Suja Dowla has expressed, in their late letters to us, and the answers which we wrote them, we are in hopes they may determine to surrender Cossim Aly Cawn into our hands; or, at least, by stripping him of his wealth, and obliging him to disband his forces, put it out of his power to give us any further disturbance. But if, contrary to our expectations, they should resolve to join the fortune of Cossim Aly Cawn, and march with their forces towards Bengal, we desire you will advance the army to the banks of the Carumnassa, and oppose and prevent any enemies from entering the country.

Our sentiments regarding the conduct to be observed towards the King and Shuja Dowla, you will find contained in our letter of instructions to the late Major Adams, dated 8 December 1763, of which a copy is herewith delivered for your information. And as the answers to the letters which we wrote also to them at the same time, must pass through your hands, you will be enabled to take your measures according to the advices which they may contain.

In this letter to Major Adams, we transmitted our opinion, with respect to the Nabob's making application for the King's saneds, and which, you will observe, we desired to be communicated to the Nabob. The President likewise then wrote to the Nabob to the same effect; but we are sorry to find, that notwithstanding our counsel, he continues still very earnest in this point, and has actually executed an agreement to pay to the King 28 lacks of rupees annually, with 5 lacks Nuzerrana, with a view of obtaining these saneds, and that he is seeking means to remit above one half of that sum immediately to court. In consequence of this intelligence, we have been under the necessity of sending orders to the commanding officer of the army, of which copies are inclosed for your information. And we cannot help repeating here, that we think this step of the Nabob's a mark of bad policy and great imprudence; for making remittances to the King can only be considered as supplying the finances of Shujah Dowla, who seeks but an opportunity of invading and molesting the Nabob's government, nay, is perhaps at this very period become his open and declared enemy. Besides, admitting the royal confirmation

to be a matter requisite, either for the public or the Nabob's own private satisfaction, it would certainly be a more proper time to apply for it when once all parts of the country have testified a firm allegiance to his government, and he has been fully established in his dominion over it. We shall always endeavour to carry ourselves towards the Nabob in such a manner as to give him no just cause of disgust; but we must hope, and our employers will expect, that, for such conduct, he will not be wanting in a suitable return, by a proper observance of his engagements, and an attention to their interest; and that therefore he will, for the present, set aside the above-mentioned resolution, which plainly tends to their injury in both these respects.

The Nabob has wrote to the President, that it is his intention to return to Calcutta in the month of March next—we desire therefore you will encourage him therein, as far as you may find opportunities, having many points to settle with him, necessary for the welfare of his and our government.

As we are informed that the fort of Rotas remains still independent, we desire you will endeavour to reduce it, in case you can find an opportunity; that is to say, if it should appear that it can be done without any inconvenience to the other objects of your instructions, or occasioning the loss of much time and men.

In consequence of the opinion of yourself and the other field officers, that the small body of European cavalry we now maintain, can never prove of service adequate to the great expence which attends their establishment, we have determined to reduce them all, excepting one troop, which will be useful for the purposes of patrolling and reconnoitring. We desire therefore you will incorporate the officers and men with the battalion, and order the horses to be disposed of to the best advantage, after completing the troop commanded by Captain George Hay, which we mean shall stand to sixty private, and its proper officers.

Sensible of your regard for the Company's interest, we need hardly recommend to you to have in view the reduction of the expences of the army, whenever, and as far as the nature of the services you have to execute will admit.

We rely entirely on your prudence, courage, and good conduct; and wishing you always health and success, we are, with esteem, &c.

R. LEYCESTER.

HENRY VAN SITTART.

23d February 1764.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,
 The Honourable Henry Vansittart, President,
 William Billers, Esq.
 Warren Hastings, Esq.
 Randolph Marriott, Esq.
 Hugh Watts, Esq.
 Samuel Middleton, Esq.
 Ralph Leycester, Esq.
 John Burdett, Esq.

To the Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esq. President and Governor of Fort William.

Honourable Sir,

I am extremely sorry to inform you, that notwithstanding all endeavours to keep the troops in due bounds; yesterday morning the European battalion forced the drummers to beat the General, without apprising any of their officers, and stood to their arms, appointing themselves a leader: after loading their pieces and fixing their bayonets, they took possession of the artillery parks, forcing the lascars and some gunners to draw out six guns, placing three on each flank; the European horse formed on the right, and the Moguls on the left; the seapoys were likewise in motion, but by a timely admonition they desisted. All endeavours were used to pacify the Europeans, but in vain; in this order they proceeded through the Nabob's camp, crossed a nulla, and directed their march towards the Carumnassa. When I found they were not to be stopped at any rate, I sent Captain Stables to apprise the Nabob, who came and met them on their march—offered a lack of rupees, one half to be paid immediately, and the remainder at one o'clock in the afternoon, which was all he could produce in camp; but neither promises or threats could stop them—for want of draught bullocks, the cannon were lost on the road to, and in, the Nabob's camp, which I returned to camp again.

I followed them in company with many of the battalion officers, endeavouring to persuade them to march back to camp, and receive the money the Nabob had sent. About a hundred dropt them on the march, and returned: on their arrival at the Carumnassa, they drew up on the parade in the front of the guns belonging to the detachments, and immediately secured them; in the mean time, the Mogul horse dispersed themselves amongst the seapoys of the detachment, to influence them to join. Here I got them to halt to take a dram and biscuit; while the drams were served, we prevailed on most of the English to return; but the French, and most of the foreigners, persisted in crossing the Carumnassa, to the amount of about three hundred, and proceeded towards Banaras; at the same time, by the influence of
 the

A P P E N D I X, No. 67.

the Mogul horse, part of two battalions of seapoys of the Carumnassa detachment rushed to their arms, fixed their bayonets, and followed them across the river : growing towards the evening, I took the remainder of the Europeans with the guns to the grand camp, leaving some officers to assist the seapoy officers. To-day we have got many of the seapoys to return, with some of the Europeans; and I expect most of the seapoys, with about seventy Europeans, will return this evening, on condition of being pardoned; there is a body of Frenchmen, about one hundred and fifty, headed by Serjeant Delamar, and two of the French serjeants that have halted on the banks of the Ganges, opposite Banaras, but cannot cross for want of boats. I have very little hopes of this party's returning, for it seems to have been a premeditated scheme of the French in particular, to entice the best part of the army over to the enemy, under the pretence of donation money, at the same were determined to refuse all offers of cash whatever.

This morning I ordered part of the donation to be paid from the laak which the Nabob sent, the Europeans received forty rupees per man, and the seapoys six rupees each; the non-commissioned officers in proportion; this appears to have satisfied them, and I believe most of the Europeans that have returned are ashamed of their proceedings, being convinced of the bad intention of their leaders (the French) to draw them into a crime which they never intended.

I shall, with the assistance of my officers, do my utmost endeavour to regain those still missing, and am in great hopes, by their present behaviour, that the fury of the storm is past. However I think it proper that the army be kept in motion, which may partly prevent the like for the future. I purpose shifting ground often, still keeping the district between the Sone and Carumnassa, and should be glad to be honoured with your orders and advice.

The Nabob proposed setting out for Calcutta two days ago, but receiving a letter from Shittabroy, that he should set out from Illiabad immediately with the sonnads, has detained him a few days longer.

I am,
Honourable Sir,

Camp at Sut, near Carumnassa,
February 12, 1764.

Your most obedient humble Servant,
WILLIAM JENNINGS.

27th February, 1764.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,
The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President,
William Billers, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Hugh Watts, Esq.
Samuel Middleton, Esq.
Ralph Leycester, Esq.
John Burdett, Esq.

Captain Jennings's Letter.

Received a letter from Captain Jennings, dated the 15th Instant, giving us a particular account of the behaviour of the troops, from the date of his last letter to the board, till the mutiny which happened among them on the 12th; of which we have already been particularly advised by his letter to the President of that date, as likewise of the steps he took to pacify, and bring them to a proper sense of their duty: that the next day the seapoys at camp having heard of the revolt of those at the Carumnassa, refused to take the six rupees per man offered them, and immediately stood to their arms; whereupon the greatest confusion ensued, as the Europeans, being ashamed of their former behaviour, insisted on forcing the seapoys back; and accordingly stood likewise to their arms, and the artillery to their guns: that not being able to prevent this, he ordered the battalion to form on the parade, load, and fix their bayonets; but upon no pretence to use violence, without they were attacked: that finding nothing else would quiet them, he has judged it for the good of the service, that the seapoys demand for being paid half the share per man, which the Europeans had received, should be complied with, and that the havildars have accordingly received each 40 rupees, the naiks 30, and the seapoys 20: that they appear all pretty well satisfied at present, and that he shall use his utmost endeavours, with the assistance of the other officers, to promote quiet and harmony among them.

1st March 1764.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,
The Honourable Henry Vansittart, President,
William Billers, Esq.
Warren Hastings, Esq.
Randolph Marriott, Esq.
Hugh Watts, Esq.
Samuel Middleton, Esq.
Ralph Leycester, Esq.
Mr. Burdett, absent.

Captain

A P P E N D I X, No. 67.

Captain Jennings's Letter.

Received a letter from Captain Jennings, dated the 18th instant; acquainting us, that the troops are again brought to good order, and at present appear extremely well satisfied; that he learns by his hircarras, the foreigners, headed by Serjeant Delamar, have proceeded on towards Elliabad, and that Raja Bulwant Sing has assisted them with money and guides to conduct them to Shuja Dowla's camp; although in his letter, in answer to Captain Jennings's, he assures him, that he used all the persuasions in his power to prevail with them to return, but that they persisted in marching forwards, to offer their service to Shuja Dowla: that by the return of that day, he finds our loss to consist of five serjeants and 152 rank and file, with 16 private of the European cavalry, and 100 seapoys; but that the latter being in a separate body, he is still in hopes of prevailing with them to return to their colours.

12 March 1764.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President,
 William Billers, Esquire,
 Warren Hastings, Esquire,
 Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
 Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
 Ralph Leycester, Esquire.
 Mr. Burdett indisposed.

To the Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esq. President and Governor, &c. of Fort William.

Honourable Sir,

I received your favour of the 5th of February, and should have answered it sooner, but our advices for some time have been very intricate, both from Elliabad and Shuja Dowla's army.

The Nabob's intelligence, which corroborates with ours, are, that Shittabroy is stopped from coming; and that the King and Shuja Dowla are come to a resolution to assist Cossim Aly Cawn, and put him again in possession of Bengal, &c. By two Hircarrahs from Banaras the 24 ultimo, I am informed that Cossim Aly, by order of Shuja Dowla, has sent Shake Small Beg Jemmadar, with two hundred horse, and four companies of seapoys, to Bulwant Sing; who is to assist them with hackirys, and a proper buzar, for their march to Rotasgur, to carry off the treasures and effects left there. Upon enquiry, I find there is no way of preventing this party, but by crossing the Carumnassa, their route being round the hills, through Bulwant Sing's country, which brings them to the western gate of Ratasgur, without entering the Nabob's dominions.

Major Carnac being expected every day at Patna, I have wrote to receive his orders.—I have some reason to think that Shuja Dowla has sent people to our camp to corrupt our men.—I have confined a fukeer, who is accused by an European of offering his service to the revolted party on their way to the Carumnassa, promising to conduct and supply them with provision on their march up the country: and by a letter from Captain Stables, received last night from the Nabob's camp at Doudnagur, he says, 'tis now confirmed, that Shuja Dowla enticed our people to desert.

The army's only complaint is the dearth and great scarcity of provisions in our buzar.—The Budgpoor country has been entirely ruined by Cossim Aly Cawn's army, and it is with great difficulty we can get supplies at any rate; most part comes from Patna. I have wrote to Mr. Batson, who has promised to assist us all that is in his power: I likewise dispatch large parties twice a week to Patna for grain; but notwithstanding which, I am greatly afraid we shall be but ill provided; at present the black troops and servants can barely live on their pay. If it should be judged necessary for the army to remain in the Budgpoor country, I would recommend that magazines for supplying the troops be erected at Buxar, with a proper detachment to remain there as a guard to the magazine. Buxar lies very convenient to be supplied with grain from Patna, and the adjacent countries, by water, which will greatly lessen the price of all kinds of provisions, and likewise be nearer for supplying any part of the Budgpoor country. Our present land carriage from Patna raises the price of rice, &c. in our buzar a hundred per cent. more than the Patna market, besides the uncertainty occasioned by the merchants selling at different places on the road.—I expect Major Carnac will meet the Nabob at Patna.

I am,

Honourable Sir,

With great respect,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

WILLIAM JENNINGS.

Camp at Sarfaram,
 February the 28th 1764.

Major

Major Carnac's Letters.

Received two letters from Major Carnac, dated at Patna the 1st and 2d instant; the former confirming, by his advices, Captain Jennings's intelligence, with regard to Shuja Dowla and Cossin Aly Cawn; and again expressing his hopes, that the Bombay detachment have been detained here; the latter representing the great inconvenience to which the army is exposed on account of the extraordinary scarcity and dearness of all sorts of grain, and the discontent which it occasions among the troops, and requesting we will send orders to Burdwan and Cossimbuzar, for forwarding them supplies as speedily as possible; likewise recommending the removal of Captain Grant's battalion of seapoys up to the army, as they have been uninfected, and having a battalion sent from camp to Chittagong in their room.

Agreed, we reply to these letters of Major Carnac's; acquainting him, that immediately on receipt of his last letter, the President wrote to the Nabob, desiring he would send orders to his officers in Purnea, Dinagepoor, and Radhy and the other districts, where grain is most plentifully produced, to collect all they could, and send large quantities to Patna; and recommending to him, as we look upon this the best and most likely expedient for procuring supplies, to repeat the necessity of enforcing these orders: that the stores for Captain Pimble's detachment are now sending up to Ghyrottee, and that it will be ordered to march from thence as soon as they are completed: that the Bombay seapoys form a part of this detachment, but as there is no more than one battalion for the protection and service of all the Chittagong and Dacca districts, it is impossible that any part of them can be spared to go to the army: that we observe from his letters, as well as those from Captain Jennings, the reason which there is to expect, that Shuja Dowla will either come himself, or favour an invasion into Bahar: that if these advices should prove to have foundation, we think it will be more advisable to carry the war into Shuja Dowla's country, than to wait for his entering the province: that we desire therefore he will, immediately on such confirmation being received, if he thinks he can depend on the disposition and affection of the troops, march the army across the Caruninassa, and proceed to act offensively against the enemy, to the best advantage: that in the mean time we shall hold further reinforcements in readiness, consisting of the detachment of the 84th regiment, the marines of the Squadron, and a party of the artillery, which will in all make about 200 men, with two pieces of cannon, to march and join him whenever it shall be judged necessary.

19th March 1764.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, President,
 William Billers, Esquire,
 Warren Hastings, Esquire,
 Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
 Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
 Ralph Leycester, Esquire,
 John Burdett, Esquire.

Major Carnac's Letters.

Received two letters from Major Carnac, dated the 7th and 8th instant; the former advising us of his arrival at the camp, and that all accounts agree, that Meer Cossim has engaged Shuja Dowla to march this way—That the mutinous spirit of the troops is far from being suppressed; for that the officers assure him, they have intimations there will be a further demand made of the donation money, both by Europeans and seapoys—that a havildar of Captain Galliez's battalion expressed himself so insolently on this matter, he has thought proper to confine him, and send him down to Calcutta in irons; and that he has also ordered down five Europeans, who have been some time under confinement for desertion and other crimes, and recommends their being sent on board the King's ships. The letter of the 8th incloses duplicate of that of the 7th, and confirms the intelligence of Shuja Dowla's moving this way.

26th March 1764.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President,
 William Billers, Esquire,
 Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
 Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
 Ralph Leycester, Esquire,
 John Burdett, Esquire,
 Mr. Hastings indisposed.

Major Carnac's Letter.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 15th Instant; inclosing a paper of intelligence from the King's camp, and advising us, that finding Shuja Dowla was on the move towards him, he has thought it incumbent upon him to advance the army towards the frontiers, to oppose the enemy's entrance into the province; that he has judged it necessary to make

another dividend to the troops, to the amount of twenty rupees to each private European, and half that sum to each seapoy—that the seapoys have now received each 30 rupees, which he looks upon to be as much as they are intitled to, and that this was intimated to them, at this last payment—that one of the companies made a little stir on the occasion, but that it ended with his punishing two or three seapoys, who were principally concerned, and turning them out of the service; that the officers, from a conviction the men will never be in right temper, so long as any part of the donation remains due to them, have agreed, not to receive their proportions, till the soldiers have had their intire shares; that after the desertion of so many Frenchmen, he could entertain no favourable opinion of the few who staid behind, and could not avoid being suspicious they did so with some ill view, and that he has therefore ordered Captain Martin, with the remainder of his company, down to Calcutta.

29th March 1764.

At a Consultation; **P R E S E N T,**
 The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President,
 Commodore Tinker,
 Warren Hastings, Esquire,
 Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
 John Burdett, Esquire.
 Messrs. Middleton and Leycester indisposed.

Major Carnac's Letter.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 18th instant; inclosing one he has received from Shitabroy; to which he refers us, for information of Shuja Dowla's intention against us; and expressing his concern to find, that by the advices from Calcutta, of the 8th, the reinforcement under the command of Captain Pemble had not yet begun their march; that their being so late, renders it next to impossible for them to join him in time, and that he must therefore put every thing to risk, with the force he has at present, however little to be depended on, after what has passed; further advising us, that he would fain cross the Carumnasia, and give the enemy a meeting, as far as possible from the boundary, but that he fears the distress they are in for provisions, being only supplied from day to day, will not permit his doing so; and that he shall be obliged to keep close by the Ganges, to secure a conveyance by water, having had intimation, that the enemy's design is to hover at a distance around them, and endeavour to cut off their supplies.—That a treaty of alliance has been some time in agitation, between the Nabob and Bulwanting, the Rajah of Banaras: that the Nabob is now very anxious for its being brought to a conclusion; and proposed to him, that evening, setting his seal thereto, on the part of the English, without which the Rajah will not enter into any engagement: that he shall be very unwilling to take a step of such a nature, without first knowing whether it be agreeable to us; but that the present exigency will not admit the delay of waiting our answer.

Having duly considered this letter of Major Carnac, we are unanimously of opinion, that as Shuja Dowla has now openly espoused the cause of Cossim Aly Cawn, and encourages his design of an invasion into Bengal, we can entertain no further thoughts of entering into a treaty with him: on the contrary we think it our duty to form against him all the enemies we possibly can; that the proposed alliance with Bulwanting will therefore be a very proper measure, and prove, as well now as in all time to come, a strong barrier and defence to the Bengal provinces.

Agreed therefore, that we write to Major Carnac, advising him, that we shall approve entirely of his entering into the intended treaty, in concert with the Nabob; and of his engaging to protect and maintain Bulwanting independant, both now and hereafter.—That the detachment which in our letter of the 12th we mentioned we should hold in readiness, will march this day from Ghyrottee, under the command of Captain Weymyfs; so that we have now reinforced him with every man that is capable of bearing arms: that, for the defence of this part of the country, particularly the province of Burdwan, against any detached parties which may be sent to make inroads by the way of the hills, we are completing the battalions at Burdwan and Midnapoor, and shall call Captain Grant from Chittagong, with all the seapoys in those parts, excepting one battalion of the new establishment; and that this force, with what assistance Commodore Tinker may yield us, for the service of the artillery, is all we have to depend on: that we must still suppose the Nabob has issued orders to his officers, for sending to Patna all the grain that can be collected in the different countries; but that, for his satisfaction and our own, we shall write to Mr. Gray to be certainly informed, and direct him also to advise him; and if the officers have not received orders to that effect, to purchase all he can on account of the Company, and forward it on to Patna: that we inclose him a letter from the President to Shuja Dowla, with an English translation for his perusal, which if he think it advisable, at the time he arrives, he will please to forward on.

Agreed, that the letter to Shuja Dowla be to the following purport:

That it is reported, he has received Cossim Aly Cawn into his friendship, and that he is marching this way, in order to support his cause: that considering the former connections subsisting between him and the chiefs of the company, we cannot give credit to this report: that

we are persuaded he has the utmost regard for justice, and that he will not act in so unquitable a manner: that if however such are his real intentions, we shall not neglect to do what is necessary on our part; and that it is our resolution to keep this country free from troubles, and to carry the war into his dominions, and desolate and lay waste his country.

3d April, 1764.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,
The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esq. President,
Warren Hastings, Esq.
Randolph Marriott, Esq.
Samuel Middleton, Esq.
Ralph Lyecester, Esq.
Mr. Burdett, indisposed.

Major Carnac's Letter.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 22d instant; acquainting us, That the enemy are all collecting at and near Benaras; and making preparations for throwing bridges across the Ganges: that he would willingly push over the Carumnassa, with an intention of obstructing their work; but that the Nabob is utterly averse to entering Shuja Dowla's country, being unwilling to do any thing that may be construed as a commencement of hostilities on his part; further repeating his complaints on account of the great scarcity of provisions, and acquainting us, that not chusing to rely on his sole judgment in so critical a case, he consulted Major Champion and the captains of the army, with regard to crossing into the enemy's country, and the station in which they are at present encamped; and that they are entirely against moving till a supply of grain is secured, and agree with him, that at Buxar they are most advantageously posted for watching the motions of the enemy: that he has ordered a bridge to be laid over the mouth of the Carumnassa, for passing the troops, as soon as he has collected a stock of grain, when he proposes advancing up the Ganges to oppose the enemy's crossing it, or should they be crossed to offer them battle.

Agreed, We reply to Major Carnac's letter; acquainting him that he has already been advised of the reinforcements ordered to camp under the command of Captains Pemble and Weymyfs, so that he will send such orders to those officers as he may judge requisite, in consequence of the operations of the enemy and the disposition they may make in advancing into the country, particularly in case any detachments of their force should pass between him and Bengal:—that we are endeavouring to raise a party of the volunteers who were under Captain Wedderburn, to be employed again in the same manner in armed boats on the river, on any necessary service: that we desire therefore he will direct the boats, which we are informed are at camp, to be repaired, and kept in readiness for embarking them; or if he thinks proper he may send them down to meet the party at their march up: that expecting the Nabob's arrival in Calcutta, we have delayed enquiring into the state of his revenues and expences, and the other branches of his government, which are necessary for settling the articles of the treaty; but that as that prospect is now very uncertain, we must request he will make the best enquiries he can, and inform us of the state of the Nabob's finances, and how they are managed, as his complaint of want of money appears to us extraordinary, considering he has had the time for making the heavy collections of the year, and but small disbursements that we know of; that it is necessary we should be also acquainted with the state and expence of the Nabob's army; what number of troops he keeps up, and what principal officers he employs and depends upon:—that we should be glad to know further who are the principal officers about his court, and in his councils:—that we know Nundcomar to be one, and to have the chief management of his correspondence:—and as we have had too frequent experience of this man's intriguing disposition, and are certain that he has many connections in Shuja Dowla's court, we have reason to suspect that he will employ these connections, at so critical a juncture as this, against our government, as a security for himself in all circumstances: that we cannot be too much on our guard against any such designs, and we should wish therefore to have him entirely removed from the Nabob's service:—that if he thinks he can bring the Nabob to consent to his dismissal, we would have it done immediately; but that if he thinks the Nabob will not consent to it, we would have him keep those sentiments entirely to himself, lest it should cause a jealousy in the Nabob, or excite Nundcomar to form worse designs, from the apprehension of such an event, and content himself with taking all possible precautions to prevent his carrying on any correspondence with the enemy:—that it is evident there has been a shameful neglect with respect to collecting grain for the army, since Meer Cossim was driven out of the country before the harvest was reaped; and there never was known a more plentiful crop: that this we cannot help regarding as a particular instance of the mismanagement or wilful neglect of Nundcomar, knowing it to be his duty, from his post, to have attended to that business: that we formerly applied to the Nabob for tuncaws on account of the Company; three laaks to be paid at Patna, five at Cossimbuzar, five at Calcutta, and five at Dacca; to which application he replied, He would grant them when he came to Calcutta; but that the time of his coming being now very uncertain, the President has wrote to him

him again for the same tuncaws; and that we desire he will represent the necessity of his granting them, as the Company's affairs suffer much for want of money, and we are afraid of being distressed to answer even our military expences, and our daily demands:—that there is another object of general concern, upon which also we must desire he will apply to the Nabob, if he thinks circumstances will admit of it; we mean the fund for restitution of the merchants losses in the late troubles, for which no provision has been yet made, and which, we perceive by the accounts already delivered in, will amount to a very considerable sum, notwithstanding the regulations we have laid down for reducing the prices of every kind of goods to the lowest:—that we are obliged to request his assistance in these points, untill Mr. Watts shall arrive at his station with the Nabob, when he will take the burden of them off his hands, and inform him of all his proceedings.

Consultation, 9th April, 1764.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated 26th March 1764; inclosing one which he had received from Captain Maclean, advising him of a very daring attempt made by one of the subdars of his battalion, to decoy his company over to the enemy; and acquainting us that the man having been tried by a court martial, composed of black officers of the battalions, and found guilty of the charge alledged against him; and the court having given it unanimously as their opinion, that he deserved to be blown from the mouth of a cannon for the same, he had him accordingly executed in that manner the same afternoon at the head of the army; and expressing his hopes that this public execution will strike a terror amongst the troops, and awe them into better behaviour for the future.—The letter further advises us, that there is now no doubt of a bridge being finished over the Ganges; but they have such various accounts of the different quarters by which the enemy intend penetrating the province, that though they were provided for advancing on, yet he thinks it most adviseable to wait at Buxar, and watch what way they turn their principal force, that they may move thither to oppose them. Also inclosing a paper of news, which after finishing his letter he had received from the Nabob.

Captain M'Lean's letter, and the paper of news being read;

Ordered, They be entered after the Major's letter.

The latter, on perusal, is only found to contain advice, that the enemy are encamped at Bulwar Ghant, on the banks of the Ganges, with the particulars of their force, and that bridges for their passage are building with all expedition.

16th April 1764.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President,
Commodore Tinker, Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
Ralph Leycester, Esquire,
John Burdett, Esquire.

Received two letters from Major Carnac, dated the 2d and 4th April 1764. The former inclosing the proceedings of a general court martial held on Captain Lieutenant Baylone, which has occasioned his dismissal from the service, and repeating still his complaints of the want of provisions; further mentioning, that he thinks Captain Pemble has been rather dilatory in his march, having received a letter from him of the 23d ultimo, when he was only at Plassey, altho' he left Ghyrottee the 17th. The second advising us, that from informations which he has received from Mur Ashruff, he has been led to entertain strong suspicions of Nundcomar's fidelity and attachment, and that he apprehends he has ever been engaged in a private correspondence with the enemy: that whatever may be the truth, the tenor of Nundcomar's conduct argues strongly against him; to support which the Major mentions the little assistance we have as yet received from his administration, and particularly instances the distress of the army for want of provisions: that the countries from which we should receive our supplies, have been by him put into the hands of Myr Cossim's creatures; to which we may add, that whatever may be his disposition with regard to the Nabob, we cannot reasonably expect he should have any attachment towards us, considering the circumstances of his having been long under confinement with us on an accusation of a former criminal correspondence, and his being fully convinced that it is the intention of our government, if in their power, to get the chief management of the provinces consigned over to Roy Dulub: that the very suspicion (and for which there were such grounds) of a man in so high a degree of confidence with the Nabob, and who, if a traitor, would have it in his power to do us so much mischief, was reason sufficient for his wishing to have him removed, and that he had accordingly exerted all his influence with the Nabob for that purpose; but that he always insisted, in reply to his arguments, that he knew Nundcomar to be his friend, and that Roy Dulub was a traitor to him; and could be brought to no other concession, but that if the one was sent away, the other should be dismissed also; to which the Major fears he will be obliged to submit, unless some more eligible expedient can be hit upon, as he thinks Nundcomar's remaining with the Nabob after so public an accusation would alone render him our enemy, tho' he were not so before.

The

The Major further adds, That the continued want of grain has obliged him to retire towards the Soane, where he can more securely depend upon supplies, and because all his late intelligence agrees that the enemy do not intend fighting us; but that their delay at the bridges near Benaras is to draw our attention that way, to give time for the division they are sending round by the back of the country to get between our army and Patna.

And agreed, in consequence of the advice contained in the latter, that the Nabob be addressed by the President, in the name of the whole board, to the following effect:

That it is with great concern we find ourselves under the necessity of remonstrating to him upon the ill administration of the affairs of these provinces since his accession to the government, strongly exemplified by the great distress our army has been in for want of grain, tho' the country was freed from any enemy before the crop was cut, and that they were as plentiful as were ever known; in the repeated complaints he has made to us of his want of money, tho' the heaviest collections of the year must have fallen into his hands, and in general from the little he now seems able to give us for the distress of our common enemies, that we cannot impute these evils to any but Nundcomar, under whose immediate influence and direction all the affairs of his government have hitherto been conducted; that these are strong instances of his misconduct and negligence; but that what gives us still greater reason to be dissatisfied with him is, that from advices lately received from Major Carnac, we have too much reason to suspect he has been carrying on a secret correspondence with the enemy, and counteracting every measure we have been taking for the support of his (the Nabob's) government; that, notwithstanding the repeated representations which have been made to him (the Nabob) for supplies of grain, Major Carnac for want of it has been obliged to return to the Soane: that this, with other matters, which have been fully represented to him by Major Carnac, will effectually, we hope, convince him that the disapprobation we now express at Nundcomar's conduct arises only from our friendship for him, and a regard for our common safety; that therefore, however backward and cautious we should at all times be not to interfere with the officers of his government, yet the wicked mismanagement of Nundcomar in the present critical situation of our affairs, obliges us to press and insist upon the immediate removal of that man from his employ; that we take not upon us to recommend a successor, resolving to approve of any man whom he shall please to appoint, if he will but manifest a true zeal for his service; whatever opinion we may have expressed of Roy Dulub, or desire to have him employed, we are ready to acquiesce in his removal to Calcutta, if such is his (the Nabob's) pleasure, at the same time that he sends down Nundcomar, being desirous to give him every proof in our power, that we are not swayed to make this remonstrance from any partiality to the one, or personal dislike to the other; that we are not incautiously or unnecessarily interfering with his authority, which we are determined to support—but are compelled, much against our will, to press the removal of this man, who seems to be undermining both his power and ours; that as we are giving now the strongest instances of our attachment to him, by exerting all our strength to free his country from our common enemies, we must expect that he will so far concur with our endeavours, as immediately to remove Nundcomar from his confidence and service; as the longer any power continues in his hands, the more endangered is our common safety, by his artifice and misconduct: that we are happy in presenting this address thro' the hands of Major Carnac, of whose attachment and regard we have repeatedly had such strong proofs, and with whom we have no doubt will be ready to concur in every necessary measure for the public good.

Agreed also, that we do write to Fort St. George, and to Dacca, Cassimbuzar, and Mantea, advising them of the appearance there is of the country's being invaded by a very numerous enemy; and that altho' we have no manner of doubt that our forces under the command of Major Carnac will defeat them, wherever they may be brought to engage, yet we think from their numbers there is a probability of their dispersing, and making sudden incursions in different parts of the country; and therefore judge it necessary to acquaint them, that it is not on any account our intention they should risk falling into the hands of the enemy, by attempting to make a stand at their factories, which are not calculated for defence, or provided with troops for that purpose; but that on the approach of any formidable body of troops, we would have them to retreat in time, with what effects they can with safety bring along with them.

Consultation 26th April 1764.

Received two letters from Major Carnac, dated the 9th and 17th; the former repeating and explaining fully the reasons which determined him to cross the Soane, and retire towards Patna; and advising us that he is now convinced, from Bulwant Sing's behaviour (of which the Major gives us an account) that his proposed alliance with us was only a concerted scheme to draw us further on, and to favour Shuja Dowla's design of getting between our army and Patna—That in consequence of our former orders he discharged a number of boats immediately upon his arrival at Patna, insomuch that he has at present scarce a sufficiency for the service; and that the paymaster assures him the accounts of the army have been transmitted to the end of last year, and promises to continue sending them down as regularly as possible.—The last letter acknowledges receipt of ours of the 3d; and acquaints us, That it is something remarkable that that

was precisely the day on which he had the debate with the Nabob relative to Nundcomar; that our coincidence of sentiment with him in this particular amounts to a demonstration that there are strong grounds of suspicion, however we may want direct proof against him; that yet that the Nabob is so obstinately attached to this man that he fears there will be no possibility of removing him without having recourse to force, which, at this critical juncture, it would he thinks be improper to make use of; that his Excellency is so much out of temper by this affair, that it has occasioned his being so out of order as not to be willing or able to enter upon business for some days past; that he has deferred giving any answer to his demand on the article of restitution, but had sent orders the day before to the proper officers for the payment, three laak at Moorshedabad, the said sum at Dacca, a laak and half at Nudya, the same at Honaghty, and one laak at Patna, of which he himself advises the President: that Beny Bahadre is certainly come on this side the Carumnassa, by the high road, so that there is no longer any doubt of Shuja Dowla's intending to favour Meer Cossim; which is further confirmed by a letter inclosed, which he (the Major) had that day received from the Vizier; to which he advises he had replied in the following terms; That he was not to be prescribed by any but of the King of England, and the English Company, whose servant he was; that he (Shuja Dowla) had gone such lengths, that we could no longer look upon him but as an enemy, and that the sword must now decide between them; that he could not doubt of success, as he was confident, from the justice of our own cause, we could not fail having Providence on our side.— He also incloses one to us, which he supposes is to the same purpose, and advises us further that the Bombay detachment had joined him the day before, and that he had sent on two battalions of seapoys, with a couple of guns, and proposes advancing with the army as far as he can be sure of being supplied with grain.

The President also lays before the board the following Translates of Shuja Dowla's Letters, received from the Major.

From Shuja ul Dowla to the Governor and Council.

Former Kings of Indostan, by exempting the English Company from duties, granting them different settlements and factories, and assisting them in all their affairs, bestowed greater kindness and honour upon them than either upon the country merchants, or any other Europeans; moreover of late His Majesty has graciously conferred on you higher titles and dignities than was proper, and jagheers, and other favours since; notwithstanding these various favours which have been shewn you, you have interfered in the King's country, possessed yourselves of districts belonging to the government, such as Burdwan and Chittagong, &c. and turned out and established Nabobs at pleasure, without the consent of the imperial court. Since you have imprisoned dependents upon the court, and exposed the government of the King of Kings to contempt and dishonour; since you have ruined the trade of the merchants of the country, granted protection to the King's servants, injured the revenues of the imperial court, and crushed the inhabitants by your acts of violence; and since you are continually sending fresh people from Calcutta, and invading different parts of the royal dominions, and have even plundered several villages and pergunnas belonging to the province of Illahabad; to what can all these wrong proceedings be attributed, but to an absolute disregard for the court, and a wicked design of seizing the country for yourselves? If you have behaved in this manner, in consequence of your King's commands, or the Company's directions, be pleased to acquaint me of the particulars thereof, that I may shew how suitable a resentment: but if these disturbances have arisen from your own improper desires, desist from such behaviour in future; interfere not in the affairs of the government; withdraw your people from every part, and send them to their own country; carry on the Company's trade as formerly, and confine yourselves to commercial affairs. In this case imperial court will more than ever assist you in your business, and confer its favours upon. Send hither some person of distinction as your vacqueel to inform me properly of all circumstances, that I may act accordingly. If (which God forbid!) you are haughty and disobedient, the heads of the disturbers shall be devoured by the sword of justice, and you will feel the weight of His Majesty's displeasure, which is the type of the wrath of God; nor will any submissions or acknowledgments of your neglect hereafter avail you, as your Company have of old been supported by the royal favours. I have therefore wrote to to you; you will act as you may think adviseable; speedily send me your answer.

From Shuja ul Dowla to Major Carnac.

Agreeable to His Majesty's care for the welfare of the people, I now write to you. Consider how the Kings of Indostan have given your Company settlements and factories, exempted them from duties, and conferred greater favours upon them than upon other Europeans or the merchants of their own dominions: since then, notwithstanding all these favours, you have been guilty of ingratitude to the court; since you have turned aside from your former paths, and on the contrary have been continually marching your troops into the King's country; and since you have presumed to remove the officers of the imperial court, and to turn out and establish Nabobs,

What

What kind of behaviour is this? In case you have your King's or your Company's orders for these proceedings, be pleased to inform me of it, that I may shew a suitable resentment. But if it is through your own inclinations that you have plundered villages belonging to Illiabad, and that you entertain your evil designs, notwithstanding the approach of the royal standards, it is proper you should desist from such proceedings, and represent your desires to me. In case of your obedience, our favours shall be conferred upon you; otherwise the guilty and disobedient shall be utterly destroyed.

Consultation, 10 May 1764.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,

The Honourable Henry Vansittart, Esquire, President,
 Warren Hastings, Esq.
 Randolph Marriott, Esq.
 Samuel Middleton, Esq.
 Ralph Leycester, Esq.
 John Burdett, Esq.

On the 8th in the Evening we received the following Letter from Major Carnac.
 Gentlemen,

I have received your favour of the 16th, with the Persian letter from the President, and the same in English, signed by the whole board, to be presented by me to the Nabob, in order to enforce my application for the dismissal of Nundcomar. I have before acquainted you of the Nabob's attachment to this man, and with my being obliged, to avoid coming to extremities, to appear reconciled to him; and for the same reason you will please my not delivering the President's letter at this juncture, as I firmly believe the Nabob is so infatuated, that he would rather give up every thing than part with Nundcomar. His Excellency's conduct subjects me to the greatest inconveniencies, and particularly to that of acting defensively. One would almost think he is engaged in a combination against himself; and had I drawn near to Patna to cover it as well as him, it is most likely he would have been carried off, and the city taken, there being many of the enemy's adherents both within his camp and the town; and it is more than probable, the parties which have gone behind us were for that purpose.

The preservation of the Sircarferang country is of the utmost importance to us for provisions; yet, in spite of all my remonstrances, it has been continued in the hands of one Ramchund, a known creature of Myr Cossim, whose troops to-day are all gone over to the enemy, so that we hourly expected news of their having entered that pergunnah. As soon as Captain Wemyss arrives I shall order a detachment over for the security of that country. I propose keeping the marines, and taking this opportunity of separating our people, amongst many of whom the seeds of discontent still remain, which it has required my utmost care to prevent from breaking forth. There is certainly somebody tampering with them; and a number of letters have been lately found dropped in the camp, addressed to our foreigners, with intent to debauch them, one whereof I herewith send you.

The accompanying is Shuja Dowla's answer to the last letter from the President, which I took the liberty to open. The main army of the enemy must be pretty near us, though we can get no certain intelligence of them, their advanced parties of horse plundering and destroying every thing in such a manner that our hircarrahs are afraid to approach them. I cannot conceive how they, being so numerous, will manage to subsist; and I think they must be so distressed as to attempt something decisive, and that very speedily.

I have completed the reform of our seapoys, and we have now ten battalions upon the new establishment pretty near complete in number, but greatly deficient in arms; some of them are extremely good; I cannot as yet say so much of the four youngest. One is stationed at Mongheer, and there are two, besides the Bombay seapoys, in garison at Patna. I have also formed Captain Hay's troop, agreeable to your directions; and the supernumerary horses, except some spare ones that was necessary to keep, have been sold on the Company's account.

I am,
 Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN CARNAC.

Camp near Patna,
 the 30th April 1764.

Sir,

We must confess ourselves uneasy at the necessity which you have been under of acting upon the defensive, and wish it may soon be in your power to change this plan, as it is beyond doubt that all our successes against the powers of this empire have been owing to acting offensively, and always pushing to the attack; and this measure appears the more necessary at this time, as the ill disposition of our troops is likely to be increased by nothing so much as inaction: we are sensible of the difficulties you have had to encounter; perplexed with the Nabob's bad management

management, and receiving no kind of assistance from him, we have an entire confidence in your conduct and care to provide against the ill effects to be apprehended from such a situation; upon which we shall give you our sentiments, leaving it always in your discretion to act as the circumstances upon the spot may direct you.

It appears to us, that Shuja Dowla's intention is to make use of the advantage which he has in a numerous cavalry, to distress you, and cut off your supplies of provisions; hoping by this plan to gain his point without the risk of an engagement, in which he might have less expectation of success, from the superiority of our discipline. In this view he has succeeded so far, and we are apprehensive of the same distress which has compelled you to retire to Patna, may in like manner make it as necessary for you to retreat to Bengal; as it will be in his power, by sending parties of horse between you and this province, to intercept any supplies from reaching you.

As you have never mentioned what stock of provisions you have in the city, we have no satisfactory information upon the point; but unless it is much greater than we can flatter ourselves it is, the daily consumption, without any supply, must soon reduce it. To avoid this danger, if it is possible to take with you by any means a stock of a few days, and by forced marches bring Shuja Dowla to action, it appears to us to be an advisable measure.

If you think this impracticable, or not advisable, the next alternative that occurs to us is, to leave a part of the army strongly posted at or near Patna for the security of the city, or either conduct yourself or send the remainder of the forces across the river, to march from thence into Shuja Dowla's country, pushing directly for Banaras; by which they would not only cut off the supplies which come to Shuja Dowla from that quarter, but probably induce Bulwant Sing to come over to our interests, and join in distressing him on that side. It is at the same time probable, that upon the appearance of such a force, other parties may rise upon his dominions, who may be glad to seize such an occasion to favour some pretensions of their own.

It is not supposed that Shuja Dowla would leave his own country exposed to many enemies, for the sake of carrying on an unprofitable war in Bengal; but if he should, notwithstanding the march of the detachment of ours into his country, take the resolution of passing Patna, and entering Bengal, the part of the army left at Patna must come down to us by water, excepting a garison of seapoys for the defence of the city; which when joined by the force we have at Burdwan, and the reinforcement we may soon expect from Madras and from Europe, will be sufficient to oppose him, and especially at a season when the rains will make it very difficult for horse to act.

Concerning the proceedings of the party on the other side of the river, in case of Shuja Dowla's return; we can only say in general, that we would have the war carried on in his country; for which purpose our whole force could join again in such manner as you may find the most advisable.

With respect to the Nabob, his presence will always be an incumbrance to you; and it would be much better for him to remain at Patna, or return to Calcutta.

We cannot help expressing surprise, that the parties which have harassed our camp, have never met with any resistance from his horse: if the Nabob keeps none, it is absolutely necessary that you should endeavour to entertain a body of horse, to act under your own orders, and who must be paid by the Nabob.

HENRY VAN SITTART,
SAMUEL MIDDLETON,
RALPH LEYCESFER,
JOHN BURDETT.

Fort William Consultation, 14th May, 1764.

On the 11th instant we received the following Letter from Major Carnac, dated Camp near Patna, the 4th.

Gentlemen,

The united forces of the enemy, who were exceeding numerous, and had with them a considerable number of cannon, presented themselves before us early yesterday, in order of battle; and after cannonading some time at a distance, began a little before noon a very vigorous and warm attack. Sombre, with the choice of the infantry, supported by a large body of cavalry, made an attack upon our front; but not being able to advance upon so heavy a fire as we gave them, they lay under cover, waiting for the success of the assault upon our rear where the enemy exerted their principal efforts: it was sun-set before we had completely repulsed them: our people were so extremely fatigued with the labour of the day, and having been up most part of the preceding night in expectation of the attack, that they were not able to pursue, and the enemy took the opportunity of the dusk to carry off their cannon: I had enough to do to look to every quarter, as I was obliged to divide my attention between the city, the Nabob's camp, and our own post. All the principal officers distinguished themselves in their respective stations; and I cannot say too much of the good behaviour of the army in general, and in particular of the seapoys, who sustained the front of the attack. The enemy must have met with an

an immense loss, as our fire was very close, and extremely well distributed. I have not yet been able to get an exact account of ours, in Europeans it is inconsiderable: Captain Nottikens and Lieutenant Gardiner are the only officers wounded, but both dangerously; the former has received such a wound as, it is thought, will occasion the loss of a leg; and the latter has had both his legs broke.

I wait with impatience to know what effect this success will have upon the designs of the enemy.

I am, with great respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
JOHN CARNAC.

Camp, near Patna,
the 4th May, 1764.

Agreed, we do now reply to this letter, in the following terms: that it is with real satisfaction we have received the advice of his success: that so severe a repulse given to the enemy on their first attempt, we should hope may be attended with the most favourable consequences to our cause; and that being extremely sensible of the share which may be attributed to his good conduct in this essential service, we beg leave to return him our best acknowledgements: that it gives us pleasure to observe on this occasion that such a general perseverance and order prevailed among the troops, particularly among the seapoys; and that we desire he will return our best thanks to all the officers and men for that bravery and good behaviour.

Agreed, we do further advise the Major of Mr. Watts's return; and desire he will use his endeavours to persuade the Nabob to come down as soon as possible, as he must only be an incumbrance to him in camp, and we have many material points to settle with his Excellency here.

Fort William, the 21st May, 1764.

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President.

Warren Hastings, Esquire,

Randolph Marriott, Esquire,

Hugh Watts, Esquire,

Ralph Leicester, Esquire,

Messrs. Middleton and Burdett indisposed.

Not having received any advices from Major Carnac, since the fourth instant,

Agreed, we write to him, that this silence has laid us under the necessity of taking our information of affairs of the army from reports and private letters. By these we are given to understand, that, ever since the repulse of the enemy on the 3d instant, their army has lain within two or three cofs of our camp. That, latterly, frequent messages have passed between their camp and ours, and particularly, that Mendi Aly Cawn has come over to us with some of his dependants. That as we are convinced of the treacherous disposition of the people we have to deal with, and have no accounts from him of the plan on which he proceeds, we cannot help apprehending bad consequences from this delay, and that the enemy may be endeavouring to amuse, and gain time to answer some purpose of their own, perhaps forming parties in the city of Patna, or in our camp. That he will easily perceive, by the tenor of all our letters, that we had resolved, from the beginning, not to treat with Shuja Dowlah, if ever he took the part of Meer Cossim, and that we departed not from this resolution even when our army was under some difficulties; far less shall we think of such a measure now, when he is at the head of an army which, we flatter ourselves, will be sure of success whenever they engage. That we had a convincing proof of the good disposition of the troops from their behaviour in the last action; and as his apprehensions on this head seem to be the only point of difficulty, we hope he has, before this time, made use of their good disposition in attacking and driving the enemy out of the country. That we can entertain no thoughts of treating with Shuja Dowla, having no conception of any concessions which it is in his power to make us: that the only ones we could ever listen to, must be the delivery up of Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters; and those, from the part they compose of Shuja Dowla's strength, we judge it by no means in his power to perform; nor would we have our operations suspended for the space of one hour until these persons are put into our hands. That we have much reason to imagine the Nabob may give into any overtures for a negociation, from the vain notion of holding the Subadar by the King's authority, independent of our support; but that he must by no means be allowed to carry on any correspondence without his (the Major's) knowledge, neither in the present circumstances to receive any sunnuds from the King or Shuja Dowla. That in this and all other measures the Nabob must be intirely ruled by him whilst the war continues.

Agreed, that we further advise the Major of Captain Stibbert's promotion to a majority, resolved on this day in the other department.

Agreed, that we write likewise to Mr. Billers, the chief at Patna, directing him, whilst the war continues, to advise us daily of the occurrences, so far as may come to his knowledge.

C c

Received

Received a letter from Mr. Gray, at Maulda, dated the 13th instant, acquainting us, that he cannot comply with our orders of the 7th, for purchasing grain, unless we send him a sum of money; that he however takes all opportunities of encouraging the merchants to send rice to camp, and that he has prevailed with several to a large amount.

Agreed, we write him in answer, that as it is not in our power to send him any supply of money, we must be satisfied with the measures he has taken for assisting the army with grain; and have only to desire, that he will continue to prevail on the merchants to carry thither as large quantities as possible.

HENRY VANSITTART,
H. WATTS,
R. LEYCESTER,
JOHN BURDETT.

Consultation, 24th of May 1764.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 16th, acquainting us, that he has delayed thus long writing to us, since his last, from his constant expectation of a fresh attack, which his daily intelligence has given him reason to believe the enemy were preparing for: that he so effectually covers the Nabob, that he thinks it his business rather to receive than give the attack, especially as the manœuvre of the enemy seems intended to draw him after them, that they may have an opportunity of detaching a party to carry off the Nabob, in which they would probably succeed was he to leave them; that besides, in his present position he can contain the seapoys; whereas when they are pushed forwards, there is no possibility of preventing them from pressing on and breaking, which Captain Swinton and himself have experienced in one or two skirmishes, not being able to stop them from advancing irregularly and firing, tho' they threw themselves in their front: that he is sorry to have occasion to add, as another reason to his little dependance on a part of his Europeans, occasioned by an uncommon instance of misbehaving in a detachment of about one hundred and twenty of them, which he had sent in the 13th and 14th with Captain Smith's battalion of seapoys to reconnoitre to the eastward of the city, in expectation of surprising some of the enemy there; that by some mismanagement they were fired upon from the walls of Patna, tho' without receiving any damage; but that the whole of the Europeans went immediately to the right about; that this may perhaps have arose from a general panic occasioned by the firing, but that he rather suspects it was done designedly by the foreigners, of whom the advanced guard was chiefly composed; that Captain Smith's seapoys notwithstanding proceeded in the course he had directed, but found nobody: that Captain Weymyss with the marines had joined him, but he left Captain Maugen on the other side, with the remainder of the detachment, where he has performed a very material service, in defeating a body of troops collected by the disaffected zemindars in the Sircar Sarang district, which he hopes will secure to us that country: that as the enemy have kept so long hovering about their present station, he thinks it probable they do not chuse to involve themselves further downwards; and if they continue to keep aloof, he shall watch their motions, and wait for an opening to attack them with the least risk and the most advantage: that he has received our letter of the 26th ultimo, with the letter for Shuja Dowla: that Nundcomar's late behaviour has been such as to remove almost entirely the suspicion of his being engaged in treachery, however faulty he may have been in other particulars: that ever since the appearance of the enemy he has, by his master's and his own earnest request, kept close to him (the Major) which is a strict argument that he was not concerned in any treasonable practices, as he was under his eye, and could not of consequence himself reap any advantage therefrom.

The President lays before the board the following Translates of Letters which he has received inclosed in one from the Nabob.

From Shuja Dowla to the Nabob.

Dated the 12th of May, 1764.

Formerly, when these provinces were in your possession, the English making an agreement with Meer Mahomed Cossim Cawn carried you to Calcutta, and appointed him to the government; afterwards they quarrelled with him, and brought you again from Calcutta; agreeably to the hearty friendship I have for you, I was much rejoiced at hearing this news; and you must accordingly remember the letters which I wrote to you some time ago. Upon your arrival on this side of Patna, I procured you the sunnuads from the King, and intended dispatching them to you, with a kellaat: in the mean time I received advice that the English were making a disturbance, and wanted to send you by force from Saont to Calcutta. Since, notwithstanding his Majesty had conferred honours upon you, and the hearty friendship I bear you is clearer than the sun, yet the English, regardless both of the royal favours and my friendship, were guilty of such unjustifiable behaviour, I therefore marched this way, not at Meer Cossim's desire, but because I could not suffer the King's country to be so ruined and destroyed, now that his Majesty has bestowed these provinces upon my son Aufshuph-ul-Dowla, who is your nephew.

nephew. Look upon yourself as the rightful manager of all the affairs of government, and deliver it from the daily insults to which it is exposed. Affairs shall not remain upon their present footing, nor shall the hand of any one be upon you; the districts which belong to the English I will get confirmed to them by the King, in case of their faith, obedience, and attachment.

From Rajah Beny Bahadre to the Nabob.

The negotiations which were some time ago carried on by Rajah Shitabroy, whether he spoke by your authority, or of his own head, went on successfully; but they were afterwards interrupted by the ministers of the court, who caused the preference to be given to the enemy's desires, and accused me of siding with you and the English. Hitherto I have remained silent, for want of an opportunity having offered. I have overset the cause of the enemy and his adherents: but whilst I am negotiating in this manner, I am uneasy, lest you and the English chiefs should refuse to act agreeably to my representations, and I should thereby fall into the utmost disgrace; I have therefore sent Chinta-byram to you with all expedition, who will fully inform you of every circumstance. If this affair meets with your approbation, be pleased to acquaint me with your pleasure, and, by the blessing of God, every thing will be happily settled, and whatever agreement I make will be complied with; if not, inform me so in plain terms, that we may act accordingly.

From the Nabob to Shuja ul Dowla, in Answer.

I have been honoured with your friendly letter. At the time when that tyrant, Meer Cossim, fled from these provinces to your Highness's dominions, the English were desirous of pursuing immediately, over the bridge which he had passed, in order to bring to justice for his violences and oppressions; but I forbade them, and prevailed upon them to encamp on Durgaouty Nulla, on this side the Carumnalla, for these four months past. What earnest and repeated solicitations have been made you, both by the English and myself; but you would by no means listen to our requests; though the intrigues of wicked men you have refused justice to the English, and have proceeded to these lengths. Although in the time of former Nazims the affairs of these provinces have always been negotiated at the imperial court through the means of the head buckiny, yet on account of my hearty attachment to your Highness, I have ever represented my affairs to you; and as you were several times graciously pleased to do me the honour of declaring that you would be answerable for my business, I set my heart at ease, in full confidence in your promises, and never made application to any other person; and the English, through my persuasions, were so faithfully attached to you, that they were ready to attend you, and to sacrifice their lives in your service. Now, likewise, if you will do them justice on that tyrant Meer Cossim, they will not be negligent in shewing their fidelity to you; and my attachment and hearty obedience will daily encrease.

From the Nabob to Rajah Beny Bahadre, in Answer.

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter, wherein you write that the negotiations which were carried on by Raja Shitabroy went on successfully, but were afterwards interrupted by the ministers of the court, who caused the preference to be given to the enemy's desires, and accused you of siding with me and the English: that till this time you had no opportunity of speaking on the subject; but now an opportunity having offered, you have overset the cause of the enemy and his adherents: that you are uneasy lest I and the English chiefs should refuse to act agreeably to your representations, and you should thereby fall into disgrace: that you have therefore sent Chintalyram, who will inform me of all circumstances: that if you meet with my approbation every thing will be happily settled, and whatever agreement you make will be complied with; if not, that I should inform you in plain terms, that you may act accordingly.

Chintalyram has acquainted me with all particulars, and I explained the whole to Major Carnac, the commander of the English army; who replied in the following terms: "When Meer Cossim fled out of this country into the Vizier's dominions, the English chiefs were desirous of pursuing him immediately, in order to revenge themselves on him; but in compliance with your desire, they halted at Durgaouty Nulla, on this side Carumnassa, and, for the space of four months, made continual complaints to the Vizier, requesting him to punish Meer Cossim for his oppressions and cruelties: his Highness, far from consenting to do us justice, even listened to the intrigues of the enemy, and complied with his desires: nevertheless, if he will now favour us, and either deliver Meer Cossim and Sumeroo into our hands, to be duly punished, or himself imprison them, in recompence for their crimes, the English are still ready to perform the duties of obedience and fidelity; but, till justice is done us, other matters cannot be treated of." In case his Highness will be kind enough to revenge the cause of the English, I likewise will not fail to shew forth a due obedience and attachment. With regard to what you write concerning your having overset the enemy's cause, and your being uneasy lest you should not gain my consent and the English gentlemen; in case you can prevail upon the Vizier to do justice, either way, as above mentioned, and will be answerable

for

for it, be assured that you will meet with our entire approbation, as you will be fully informed by Chentylaram.

Agreed, We write to Major Carnac, inclosing him copies of these letters, and acquainting him we find from them, that the enemy have made proposals for trading, and proposals have been given them, that we might be inclined to come to terms: that we advised him in our last, and now repeat, that we shall receive no proposals from Sujah Dowlah, neither would we suffer any of his messengers to come into our camp, or the Nabob's, unless Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters be sent delivered up: that the Nabob in his answer to Beny Bahadre's letter we must suppose has said in his (the Major's) name, more than ever he could assent to; but how far soever he may be made privy to this negotiation, we cannot help expressing our surprisè, that he takes no notice of it in his letter now before us. Further, in answer to his letter, that we have paid due regard to the reasons which he urges for having continued to act so long upon the defensive; but that we must say they do not carry the same weight with us: with regard to the Nabob, that he cannot possibly expect, nor can our whole army ever be allowed to remain in a state of inaction, merely to protect his person, especially when it is considered that this end may be as effectually secured by his retiring into Patna: that on this step, therefore, he must immediately determine, unless he should rather resolve to accompany our army, and take an equal chance with them in attacking the enemy: that the misbehaviour of the party of Europeans, in the night of the 13th and 14th, we hope may have been owing entirely to the unexpected fire on them from the walls of the city; but if, on the contrary, there is really any remains of mutiny or dissatisfaction among the troops, it is certain there is nothing so dangerous, or can tend more to encrease such a disposition, than waiting in inaction the attacks of the enemy: that this is a strong reason for pursuing the plan we have recommended of acting offensively; and a still stronger is, that if we allow the war to be protracted in this country, it will be impossible for us to supply him with the immense sums of money which are now required in defraying the expences of the army; for we already find ourselves greatly distressed to discharge the draughts from the paymaster, and answer the demands of other detachments, which have taken the field, with the current expences of the settlement: that the Nabob's welfare and interest being so intimately connected with ours, we think he cannot well refuse to assist us in this point, whenever he has it in his power; and that we therefore desire he will represent to him the present necessity, and endeavour to obtain a general order on the Naibs of Moorshedabad and Dacca, for the payment of whatever sums we may call for on our receipt: that in his letter he acknowledges to have received ours of the 26th ultimo, with the President's letter to Shuja Dowla; but does not mention his having sent it to him, that if he has not, we desire he will please to forward it according to our first intention, as we think it is proper that letter should be sent him at all events.

29th May 1764:

At a Consultation; P R E S E N T,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President.

Commodore Tinker,
John Spencer, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Hugh Watts, Esquire,
Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
Ralph Leycester, Esquire,
John Burdett, Esquire.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 19th instant, acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 7th, and 9th, and acquainting us, in answer to the latter, That he has long had in view the operation we recommend as the alternative, and thinks it bids the fairest for totally disconcerting the enemy; but that it cannot be begun till the arrival of Captain Wedderburn; by which time he also expects the waters will be risen; and will then, unless in the interim he has the good fortune to perform something decisive, set about putting it into execution: that Bulwant Sing he always suspected was only amusing him with the proffered treaty; and his conduct has demonstrated it so, for that he is personally with Shuja Dowla; and his troops were amongst the most forward in the last attack: that in the precautions we have taken to have him supplied with grain, and the advantage of the river, he shall be secure of provisions: that in his present situation, he finds no other inconvenience but the want of cavalry; and that he proposes, therefore, employing Mendee Ally Cawn, to raise a body of Moguls, amongst whom he has much interest, and to add to Mirza Shabar Beg's troops.

A P P E N D I X, No. 67.

The President lays before the Board, the following Translations of further Letters from the Nabob, &c. on the same Subject as those minuted on last Consultation.

From the Nabob.

Dated 15th May, 1764 (13th Zeccada of the 5th Year) received the 26th Ditto.

I have already sent you copies of letters which I have received from the Vizier of Rajah Beny Bahadre, and of my answers to them; by the contents thereof you must be acquainted with the King's having granted the three provinces to the Vizier's Son. At present Rajah Beny Bahadre and Assud Aly Cawn, brother to Golaum Aly Cawn, deceased, who is an old friend of the Vizier's, in consequence of his Highness's directions, have written to me in answer to my letters, to give up only the province of Patna. Copies of these letters, and my answers to them, I have sent enclosed, for your observation; when you are acquainted with the particulars thereof, be pleased to let me know what you think adviseable to reply to this demand, that if they again treat with me on this subject, I may write to them accordingly.

Copy of a Letter from Marajah Beny Bahadre, to the Nabob.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter, mentioning that in case the Court will revenge the cause of the English, you are ready to perform the duties of obedience and fidelity. The sentiments of friendship, which were before engraved on my heart, are not expressed in the contents of your letter; but I imagine you have good reason for writing in such a manner: out of the great regard I have long had for you, I entered on a negociation with you, notwithstanding your unfriendly behaviour. I was in hopes that in order to make amends for your past neglects, you would have given your consent, and settle things on a proper footing; all depends upon the blessing of God, and your and the English gentlemen's approbation; as there is a hearty friendship between me and Assud Aly Cawn, and every negociation is carried on with his concurrence; I have fully acquainted him with all circumstances tending to our mutual welfare, and he will write them for your information. Since you are a man of understanding and experience, you will doubtless give your consent to what he represents to you. In case of your approbation, be pleased to inform me thereof, that I may send him to you; if not, whatever is the will of God.

Copy of a Letter from Assud Aly Cawn to the Nabob.

I with Mharajah Beny Bahadre presented to the Vizier your letter in answer to mine, which I had the pleasure of receiving at 9 o'clock in the morning, and the Mharajah presented to him the letters which he had received from you, and at the same Mharajah Nundcomar's letters, and our hazzee were presented to him by Hofan Aly Beg Cawn; on perusal of them, his Highness was much displeas'd; and said to Mharajah Beny Bahadre and me, "When a person has put himself under the protection of the King and the Vizier, where is the justice and propriety of delivering him into the hands of his enemies, or imprisoning him? That they have made such demands. The contents of their letters can by no means be productive of good"—After many representations, his Highness declared his final resolution as follows: "Let the province of Patna be resigned, the authority rests with us, we will appoint whomsoever we please to the naibat of the province; when this point is agreed to, we will consider about punishing the enemy, and doing justice to the English; otherwise they must be rooted out and destroyed. Moreover his Highness has given strict orders that no one should correspond with you; but Mharajah Beny Bahadre and I have written you the particulars, agreeably to his Highness's and Mharajah's orders: consider them well, and send me such an answer, that these disturbances may be removed. Enclosed is a letter from the Mharajah.

Copy of the Nabob's Answer to Mharajah Beny Bahadre.

I received your letter wherein you write, that the sentiments of friendship, which of old were engraved in your heart, are not expressed in the contents of my letter; but you imagine I have good reason for writing in such a manner: that out of your regard for me you entered on a negociation with me; notwithstanding my unfriendly behaviour you were in hopes that I would now settle matters, in order to make amends for past neglects: that all depends upon the blessing of God, and mine and the English gentlemen's consent: that you have acquainted Assud Aly Cawn with all circumstances tending to our mutual welfare; that I shall be informed of them by letter from him, and you will send to me in case of my approbation; if not, whatever is the will of God.

Assud Aly Cawn's letter has acquainted me of the particulars of this affair. As I had the greatest confidence in your friendship, I did not expect you would have written to me in such a manner; I am in the utmost surprize at your making so unexpected a demand of me, and at your regarding my request, that the English may have justice done them, as contrary to the ties of friendship. Had you formerly promised to punish the enemy on condition of my assenting to so improper a demand as you have now made in Assud Aly Cawn's letter, my obedience

would not have carried me so far as to engage me in any thing productive of shame and repentance ; nor should I have neglected the care of honour. Since you are inclined to war, you will not be pleased with any reasonable or just proposal that I may make you. If such are your views, no agreement can be made, and till an agreement is made, the sending Assud Aly Cawn would be useless ; as for the rest, whatever is the will of God is best ; he that cannot procure justice from the King, will procure it from God. I have written an answer to Assud Aly Cawn's letter ; by that you will be acquainted with the particulars.

P. S. From the contents of your last letter, I perceive that what you said to me by Chintalyram, and what you wrote me in the letter which you sent by his hands, was all a dream.—Where such inconsistency appears, it is a difficult matter for a kingdom to flourish.—In all cases I am very ready to obey any reasonable and just command : a little attention and consideration is necessary on your part also.

Copy of the Nabob's Answer to Assud Aly Cawn.

I have been favoured with your letter, acknowledging the receipt of one from me ; and mentioning that you, with Mharajah Beny Bahadre, presented it to the Vizier ; and that at the same time my arzee to his Highness, and Mharajah Nundcomar's letters, were presented to him by Hofern Aly Beg Cawn : that he was displeased on perusal of them, and said to Mharajah Beny Bahadre and you, “ When a person has put himself under the protection of the King and the Vizier, where is the justice or propriety of delivering him into the hands of his enemies, or imprisoning him ? that they have made such a demand. The contents of their letters can by no means be productive of good : that it his Highness's final resolution that I shall resign the province of Patna : that he will appoint whomsoever he pleases to the naibat thereof : that when this point is agreed to, he will consider about punishing the enemy, and doing justice to the English, and that otherwise we must be rooted out and destroyed : that he has given strict order for no one to correspond with us but Mharajah Beny Bahadre, and you, and that you send me inclosed a letter from the Mharajah.” What shall I write to so unjust and unreasonable a demand ? How can I consent to a proposal so foreign from my own inclinations, and so contrary to the rules of friendship ? As his Highness has been pleased to rest his doing justice to the English upon so unequitable a condition, it is evidently his resolution, not to do them justice ; you could yourself represent in a proper manner the unreasonableness of this proposal, but that you are restrained by the fear of offending : I have by no means neglected the duties of obedience and fidelity : notwithstanding it has always belonged to the head buckshy to negotiate the affairs of these provinces, yet I placed my whole dependance upon his Highness the Vizier, and not to any one else ; and now this is the reward I reap. My letters contained nothing but a petition of justice, and professions of fidelity : since then his Highness is nevertheless offended at it, to what can this be attributed but to deceit and artifice ? Since my sincere and just representations are not consented to, but produce such unreasonable demands in reply, I shall remain silent in future ; if you think it unjust and improper to inflict due punishment on such a tyrant and murderer, on account of his having put himself under the protection of the King and Vizier, with what right do you order me to give up the province of Patna, which has so lately been confirmed to me by firmaunds and sunnuds under their seals ? With regard to what you write about me considering this affair, the past is gone ; the future is uncertain. This is my state at present ; what will it be to-morrow ? In case I now consent to this demand, what remains for me to do hereafter ?—Since such are his Highness's intentions, it is unnecessary and useless to carry on any further correspondence. With regard to the rooting us out, and destroying us, we depend on the blessing of the Almighty, and trust that he will fulfil our hopes. I have sent for your perusal, copies of two letters in answer to those received from Mharajah Beny Bahadre.

As by these letters it appears, that a correspondence, and steps to a negotiation are still carrying on between the Nabob and Shujah Dowla, we think it absolutely necessary to have a gentleman stationed at the durbar, to send us the necessary advice, on this and many other material points ; and as in the present situation of affairs it would be too much time lost to send a resident from hence ;

Agreed, Mr. Batson be appointed to attend constantly at the Nabob's court, and that we do write him the following instructions.

Sir,

As the constant attention which Major Carnac is at present obliged to pay to the motions of the enemies, and the operations of our own army, may prevent him from obtaining and sending us the necessary information of what passes from the Nabob's court, we have thought proper to appoint you resident at the Durbar : we direct therefore, that you enter upon this office immediately on receipt hereof, transmitting to us daily advice of every thing that occurs.

By the enclosed copies of some letters which have passed between the Nabob, Shujah Dowlah, Beny Bahadre, and others, you'll perceive that terms have been proposed for a negotiation ; but we have yet heard nothing on this subject from the Major ; we must desire you will inform

inform yourself, as far as you can discover, what may be the Nabob's motives and views in such a scheme, and what steps have been taken in it; for our own part we are resolved to enter into no treaty with Shuja Dowla, unless Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters, be first put into our hands, as a preliminary; you will therefore acquaint the Nabob that this is our resolution, assuring him we will accede to no treaty he shall make, on any other terms.

In our letter to Major Carnac of the 3d April last, we desired he would inform himself, and advise us of the state of the Nabob's finances, and how they are managed; the state of, the number, and expence of, his army; the names of the principal officers he employed, and depends upon, and of the principal persons about his court, and in his councils; we have also desired in later letters to the Major, that he would apply to the Nabob for general orders on the naibs of Moorshedabad and Dacca, to pay us whatever sums we may have occasion to demand, on our receipt, in order to assist in defraying our present heavy expences, and for tuncaws for twenty laaks of rupees towards the payments of losses from the restitution fund. The execution of all these points will now become your duty, and we desire you will exert your best endeavours to satisfy our inquiries, and obtain the orders and tuncaws as soon as possible; we should think a compliance with the money demands cannot subject the Nabob to any inconvenience, as he has had the time in his hands for making the heavy collections of the year, and no large disbursements that we know of.

We have acquainted Major Carnac of your appointment, and sent him a copy of these instructions, recommending to carry on any business he may have with the Nabob jointly with you.

We have only further to recommend to you the greatest vigilance and attention, and to desire that you will be particularly careful in conducting yourself towards the Nabob, in order to preserve as great a confidence as possible between his and our government.

As Mr. Batson may possibly have left Patna before these instructions can reach there;

Agreed, Mr. Billers do in that case take the duty of resident upon him, leaving the business of the Patna factory, as far as may be necessary, in charge of the second.

Agreed therefore, that another paragraph be added at the end of the instructions, advising of this our intention, and that the outer address be to Mr. Billers in case of Mr. Batson's absence.

Agreed, we write to Major Carnac, advising him of this appointment, enclosing him copy of the instructions, and recommending to him, agreeably thereto, to carry on any business he may have at the durbar, jointly with the resident:—further, in answer to his letter, that the measure of crossing over the river with part of the army, and carrying the war into Shuja Dowla's country, was only an alternative proposed on the supposition that it would not be in his power to bring the enemy to action; that this is far from being the case at present, as they have for some time past kept our army in a manner invested; and we would therefore by no means recommend that measure now, until he has first brought them to action on this side, and defeated them, and then of course he must pursue them, and prosecute the war in the most advantageous manner: that we have now repeatedly given him our opinion for attacking the enemy; but if he really thinks this measure impracticable, we desire he will acquaint us fully with his reasons, and what plan he would propose for bringing the war to an issue; and that we must beg he will be very particular in every circumstance, that we may be enabled to form a proper judgment, and co-operate with them to the utmost of our power: that we do not think any confidence can be proposed in Mendee Aly Cawn, or any other person that deserts from the enemy, and we therefore cannot approve of his proposal to place him at the head of a body of cavalry; on the contrary we must recommend his keeping a watchful eye over him, to prevent his engaging in any treacherous designs: that in raising the Mogul cavalry, we should chuse he should entertain only the inferior officers and private men, and give the command of them to Captain Spelman and the other former officers of our cavalry: that according to the country establishment, they are for the most part liable to be so defrauded of their pay by their jemautdar, which renders them remiss in their duty, and indifferent for the good of the service they are engaged in; whereas by becoming subject to our discipline, and receiving their pay in a regular manner, we may expect they will in a short time be attached to us and our officers, as much as our seapoys are.

H. WATTS,
SAMUEL MIDDLETON,
R. LEYCESTER,
JOHN BURDETT.

HENRY VANSITTART,
J. SPENCER.

Consultation, 7th June 1764.

The President lays before the Board the following Letter, which he has received from Mr. Billers.

Dear Sir,

I have received your favour of the 12th instant. On the 23d in the morning, the enemy left the ground where they have for some time laid encamped, and retired about three coss from our army, where they again pitched their tents; we have not been able to discover with certainty, whether

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whether the whole or only part of their forces remain there ; at least there is reason to believe, from the motion of their baggage and some other circumstances, that their intentions are to quit our neighbourhood.

Major Carnac having thought proper to fix the departure of the private letters from hence to two days in the week only; you will not be alarmed if the dauks do not arrive with you so frequently as usual.

I am, dear Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
WILLIAM BILLERS.

Patna,
the 25th May 1764

He further acquaints, that by a letter from the Nabob of the 25th May, he is advised that Shuja Dowla, dispirited by the ill success of his troops in the Sircar Serang country, and of those collected under the Rajah of Carrickpore, had broke up his camp the 23d, and was retiring towards his own dominions, but he (the President) is informed by other letters, that their army had retreated no further than Pulwarae the 28th, and that our army still remained in their first encampment.

Agreed, we do write to Major Carnac, advising him of the purport of Mr. Billers's letter, and the further information which the President has received: that this being the only intelligence we had received of such an alteration in our affairs in the Bahar province, we have not sufficient grounds for giving him any further instructions; but that we cannot help declaring ourselves highly offended at his neglecting to write to us, from the 19th to the 29th, after receiving our orders to write every day; and we must desire he will acquaint us with his reasons for this disobedience: that we also desire to know the reason for his having limited the departure of private letters from Patna to two days in the week, as by his own letter of the 19th, he apprehended no danger of our correspondence being interrupted; and it appears that this order was not issued till after the receipt of our directions to write daily, and after the enemy had quitted their encampment and retired from us: that we desire in future there may be no alteration made in the course of the dauks, and that the President, at our desire, has accordingly directed Mr. Billers to dispatch them every day as usual: that we shall hope for satisfactory reasons for his having suffered the enemy to retreat so much at their leisure without molesting them; and we should imagine it is unnecessary to repeat here the sentiments we have already so explicitly declared to him, forbidding any proposals for a negociation to be received, unless Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters, be first delivered up.

Consultation, 11th June, 1764.

Received a letter from Mr. Billers, dated the 31st ult. acknowledging receipt of our orders of the 21st, and acquainting us that the enemy had moved off, and, by the best intelligence he could get, were near the Soane.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 1st instant, acquainting us, that the enemy have been so continually shifting their ground round the city of Patna, at the distance of about four coss, that there was no possibility of judging their intentions; that he therefore could not address us, without the risque of deceiving us; and so various were their accounts, that each day's letter would have been a contradiction of the past; and that this has been the reason of his long silence: that it is probable, that the enemy's so frequent change of their position was in order to prevent his acquiring such a knowledge thereof, as would have enabled him to attack them with advantage; and that their cavalry has been so properly disposed of, that he could never reconnoitre without skirmishing, nor get near enough to make the necessary discoveries. That the enemy's keeping so short a distance from him was no doubt through the hope of being able to get into the city, or to carry off the Nabob by some treachery, and for the better opportunity of debauching our troops; and that his precautions have effectually defeated their schemes: that one of the Nabob's officers in the city had engaged to give the enemy admission at his post; he had him hanged at the place which he was appointed to defend. That three Frenchmen have got off to the enemy, a fourth was taken in the attempt, for which he ordered him instantly to be hanged, without the ceremony of the court martial; and that no attempt has been made since. That Shuja Dowla, finding himself deceived in the fond hopes he had of carrying all before him, has evidently, for some time past, wanted to introduce a negociation, in order that he might go back, and yet save his credit. That he has letters in proof thereof from most of his great men, which, he thinks, are dictated by Shuja Dowla, though his pride would not permit him to make the advance directly for himself. That he incloses us some of the original letters, with the copy of one which he has received from the King, mostly wrote in his own hand; and that he has wrote him the answer, which he has invariably given to all who have interfered: that he would hearken to no terms of accommodation whatever, unless Meer Cossim and Sombre were first delivered up to him. That, with regard to Captain Swinton, he has acquainted the King he would comply with his request, provided a person of the first rank amongst them was sent to remain with him as a hostage; that he was in expectation of some one being sent accordingly, but that the Vizier, he supposes, could not be

brought

brought to submit to his demands. That the whole marched off the 30th, and great part got to the mouth of the Soane that evening, and that he expected shortly to hear of their having crossed it. That he is selecting a detachment to be crossed directly over to the Gauzepoor country, under the command of Major Champion, where he shall order him to do all the mischief he can till the rains are set in, during which he may canton at Chupra, and the whole may then be ready to renew the campaign in the enemy's country the moment the season will admit of it.

That we are determined to prosecute the war against Shuja Dowla; and being of opinion that the rains will not be any impediment to the operations; but, on the contrary, with regard to receiving provisions and stores, rather a convenience, from the advantage of the rivers, we hereby direct, that he do immediately put the army in motion, leaving the necessary garisons in Patna and Mongheer, and cross the Soane, and pursue the enemy as far as the Ganges, opposite to Benaras, endeavouring, if possible, to bring them to an action. That in any operations on the other side of the river, it is our view to make as much advantage as we can, without lessning greatly the strength of our army, by the detachment that is sent; that they may therefore endeavour to take possession of the Gauzypoor country, and collect its revenues, to assist in defraying the expences of the war; that we desire the officer commanding may be instructed, and that it may also be observed as a general rule on all other occasions, to prevent any ravages being committed on the country, or injuries being done to the inhabitants; on the contrary, that all manner of encouragement and protection be given them, in order to gain their affections. That we have directed Captain Grant, with the two battalions of seepoys, and two guns, which are at Jelliagurree, to march on to Patna, from whence they may be ordered on such service as the Major may think proper. That having many necessary and material points to settle with the Nabob, we have wrote to him and Mr. Batson to come down to Calcutta, and have desired the Nabob to leave with the Major such part of his cavalry as he thinks may be of service, and recommended to him to discharge all the useless troops of his army; also to deliver into the Major's hands securities for the payment of two lacks of rupees a month, to defray the expences of the army.

Fort William, the 14th June 1764.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,

The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President.

Commodore Tinker,
John Spencer, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
Ralph Leicester, Esquire,
John Burdett, Esquire.
Mr. Watts indisposed.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 5th instant, acquainting us, that he forgot in his last address to acknowledge the receipt of our several letters of the 14th, 17th, and 21st ult. and that he has since received that of the 24th. That the plan he has pursued, has been to the full as disagreeable to them, as he finds it is to us; yet the state of our affairs seemed to require it, and so probably we would ourselves have judged, had we been upon the spot; that had he acted otherwise, he must have run counter to the unanimous sentiments of all the principal officers whom he consulted upon the occasion, which was more than he could answer to, where so much was at stake: that the event has in some measure decided in favour of this sentiment, as the enemy have been reduced to the necessity of withdrawing, without his putting any thing to the risk: that our army, if staunch, was a full match for the enemy, must by all be readily allowed; but it was generally believed, especially by such as had been witnesses of the former ill behaviour, that disaffection still prevailed amongst many of the Europeans, which was restrained from breaking forth, only through the fear of punishment, and the want of opportunity; and that a number would have deserted, but that it was rendered exceedingly difficult so to do, by the position he had taken, and the good look-out that was kept: that how far the spirit of mutiny is yet from being thoroughly quelled, we may judge from the proceedings of a general court martial held on two men, which he incloses: that he thinks it very natural the Nabob should be very desirous of holding the nezamat by virtue of the Royal phirmaund, the religion as well as education of all Musulmen teaching them to regard this as the only regular constituted authority; yet Meer Jaffier has not appeared to them to be of himself over forward for a negotiation: that in this particular he certainly has been influenced by Roy Dulub, who has all along been extremely desirous of one: that he well knows messages frequently passed between him and the enemy on the subject, but as this was not the proper channel, he gave himself little trouble about it, and deemed it unnecessary to give us any: that when offers were made to himself, the reality whereof he was assured of, he immediately communicated them, with his answers, which were conformable to our orders: that he deferred forwarding the letter from the President to Shuja Dowla, in hopes he might at length be induced to deliver up Meer

Coffin and Sombre, for the getting of whom into our hands, he persuaded himself we would with pleasure have sacrificed our resentment against Shuja Dowla; but as that point is not likely to be obtained, it will serve as an introduction of our detachment into his country, and he will take care to have it transmitted to him by the first safe opportunity, with one from himself to the same purpose: that the Nabob is very ready to make the several assignments we require, but wishes to have it deferred till his arrival in Calcutta, for which place he purposes shortly setting out, and is extremely anxious that himself should accompany him: that he only waits our permission to come down accordingly, to prepare for his passage home, which he is determined to take this season: that the enemy are all over the Soane, and Major Champion has crossed the Ganges, but his embarkation was a good deal retarded by the strong easterly winds which have of late prevailed: that the detachment consists of upwards of three hundred Europeans, rank and file, including the marines, and Captain Mangent's Company, three battalions of seapoys, with 5 six-pounders, and 2 or 3 smaller pieces: that he has gleaned the foreigners from this detachment, and would recommend their being disarmed (except some few, of whose attachment he is convinced) and sent to serve on board his Majesty's ships: that by this means a confidence may again be acquired in our troops, without which no vigorous measure can ever be undertaken.

This letter of the Major's having been fully considered;

Agreed, We do write him the following answer—That we think it absolutely necessary to proceed against Shuja Dowla without loss of time, nor stop till we have convinced him that we are capable of acting offensively as well as defensively; otherwise we shall without doubt be liable to have the provinces invaded, whenever the state of affairs in his own country will admit of his turning his thoughts this way: that we must therefore (with the exception herein after mentioned) repeat our orders of the 11th instant, for the army's crossing the Soane without delay; and we have great reason to believe, that the plan therein laid down will be rendered more effectual by the attacks which it is probable Shuja Dowla will receive from Gauzoordin-Cawn, the Jauts, and the Marattas, who are reported to be actually on their march to invade his country: that we have always been of opinion, and still continue to think, that the force under his command is quite sufficient to act offensively against Shuja Dowla; and that himself was of the same opinion, in his letter of the 17th of April, which was some time after the mutiny, and before he was joined by Captain Weymyfs's detachment: that we must also here repeat our sentiments, that a spirit of mutiny is much more likely to break out in an army acting upon a defensive, than an offensive, plan, however he mentions, that the principal officers have all along agreed with them in the expediency of acting defensively. We desire he will now communicate our orders of the 11th instant, and this letter, to the other field officers, the commandant of the King's troops of the Bombay detachment, and of the artillery, and the three senior captains, which with his own is in all nine voices, and let them give their opinions separately in writing, whether they think our plan practicable with the force at present under his command—If not, what addition of troops will be requisite, that we may reinforce them accordingly; it being absolutely necessary, for the reasons above mentioned, to act upon the offensive: that these opinions, after taking a copy, he will please to transmit immediately to us, and if two thirds of their opinions should concur, that the present force is insufficient for executing the plan proposed, we would not have the army advance further than the banks of the Soane, until the reinforcements arrive; and we desire he will, in such case, caution Major Champion not to advance so far as to be compelled to engage with a force too superior to his own: that such of the foreigners, particularly Frenchmen, whom he has reason to suspect of being mutinously inclined, we desire he will send down to Calcutta; and that we have ordered Captain Kinlock to march up immediately with his company: that we have already, oftener than once, expressed a desire of seeing the Nabob in Calcutta, and are glad to find he intends coming soon: that with regard to the Major's request, he has our permission to come down whenever he thinks proper, leaving all our instructions with Major Champion, for his government in commanding the army.

SAMUEL MIDDLETON,
R. LEYCESTER,
JOHN BURDETT.

HENRY VAN SITTART,
J. SPENCER,

At a Consultation, 21 June 1764; PRESENT,
The Honourable Henry Van Sittart, Esquire, President,
Commodore Tinker,
John Spencer, Esquire,
Warren Hastings, Esquire,
Randolph Marriott, Esquire,
Hugh Watts, Esquire,
Samuel Middleton, Esquire,
Ralph Leicester, Esquire,
Mr. Burdett, indisposed.

The Consultation of the 18th instant being wrote fair, was now read, and approved.

Received the following letter from Major Carnac, dated the 10th instant :—Myr Bychu has been again with me, and brought me letters from the King Munyr o Dowlah, and Shakir o Dowlah, with assurances that Myr Cossim should be arrested and punished; and Shuja Dowlah has himself wrote to me, declaring he would abide by what Munyr o Dowlah promised. I have returned with him this general answer: that nothing could procure them a reconciliation with the English, and their friendship, but the actual delivery to us of Myr Cossim and Sombre. The Nabob and his Ministers are of opinion that this will at least be consented to: I cannot say I flatter myself with so happy an event; yet, whilst there are the faintest hopes of these villains being consigned to our vengeance, surely we owe so much regard to the memory of our murdered friends and countrymen, to try to bring it about; to effect which, I think we ought readily to forgive Shujah Dowlah's invasion. I entirely concur with you, Gentlemen, that peace ought not to be made with him upon any other terms; and that he is desirous of an accommodation seems probable, from his having dispatched expresses to call to him Shitabroy, who is daily expected at their camp. Shujah Dowlah must come to a speedy determination, as the scene of war is now shifting towards his country, Major Champion having begun his march, though I fear he will not be able to proceed far, as the rains appear to be setting in, and our troops have suffered so much from the former campaign as not to have strength sufficient to bear the fatigues of another; however, they may be cantoned so near as to have it in their power, in case matters be not accommodated, to commence the campaign in the enemy's country early the next season, by which time it is to be hoped our army may be so weeded and reformed as to act with a confidence of success.

I have been favoured with your letter of the 29th ultimo. I shall give over all thoughts of employing Mendy Aly Cawn, as you disapprove thereof; but must beg leave to differ from you in opinion, that a serviceable body of cavalry can be formed upon the plan you propose; the Moguls, who are the only good horsemen in the country, can never be brought to submit to the ill treatment they necessarily receive from gentlemen wholly unacquainted with their language and customs. We daily see the ill effects of this among our seapoys, and it will be much more amongst horsemen, who deem themselves of a far superior class; nor have we a sufficiency of officers for the purpose. I am sorry to say, not a single one qualified to afford a prospect of success to such a project. Captain Spelman is entirely wore out, and no longer fit for service in the field.

Received two letters from Mr. Batson, dated the 9th and 10th instant; the former acquainting us, That he has taken charge of his office at the durbar; that a correspondence has been some time opened between the King, Shujah Dowlah, Beny Bahadre, and others, and the Nabob; and that Major Carnac has also received letters from them; that he finds the Nabob has an inclination to treat and come to an accommodation with the enemy, though there appears to him but few signs of sincerity on their part; neither can he conceive what motives or views the Nabob can have therein; that he conjectures he is desirous of making a friend of Shujah Dowlah, at present a troublesome and dangerous enemy to him, and that he wishes to see his interest strengthened by his alliance, rather than to depend upon us alone for support; and he supposes, for the accomplishment of these ends, he is willing to make considerable sacrifices: that in the fresh letters from the King, Shujah Dowlah, &c. they are very earnest for having Captain Swinton sent to them, in order to promote an accommodation; and they promise Meer Cossim shall be punished, but not delivered up, of which letters he will procure and send us copies; that the Nabob promised to give him an answer the next day to his application for general orders on the naibs of Moorshedabad and Dacca, and the 20 laaks of rupces towards the restitution fund; and that he shall inform himself as particularly as possible, and duly advise us on the other points recommended in his instructions, as well as of every thing that passes at the durbar, worthy our notice. In the second letter he informs us, that the Nabob says, he cannot give the general orders required, nor the money for the restitution fund, until the Poonca is past, which is to be fixed in a short time; Shitabroy is shortly expected, in order to carry on a treaty for an accommodation, though he knows not what good can be expected from it; and that the Nabob thinks Shujah Dowlah will demand the province of Bahar, in return for the delivery of Meer Cossim.

These letters having been read, and considered;

Agreed, We write the Major the following answer:

The object we have in view is the same as your's; that is to say, the obtaining the surrender of Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters, into our hands; but we always have been, and still continue to be of opinion, that we never shall carry on this point, or any other, by negotiation, unless our army is at the same time in condition, and actually in motion, to enforce the demand. In our last, we desired the opinion of the nine principal officers, whether they think our force sufficient to act offensively against Shujah Dowlah? If they do, a vigorous use of that force is the most certain way to obtain the concessions we require: if not, to treat is only to expose our own weakness; for it never can be supposed that Shujah Dowlah will give up points so much to his own dishonour, to an enemy, whom he is convinced is capable of acting
against

against him in all cases. Therefore we are of opinion that no good can come by treating, but that it may be productive of dangerous consequences, from the opportunity it may afford the enemy of carrying on treacherous designs under that cover. For these reasons, we have frequently, in former letters, forbid treating on any other terms than the preliminary before mentioned; and, for the further explanation of our sentiments, we now positively direct, that the next messenger who comes from the enemy's camp be sent back, with an answer in writing to Sujah Dowla, declaring plainly, That he is not to hope for a reconciliation with us on any other terms than the surrender of Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters; and that any person whatsoever, who afterwards may come to the camp with any other proposals, shall be imprisoned as a spy; and if, notwithstanding this declaration, any such should come, you are, without fail, to treat him accordingly.

As we perceive, by Mr. Batson's letters, that the Nabob seems much inclined to an accommodation, and thinks that Shujah Dowlah will probably require some concessions on our part, such even as the surrender of the province of Bahar; we judge it necessary to acquaint you that we will not consent to the giving of any money on the cessions of any territory, either as Jagheer or otherwise; and that nothing shall be stipulated on our part, in return for his compliance with our demands, but a promise, that we will not invade his country in return for his attack upon us, nor join or assist his enemy.

All these directions we mean shall be equally binding on the Nabob as yourself, our interests in this respect being inseparable; and we therefore direct, that no messages be suffered to pass between him and the enemy, nor treaty be carried on between them on any other terms than those prescribed to you; and of course, that no cessions of money or territory to Shuja Dowla be allowed of; you will accordingly acquaint the Nabob with the directions we have given you, with respect to any messengers from Shuja Dowla, desiring he will give the same answer to the first messenger who comes to him, and inform him that we expect he will treat all who may come afterwards in the manner we have ordered you.

With the copies of the letters you sent us from the King, &c. you omitted to forward copies of your answers, neither have you sent us the letters which Meer Cossim brought at his last coming; we desire you will send us those, as well as the copies of all your correspondence with the country powers, that after perusal they may be transmitted to the Court of Directors: We further desire you will send us a copy of the orders you have given to Major Champion; and that it may be always a rule, when any such considerable detachments are sent out, to transmit us a copy of the instructions given to the officer in the command.

You speak of Major Champion's carrying the war into Shuja Dowla's country as a measure to be pursued, if the rains do not prevent him: We desire to know the plan upon which you intend he should proceed; as we cannot conceive how you can suppose him, with the part of the army under his command, to be able to act offensively in Shuja Dowla's own country, when you with the whole army could not take the field against him here, or attack him when he was within a single march of the city of Patna; and how the whole army will be more able to act offensively after the rains than they have in this campaign.

Consultation 25th June 1764.

Received a letter from Major Carnac, dated the 16th instant, acquainting us that the detachment he ordered over the Ganges has procured the effect he expected from it; for upon advice of their having crossed the Dewa, and begun hostilities in the districts of Gauzypoor, Shuja Dowla has judged it necessary to retire towards his own country; that whilst he continued in the neighbourhood of the Soane the Major did not think proper to quit his station near Patna; but he now proposes crossing the Ganges himself immediately, though he fears himself the season is too far advanced for his being able to do much more than strike the alarm, the troops already beginning to feel the effects of acting in the rains.

Received two letters from the resident at the durbar, dated the 14th and 16th instant; the former inclosing a list of the principal officers employed at the Nabob's court; and acquainting us, that Nundcomar Roy is the person in whom he chiefly confides, and by whose advice he is guided in all principal affairs; and that next to him the Kinsmen Haken Beg are in the greatest trust: that the Kealiram, a person belonging to Shitab Roy, is come from the enemy with letters, and messages and letters are frequently coming; that as far as he can judge they are endeavouring to prevail on the Nabob not to take away the jagheers possessed by Shuja Dowla and other principal persons belonging to him and the King, and to prevent Major Champion's expedition against Gauzypoor from being put in execution. In the second he incloses a paper of news lately received from Delly, explaining the dispositions of the chief powers of Indostan towards one another, and confirms the intelligence contained in the Major's letter, as to Shuja Dowla's further retreat.

Shuja Dowla having now decamped from his last post on the other side of the Soane, and taken the rout towards his own country, there remains no kind of argument for the Nabob's making any longer stay at Patna: and as the points which we have to settle with him are of the most essential consequence for the security both of his government and our own;

Agreed,

Agreed, We write to Mr. Batson, desiring he will repeat to the Nabob for his coming to Calcutta in the most urgent manner, and prevail on him to set out without loss of time—in further explanation of the Company's orders in regard to the method of conducting the correspondence with the country government, and with a view to render their intentions in this point more effectual.

Consultation, 28th June 1764.

Received the following letter from Major Carnac, dated the 17th instant.

Some time after the dispatch of my address to you yesterday I received your letter of the 7th, together with its duplicate.

I have already assigned to you the reason of my so seldom writing to you; viz. that I was unwilling to deceive you, which I must have frequently done had I wrote daily, so various were the movements, and contradictory our accounts, of the enemy; whenever I had certain intelligence I never failed immediately communicating it to you.

It was natural enough to conjecture that the enemy, as they had not been able to effect any thing, would be for going away; and upon this conjecture Mr. Billers, I suppose, gave his information; for they had been only shifting their ground for several days, and did not actually move off till the 30th ultimo, nor did they take any Pulwarry road; and of this movement we were brought in doubt the next day by a pair of Hircarrahs, who declared they were just come in from them, and that they had drawn nearer to us. It was necessary to be fully ascertained in so material a point before I wrote to you: by a reconnoitring party I found these Hircarrahs had grossly imposed upon me (I have some suspicion they were tutored so to do) and this occasioned a delay of one day in addressing you.

So many letters were daily dispatched from camp, that our dauks, in case of being intercepted, had it not in their power to secrete their packet; I therefore, upon advice that the Kiviningpur Rajah had crossed some people over the river, thought it best to limit the private correspondence to twice a week, that so the public letters might have a better chance of passing, which were still to go in the usual course; so that Mr. Billers had no occasion to delay the forwarding his letter to the President: I don't recollect the exact time when I recommended this regulation to take place, but it was soon discontinued.

I judged the pushing a strong detachment over the Ganges, and entering the enemy's country by that side, to be the most effectual means of precipitating them homewards; and this we see has answered. I doubt, if they had not been obliged to look to their own frontier, whether they would have so quickly quitted ours; and as their principal force consists in cavalry, which appears to be extremely good, and to be well versed in what their peculiar advantages consist, they might have led us about the country, without aiming to any thing decisive.

Read the letter inclosed from Major Champion to Major Carnac.

Agreed we write the following answer to the letter from Major Carnac.

That we are resolved to continue the war against Shuja Dowla, until he submits to the conditions we have prescribed; viz. the delivery of Meer Cossim, Sombre, and our deserters; that the object therefore of the detachment on the north side of the Ganges must be to prevent Shuja Dowla from crossing the river, by destroying any bridges he has made, or may attempt to make, over it; taking possession at the same time of as large tract of his country as they can, and, if possible, of the city of Benaras, and collecting the revenues; but avoiding all manner of plunder and ravage; particularly should the detachment advance so far as to seize the city of Benaras, special care must be taken that no plunder is committed there: that we suppose the remainder of the army which was left at Patna, has, agreeably to our orders of the 14th, advanced to the banks of the Soane; if not, that this will be a necessary caution, as long as Shuja Dowla remains on this side the Ganges, to prevent his recrossing into Bengal; and the army likewise, from that station, will be nearer at hand to join Major Champion, or to reinforce him, in case Shuja Dowla should have marched so fast as to get to Benaras before him, or any other circumstances render it necessary: that whenever Shuja Dowla shall submit to the terms above mentioned, we desire our troops may be withdrawn out of his territories.

No. 68.

Fort William the 20th February, 1765.

To John Johnstone,
 Ascanius William Senior,
 Samuel Middleton,
 Ralph Leycester, Esquires.

Gentlemen,

HAVING thought proper to nominate you a deputation from the board to get the treaty with the new Nabob, Najim ul Dowla, and some consequent arrangements and instructions executed, we herewith enclose the treaty in two copies, executed on our part; and when the Nabob has acceded to the articles on his, you will deliver our copy to remain in his possession, and return the other to us; you will afterwards see him seated in due form on the musnud, and cause proclamation to be made of his accession at the city, and places adjacent, giving us immediate advice thereof, that we may have him also proclaimed at Calcutta, the army, and the subordinate factories.

For your more particular information and government on the subject of your deputation, and the other instructions we have to give you, we refer you to the enclosed extract from our Consultation of the 14th instant, and recommend your proper attention to the whole, and that you will keep us punctually and fully advised thereon.

With respect to the business intended to be allotted between Roydulub and Nundcomar, we have however to desire here, that when you have made such a division thereof as you think will, agreeably to our intentions, bring their powers nearly upon an equality, you will advise and explain the same to us for our further instructions, before it is carried into execution, and in the mean time the collections are to be continued in the hands they now are.

The late Nabob having thought proper to consider the services of the Squadron under the command of Mr. Tinker, by giving them a grant for twelve laaks and a half of rupees, we promised our assistance for procuring the punctual payment thereof, so far as it might appear to us in his power consistent with the performance of the engagements of his treaty; we have therefore further to recommend your engaging the new Nabob to a confirmation of the grant; and herewith we enclose a copy of the terms to be left with the President at the durbar, that he may afterwards press the payments as they become due. We understand that a small balance of the donation to the army remains still unpaid, which you will therefore also endeavour to procure the immediate discharge of.

The officers in command of the troops stationed at the city will receive the orders of the deputation through Mr. Johnstone.

We are,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servants.

No. 69.

Extract of Company's separate Letter to Bengal, 24 December 1765.

Par. 5. **T**HE war being begun against Cossim Aly Khan, we approve the measures you took in conducting it till the battle of Buxar. But the demand of the Gauzeepoor country, the undertaking to conquer Souja Dowla's country for the King, and the treaty you have made with him, we shall give our opinion of separately. The demand you made of having Cossim Aly Khan, Sombre, and the deserters, delivered up to you was consistent with the objects of the war, and your success entitled you to add reparation for the expences of the war; but to demand the Gauzeepoor country, a frontier surrounded with warlike people, we conceive was a measure by no means adequate to the end proposed, and absolutely a contradiction to our repeated directions not to extend our possessions. The anxiety we feel on this occasion is not to be compared to what we suffer at the engagement you have entered into with the King to conquer Souja Dowla's country for him; had you pushed on after the battle of Buxar, the force of your arms must soon have brought Souja Dowla to consent to your terms; but giving away his country rendered him desperate. In his conference with Major Munro, he plainly tells you he can expect no assistance till you have conquered the country, and then he shall have friends enough; and the issue, as far as your advices reach, is such as we imagined; you are entangled by your connections with him, seem to doubt whether you can accept even your own terms from Souja Dowla, and in the mean time your new ally so far from a support is even to be supported in the expences of his household; and Nudjeef Cawn, the only man the King pretended to a connection with, by your last advices, is marching against you.

Par. 17. We are much concerned for the death of Jaffir Ally Cawn, the more so for the critical juncture at which it happened, while the army was at so great a distance; the acknowledging his son seems to have been the most prudent measure for preserving the tranquillity of the country; we wish this circumstance may have checked your views of conquering Souja Dowla's country for the King; a scheme which seems to exclude all possibility of peace, which alone can make our successes profitable; nor are we without our apprehensions that you may be led on to support the King in his claims to the whole empire; for as you have, by taking possession of the Gauzeepoor country, deviated from our repeated orders, and departed from the spirit of our political views, not to enlarge our possessions, so we know not what bounds can stop you when our orders prove ineffectual.

Par. 18. The converting the temporary assignment of five lacks per month into a perpetual one would be an enlargement of our revenue that would be flattering indeed, could we persuade ourselves it was consistent with that permanency which is our only object, and with the peace of the country; but unless we find you adopt some system which clearly marks out the barriers of the country government and ours, how they may aid and support each other, and unite their strength against all foreign enemies, we shall deem all those advantages merely temporary, and this height of prosperity subject to a fatal reverse, the first check our arms may meet with.

Par. 19. As our servants have too readily laid hold of every opportunity to exact contributions, or procure donations from the late Nabob, we hope nothing of this kind has happened upon the succession of his son, the present Nabob; however we would have you make the strictest enquiry therein, and inform us of every circumstance, if any such exactions have been made, and in particular of the names and conduct of all and every the several persons concerned, and oblige them to refund the amount thereof into the Company's cash for our further orders.

No. 70.

Extract of Company's Letter to Bengal, 19th February 1766.

27. **W**ITH respect to the treaty with Nazem-o-Dowla, it is proper here to insert at length the 5th article, which runs in these words: "I do ratify and confirm to the English, the privilege granted them by their phirmaund and several husbulheokums, of carrying on their trade by means of their own duffuck, free from all duties, taxes, or impositions, in all parts of the country, excepting in the article of salt, on which a duty of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is to be levied on the Rowana or Houghly market price."

“ price.” This fifth article is totally repugnant to our orders contained in our general letter, by the Kent and Lapwing, dated the 1st of June 1764; in which we not only expressed our abhorrence of an article in the treaty with Meer Jaffier, literally corresponding with the present 5th article, but in positive terms directed you, in concert with the Nabob, to form an equitable plan for carrying on the inland trade, and transmit the same to us, accompanied by such explanations and remarks as might enable us to give our sentiments and directions thereupon. We must remind you too, that in our said general letter we expressly directed, that our orders in our letter of the 8th February preceding, which were to put a final and effectual end to the inland trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, and in all other articles produced and consumed in the country, should remain in force until an equitable and satisfactory plan could be formed and adopted: as therefore there is not the least latitude given you for concluding any treaty whatsoever respecting this inland trade, we must and do consider what you have done as an express breach and violation of our orders, and as a determined resolution to sacrifice the interest of the Company and the peace of the country to lucrative and selfish views.

This unaccountable behaviour puts an end to all confidence in those who made this treaty, and forces us to resolve on measures for the support of our authority and the preservation of the Company. We do therefore pronounce, that every servant concerned in that trade stands guilty of a breach of his covenants with us and of our orders; and in consequence of this resolution, we positively direct, that if that treaty is now subsisting, you make a formal renunciation, by some solemn act to be entered on your records, of all right under the said treaty, or otherwise, to trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco; and that you transmit this renunciation of that part of the treaty in form to the Nabob in the Persian language. Whatever government may be established, or whatever unforeseen circumstances may arise, it is our resolution to prohibit, and we do absolutely forbid this trade of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, and of all articles that are not for export and import, according to the spirit of the phirmaund, which does not in the least give any latitude whatsoever for carrying on such an inland trade; and moreover we shall deem every European concerned therein, directly or indirectly, guilty of a breach of his covenants, and direct that he be forthwith sent to England, that we may proceed against him accordingly; and every native who shall avail himself of our protection, to carry this trade on without paying all the duties due to the government, equally with the rest of the Nabob's subjects, shall forfeit their protection, and be banished the settlement; and we direct that these resolutions be signified publicly throughout the settlement.

No. 71.

Copy of the 58th Paragraph of the General Letter from Bengal, dated 12th November 1761.

WE directed Major Carnac and Mr. M'Gwire, and afterwards Colonel Coote and Mr. M'Gwire, to apply, as soon as Shah Allum should be acknowledged King, for sunnuds for the Company's possessions and privileges in Bengal; viz. the Zemindary of the Purgunnahs granted by the late Nabob Jaffier Aly Cawn, the jagheers of the provinces of Burdwan, Midnapoor, and Chittagong, granted by the present Nabob, and the confirmation of the freedom of our mint; we directed also application to be made at the same time for the sunnuds for the provinces of Arcot, in the name of the Nabob Aly Verdi Cawn, otherwise called Mhamud Ally Cawn, with whom we have been so long allied:—these requests were made by Major Carnac, who was detached by Colonel Coote to escort the King to the borders of the province; and the King wrote upon the papers of requests, that they should be granted whenever a proper *pekkaush* or tribute was remitted. The Major transmitted to us copies of the said papers of requests with the King's superscription; and advised us at the same time, that the King had offered to confer on the Company the duancee of Bengal, on condition of our being answerable for the royal revenues; but as we are sensible that our accepting of this post would cause jealousy and ill will between us and the Nabob, we thought it more prudent to decline it; all which you will observe more fully in our Consultation of the 4th July.

Copy of 55th Paragraph of the Company's General Letter to Bengal, dated 9th March 1763.

Your refusal of the duancee of Bengal offered by the King was certainly right, and we are well satisfied with the just and prudent reasons you give for declining that offer: however, it seems something extraordinary to us, that at the time the King makes this advance, he should return the applications made to him for the sunnuds, to confirm our privileges and possessions in Bengal, granted by the late and present Nabob, in so loose and unsatisfactory a manner, and even to require a *piscah* or present before he passes the order in due form. The great services we had rendered his Majesty, and the generous treatment he met with from us, as well as from our ally the Nabob, during his stay at Patna, surely claimed a more distinguished treatment, and at least a full grant of our request, without such an
expensive

expensive demand annexed; the time and manner of the refusal seem likewise very extraordinary; your applications being returned at the very juncture Major Carnac was escorting him to the Carumnassa, or borders of the province; a service which must then be fresh in the King's memory; and therefore we think there is reason to apprehend the King is not so cordially attached to us as we might have expected: however, if you judged the obtaining such sunnuds to be absolutely necessary, you have, we doubt not, continued your application to have them perfected. It was a prudent consideration in you to add to your applications on this subject our ally, Ally Verdi Cawn, otherwise called Mahmud Ally Cawn, as Nabob of Arcot, which we suppose you have or will continue to do when you think proper to move again in this affair; and should the King succeed in his pretensions to the throne, the sooner the grants are obtained, the less we apprehend will be the expence attending it.

No. 72.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company
of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. **T**HIS ship, the Admiral Stevens, having been purchased to proceed to you as a packet, in consequence of a recommendation from the Select Committee, we embrace the opportunity of transmitting you by her some general necessary informations since our last address of the 11th of March by the Bute.

2. You were then advised of the arrival of the Lord Anson, but that we had not as yet received any accounts either of the remaining transport, the Prince of Wales, or of the Kent; the former imported with us at last on the 17th of April, having for the purpose of refreshing her recruits put in at St. Salvadore, on the Coast of Brazil, and the Cape of Good Hope. This indeed considerably retarded her, but the good consequences thereof were happily experienced by the people, almost all of them having been landed here in perfect health: the Kent stopped also at Rio Janeiro, and the latter place; and having at Lord Clive's particular desire put in afterwards at Fort St. George for a few days, and landed, at the request of the president and council, the recruits on board, about 50 in number, arrived with us on the 3d of May, when his Lordship, being accompanied to town by a proper deputation, took charge of the government from Mr. Spencer: a letter of thanks was at the same time addressed to this gentleman for the regard he had shewn to the company's affairs, in continuing in the mean time to hold the charge: and at the return now of the proper season he will proceed immediately to his station at Bombay: Messieurs Sumner and Sykes having also arrived, took their seats at the board, according to their appointments.

3. We have only yet this season had the honour to receive your commands of the 21st of November last by the Tilbury, which ship imported at Fort St. George the 15th of July: the Horsendon and Royal Captain arrived there also the 23d and 24th of June; and we since learn proceeded on their destination for China the 19th of July, the Tilbury being to follow them about the beginning of this month: we have not received any intelligence of your other expected ships on this side, but we are apprised from Fort Marlbo' that the Thames and Grosvenor imported with them on the 28th of June and 4th of July.

4. We have further the pleasure to acquaint you with the safe arrival of the Earl of Middlesex at Fort St. George, the 27th of May, from Fort Malbro' and Batavia, having been under a necessity of returning to the last port, after an unsuccessful attempt to gain her passage against the northerly monsoon; and as this ship was now on high demorage, the gentlemen thought it would be for the interest of the company to return her to Europe, and resolved to keep her accordingly for their first dispatches. We have been informed from Fort Malbro' of her having with them from the French islands the remainder of the prisoners of war, who were left there, and chose to return.

5. The Caernarvon sailed from Fort St. George the 28th of March, and the Asia having been dispatched from Bombay on the 13th of April, to call on the coast for timbers and plank there provided for us, arrived here the 3d of June; we were at the same time advised that the Calcutta and London were under dispatch to Europe from the presidency, and of the departure of the York and Talbot from Tellicherry for Canton, on the 30th of April: from Fort St. George we learn that the Duke of Gloucester, Duke of Richmond, and Earl of Elgin, bound likewise for that place, were at Batavia by the last advices they received from thence, dated the 27th of April: the Argo frigate, with the consignment of treasure to the supra cargoes, having sailed by the Pitt's passage on the 29th of January; and from these gentlemen we are informed, under date the 5th of March, of the arrival with them of the Princess Augusta on the 12th of January, and that she was then under dispatch to you together with the Earl of Lincoln.

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6. Having taken immediately under consideration your advices with those we had before received from the gentlemen at Fort St. George and Bombay, and from Canton, with respect to the ships which would be on hand this season, and attending to the state of our investment, and other necessary circumstances, we thereupon formed a disposition of them, which is entered for the sake of reference after our proceedings; and from which you will please to observe, that besides this packet, carrying a cargo chiefly of fine goods, and the Earl of Middlesex under dispatch from Fort St. George, we expect to provide for five from this side; viz. the Pacifick, Grenville, Ponsborne, Falmouth, and Speke; of these the former will proceed to that presidency in the month of December with a supply of salt petre, which they have requested may not be less than 200 or 250 tons, as the Middlesex would take off most of what they had on hand, to be returned from thence home in February: the three following we shall certainly return direct from hence fully laden; and we hope our investment will enable us to send you the remaining one also; but if this should not be the case, we propose employing her to carry the annual supplies from hence to Fort St. George for Fort Malbro', and then proceed on to China, to bereturne to you at the season of 1766-7.

7. The great assistance which the gentlemen at Bombay received from us last season, in the article of salt petre, and what we mean to supply them with this, at least 25,000 maunds, will, we expect, enable them to return home the four ships consigned to their side, as well as the Kent of last year, which we shall immediately send round to them; her late arrival having prevented her proceeding last season: we also intend returning thither the Asia, leaving to that presidency her further disposal, either by dispatch to Europe, or providing her with a stock, and sending her to be returned from China in the following season.

8. This plan however, we must observe, is made upon a supposition, that the Falmouth comes out on the same terms and footing as the rest of the ships, in which case we conclude it may stand good; but, if on the contrary, she is an old vessel for sale in India, we can forward home the whole of our investment by encreasing the bale cargoes of the other three from one thousand or twelve hundred bales, to fourteen or fifteen hundred; and lest any accident should happen to either of these, we shall defer the dispatch of the Asia till the beginning of November, when we hope to be upon a certainty, and shall determine accordingly.

9. The consignments to the supra cargoes at Canton, for the service of this season, are so very considerable, including the remittance of ten lacks of rupees made to them by the Argo, and what the gentlemen at Fort St. George advise us they have sent them by the Tilbury, Horsendon, and Royal Captain, being pagodas 357.237.6.66. That they will be able to return home all their ships, and the three of last year beforementioned, to be at Batavia, as well as the York and Talbot from the Malabar Coast, with cargoes to the full stipulated amount in your present commands of 1st. 30,000. for each, and upon a computation from their advices, have afterwards remaining in their hands a large balance, near 1st. 120,000, in order to begin their investment for the following year.

10. Having thus considered the subject, we gave immediately the necessary advice to the gentlemen at Fort St. George and Bombay.

11. On the arrival of the Kent the former presidency borrowed from Mr. Sumner, to assist in making up their consignments to the supra cargoes, the quantity of 38,000 ounces of Spanish silver, to be repaid him here, at the valuation in our mint, making ARs.90,437. 2. 9. We afterwards, upon their representation, that the gentlemen at Bombay depended upon them to complete the stock for the Talbot and York, which was sufficient near five lack of rupees, offered to assist them therein, by drafts, as far as four lack: and if the Asia should, as we at present intend, proceed to Bombay, we shall, in case of her after unavoidable destination to Canton, make further provision for that branch of your commerce, by a remittance of two or three lacks.—We must here add, that we pay due attention to your fresh instructions and commands respecting it, and shall, on all occasions, afford it every assistance in our power.

12. Reckoning upon the Asia's proceeding to Bombay accordingly, she is now receiving 400 tons, or 12000 maunds, of the proposed supply of salt petre; and we have also shipped on the Kent 100 tons, or 3000 maunds; we have likewise supplied that presidency with money since our last advices, to the amount of above five lack of rupees, and shall continue honouring such further drafts as they may make on us, either by immediate payment, or interest bonds, which they advise they shall leave to our option, on the terms on which they grant them.

13. The Bute did not receive her dispatches from Ingelee till the 25th of March, owing to very tempestuous weather, and other difficulties and impediments in receiving on board the latter part of her cargo: after all, 280 bales and chests were returned to town, besides 79 bales, which we are sorry to mention were lost in one of the sloops as she

was waiting to deliver them, making together tons 64. 10. These Captain Maitland afterwards represented to us he was unable to take in, on account of the detachment of troops we had put on board the ship, and the large quantity of baggage they had carried with them, for which we had refused to make him any allowance of tonnage; but we beg leave to refer you, for a full relation of all the circumstances, to his letters, and the master attendant's and export warehouse keeper's reports, entered on our Consultations of the 25th of March, and 1st and 4th of April; upon the last of which you will also particularly observe a protest and counter protest on the occasion from the master attendant, and Captain Maitland, together with our remarks and sentiments; and we shall here only add further, that the returned bales and chests are now sent you by the Admiral Stevens, marked as we directed with the letter B, to denote, in distinction from the rest of the cargo, their having been intended for the Bute, as also the warehouse keeper's account of them, and of the lost bales referred to in his reports.

14. We mentioned to you in our last address from the secret department the arrival of Mr. Law, the French Commissary on the coast; and we are now to inform you, that having received the restitutions to be there made to that nation, he proceeded to Bengal, and on the 15th of June was put in possession of Chandernagore by Mr. George Van Sittart, whom we appointed on this occasion the commissary for his Britannic Majesty; having afterwards advised us of the nomination of his deputies for receiving the subordinate settlements at Sydadab, Dacca, Jugdea, and Balafore, the necessary appointments were also made on our part, and the two first places have been accordingly restored.—We have yet heard nothing concerning Jugdea; and with respect to the Balafore factory, some objections have occurred upon its not being in the condition required by the terms of the treaty, which has prevented its being yet made over: Mr. Law has, however, now given his orders for its being received in its present state, leaving those circumstances to be adjusted between us upon further accounts from our respective commissaries; he has further set forth the title of the French Company to two spots of ground at Singhia and Chuprah, near Patna, which we have advised him should in like manner be restored, upon his appointment of a person to receive them. We transmit you in the packet, for your information, copies of the acts of restitution of Chandernagore, those for the other places being the same, only with the necessary alteration of terms.

15. Upon this occasion we received a representation from Mr. Law, touching the inconveniences and difficulties the French company and their agents would be exposed to from our direct adherence to the terms of the treaty; which restrict them from erecting fortifications, or entertaining any troops in these provinces, accompanied by the copy of an answer on the subject, the original whereof he had before communicated to Lord Clive, which the minister for the India affairs had on his departure from France received from the Secretary of state; he therefore expressed his hope that we would be induced to allow them a small number of armed Europeans and seapoys, with a few pieces of cannon, and a proper lodgement to which they might retire in case of any surprize from the country people, assuring us particularly that he meant not to elude in the least by this application, the effect of the conditions of the treaty.

16. Having properly considered the same, we agreed, with a reserve to ourselves of the right of withdrawing the terms whenever we might have reason to apprehend an improper use of them, to permit one officer and twenty European infantry, with one hundred seapoys, to be entertained at Chandernagore, and fifty of the latter at each of the subordinats; also to allow them a wall at Chandernagore, such as they formerly had at Cossimbuzar, and twenty pieces of cannon, not of a heavier weight than six-pounders, for the purpose of salutes on the usual occasions; which would at the same time fully answer the end of imposing a proper respect on the country people: we further agreed to allow them five artillery men, for working these guns: And having communicated our determination to Mr. Law, we received his thanks in the name of the nation for the same; and a further assurance that no improper use would be made of any indulgence we might grant them.

17. Having also received an application from him, soliciting a supply of eight or nine thousand maunds of salt petre, on the same terms as the Dutch, to assist in compleating their cargoes from hence and their other settlements; and finding by advices from Patna that our investment this season would enable us without any inconvenience to comply therewith, we agreed to spare them accordingly the last mentioned quantity, and gave orders for their being furnished with seven thousand maunds immediately, and the remaining two thousand in the month of December; remarking, however, to Mr. Law at the same time, that no right to any part of this branch of commerce was from hence to be established, though we should with equal readiness assist the Company when it could be done with the same convenience.

18. Immediately upon the arrival of Lord Clive we proceeded to fix the appointments of the field officers, agreeable to the establishment in your commands of the 1st of June 1764, and General Carnac and Colonel Smith were in consequence stationed to the 1st and 2d battalions.

19. The command of the 3d being vacant by the death of Major Knox, it would in course have devolved to Sir Robert Fletcher; but Lord Clive informing the board that although Sir Robert Baker was only mentioned in the letter as commandant of the artillery, he knew from what had passed between him and some of the gentlemen of the direction, respecting the appointments, that it was their intention he should have the choice of succeeding to one of the battalions

in case of a vacancy; and being at this time desirous of having the 3d it was agreed to appoint him thereto accordingly.

20. Sir Robert Fletcher became in consequence Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st battalion; and it was also agreed to promote Major Peach to the 2d, till the point of priority in rank between him and Major Champion was determined by your answer to the applications made to you, respecting that gentleman and Sir Robert Fletcher.

21. Proceeding then to the 3d appointment of Lieutenant Colonel, Lord Clive further informed the board, that on his arrival at the Cape he found there on his passage to Europe, Major Charles Chapman, of his Majesty's 79th regiment, and that Messrs. Sumner and Sykes with Colonels Smith and Barker represented to him, that as the number of field officers was not complete according to the establishment, and opportunity offered in their opinion of doing the Company great service by introducing that gentleman as one, having on account of his particular merit been solicited by the president and council to remain at Fort Saint George in the command of their troops under General Laurence, which although he had declined, he was willing to come to Bengal with his Lordship, provided he had rank next after Major Peach—That he joined in sentiment with those gentlemen, and brought the Major here accordingly under such a promise; and his Lordship therefore proposed he should have this appointment, not doubting in the least your confirmation thereof.

22. Some debate passed at the board on this occasion; upon which his Lordship informed them, that in virtue of the power vested in him, for which he referred to the 36th paragraph of the general letter, we should certainly grant the commission in question, but would wish to have their concurrence, and desired the sentiments of the several members might be collected, which you will find recorded accordingly on the proceedings; and Major Chapman was appointed the 3d Lieutenant Colonel.

23. Majors Champion and Stibbert, and Captain Hugh Grant, were afterwards appointed the Majors of the three battalions; and in consideration of the long and faithful services of Captain Christian Fisher, and as the former objection to promoting him was now removed by the appointment of so many officers of superior rank, a major's brevet was also granted to him.

24. Before Colonel Smith proceeded to join the army we received a representation from him, touching his appointments at this presidency; setting forth, That he was positively assured he was to succeed to all the same, both civil and military, which General Carnac now holds in the service; and expressing therefore his surprise at finding himself on his arrival precluded from the former, by the 19th paragraph of your letter; which expressly says, that after the death or departure of the general, no officer shall have a constant seat at the board without your leave, but only when military affairs are under consideration; we beg leave to refer you to the representation itself, of which a copy is transmitted in the packet, and we request your orders in answer; taking at the same time liberty to offer it as our opinion to you, that the commanding officer of the troops should upon all occasions have a seat at the board.

25. The select committee agreeably to your appointment was also formed directly upon the Kent's arrival; their powers were therefore communicated to our subordinate factories, and to the presidencies of Fort Saint George and Bombay, and the necessary directions given in consequence to the former, to obey all orders which they might receive from them; and the committee have from time to time laid before the board such of their proceedings as they judge advisable and proper.

26. The covenants which you were pleased to send out regarding the acceptance of presents from the country government, not having been at this time subscribed to, this was the subject of their first consideration; and they thereupon communicated to the board their opinion that the same should be immediately executed in the form prescribed by the members of the council, and the other servants of the Company, which was conform'd to accordingly by the members present; and the secretary was ordered to prepare and transmit sets for the several other gentlemen, both in the civil and military service: Those to the former have been all returned duly executed, as well as the greatest part of the latter; but the distance the army has been from us, and the officers being variously dispersed, has occasioned some trouble and delay in getting these completed, and we wait the remainder of them to forward to you the whole together.

27. The next proceedings which the committee communicated to the council contained their resolution for enforcing immediately the board's orders with respect to the return of the European agents from up the country, granting them a further indulgence of two months, to the 1st of August, which was afterwards prolonged to the 21st of October: Public notice was accordingly given of this resolution; in consequence whereof, we understand many are arrived in Calcutta, and we shall take care that the rest return also in due time.

28. The subsequent proceedings, for some time, were upon enquiry into the circumstances of some sums which had been received from the present Nabob, and others by the gentlemen who composed the deputation for the execution of the treaty with his Excellency, on the decease of his father, viz. Messrs. Johnstone, Senior, Middleton, and Leycester; as also by the other members at the presidency, Messrs. Spencer, Plavdell, Burdett, and Gray upon the same occasion. We beg leave to refer you to the proceedings themselves on this subject, and to the several minutes and defences entered thereupon on the registers of council and of the committee, and request your sentiments and determination on the whole.—We have only here to notice to you in particular, that Mr. Johnstone has in consequence, and for other reasons set forth in his minute, resigned your service, and proceeds home by this opportunity.

29. At our consultation of the 24th of June, Lord Clive entered a representation and complaint against Mr. Burdett, for having in his office of Zemindar confined and detained, after application for his release, a Ghaut-Manjee, or overseer of boats, employed by his Lordship on the occasion of an intended expedition up the country, to take upon him the command of the army, and settle affairs with the powers in those parts; Mr. Burdett not being present at this meeting, an order was immediately issued to him for the man's enlargement: and his answer to the same having been received, assigning the reasons for his proceedings, which did not appear sufficient, and conceived in terms deemed disrespectful to the board, they determined that he should make a proper acknowledgment both to Lord Clive and themselves. His Lordship at the same time took leave of the board, to proceed on the business before intimated.

30. Mr. Burdett complied afterwards with this determination; and his Lordship having desired to be acquainted therewith, it was accordingly communicated to him; but Mr. Burdett entered a minute on the style of his letter, in consequence whereof further proceedings occurred; and these being likewise transmitted to his Lordship, we received an answer from him, confirming the opinion he had before given of that gentleman's conduct, in terms which determined Mr. Burdett, having before intimated his intention of returning this season to Europe, to sit no longer at the board, and he also resigned your service accordingly.

31. Lord Clive has since delivered in a minute, setting forth that he cannot accuse himself of having given any cause for the resentment expressed by Mr. Burdett, and his opinion concerning his representation; referring to a letter from Raja Doolubram to Mr. Sumner, when president, in respect to a note of hand for a sum of money, which he represented he had given to Mr. Burdett, upon the Nabob's accession to the government, under the promise of his endeavours to procure him a share in the administration, which he had not fulfilled, and therefore soliciting Mr. Sumner's assistance for the recovery thereof; of this minute and letter Mr. Burdett has had a copy, and we expect his answer.

32. Lord Clive having arrived in town, and resumed his seat at the board, the 9th Instant laid before them an extract from the proceedings of the select Committee held the 7th upon his return, accompanying the copy of a treaty of peace concluded by him and General Carnac, on the part of the honourable Company and the Nabob, with Sujah Dowlah, together with the translation of a grant and Sunnuds obtained from the King for the Dewannee of these provinces, and of an agreement subscribed to in consequence by the Nabob, through the means of his Lordship and Mr. Sykes; as also translations of other Sunnuds from the King, confirming to the Company their former possessions, and securing to them the reversion of Lord Clive's Jaghire; for his Lordship had before, on his way up, obtained the Nabob's Sunnud in duplicate, one of them to be forwarded to you if we judged it proper, which is accordingly transmitted in the packet, with an attested copy of the translation; we also send you like copies of the several papers above-mentioned, to which we beg leave to refer you, and to offer you at the same time our hearty congratulations on this event of the return of peace; which we hoped and have now all reason to expect, from our established influence and power, will remain in future uninterrupted; the same was proclaimed here in proper form on the 12th, and ordered to be also published at the subordinats.

33. At the consultation of the 9th of June, Mr. Sykes entered a minute, informing the board that the select Committee had ordered him to proceed to Moorshedabad, on affairs of importance, which would be communicated to them when the proceedings were drawn up, and that he should set out accordingly without loss of time; Messrs. Leyeester and Gray dissented upon this occasion, not being able to judge of the object of Mr. Sykes's commission, or the necessity of his appointment, and as Mr. Middleton, a member of the board, was already stationed resident at the Durbar, to transact whatever points of business might occur with the country government, had acted in that capacity to the entire satisfaction of the council, and could not be superseded without a reflection on his ability to conduct such business. The proceedings were afterwards laid before the board, when those gentlemen confirmed their dissent, esteeming Mr. Middleton still the proper person to transact the business entrusted to Mr. Sykes; and upon Mr. Middleton's receiving information from the select Committee of this appointment, he addressed the board, as appears in consultation the 18th of the same month, setting forth, how much it must lessen the weight and influence which it was absolutely necessary he should maintain in his station, and that he could not with any credit to himself remain in it longer, more especially as Lord Clive told him, on his way, that it was intended to remove him shortly, and place Mr. Sykes in his room; and soliciting in consequence the chiefship of Patna which became vacant a few days before, by the sudden death of Mr. Billers; to this he was accordingly appointed, and ordered by the majority to proceed immediately, delivering over to the chief at Cossimbuzar, such business as he has been entrusted with from the board. Mr. Sumner being the only member of the Committee then present, minuted at the same time a declaration on their part, that no reflection whatsoever on Mr. Middleton, nor derogation from his necessary weight and influence as public resident, was intended by them, and produced the copy of the letter wrote him on the occasion, setting forth the impropriety of charging any other than a member of the Committee with the management of business which had not been disclosed

to the council, as an argument for his satisfaction. Mr. Sykes having proceeded conformably to his deputation, returned to the presidency with Lord Clive.

34. Mr. Verelst upon being called to Calcutta, to take his seat in the Committee, to resign the chieffhip of Chittagong factory; in which Mr. Playdell succeeded him; and upon the resignation of Mr. Johnstone, he was appointed by the Committee to the charge of supervisor of the Burdwan revenues.

35. At the consultation of the 22d of July, a motion was made by Mr. Burdett for filling up the vacancies in council, from Mr. Johnstone's late resignation, and the death of Mr. Billers, agreeably to your last appointment and orders; upon which Mr. Sumner informed him, that the Committee had already taken the subject of those orders under their consideration, and should determine on them at their first meeting, upon the return of the absent members to the presidency, and therefore desired that the filling up the vacancies might till then be postponed. The majority of the board entering their opinions, that the matter should not be deferred, and proposing therefore to call to the board the two next Gentlemen on the list, Mr. Sumner dissented thereto in his own and the name of the Committee, reserving to them a revival of the measure. But the majority confirming their opinions, Messrs. Francis Charlton and Thomas French were in consequence ordered from Dacca, to take their seats.

36 Upon the assembling again of the Committee, Mr. Sumner related to them accordingly what had passed at the board, and they recorded their sentiments thereon; offering at the same time their reasons for not enlarging the number of the council; which latter were, first, that the collection of the Burdwan revenues should no longer be managed by a chief and council, but as proposed in a representation to them from Mr. Verelst, at the same time communicated to the board, by a junior servant, residing always on the spot, and a supervisor, who, if a member of the board, might still retain his seat as such, his charge would only require an occasional attendance. Secondly, with respect to the Midnapore province, that it was not of sufficient consequence to require the direction of a member of the council, and might be as well conducted by a junior servant. And, thirdly, their having under their consideration the recalling the factory at Benaras, in consequence of the treaty concluded with Sujah Dowlah. Upon which different circumstances, they recommended to the board to reconsider the appointments of Messrs. Charlton and French. We beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the Committee for those sentiments, and a particular explanation of their reasons for the proposed charges respecting Burdwan and Midnapore, as also the opinions of the several members of the board thereon; and shall here only add, that the majority being of opinion the first alteration should take place, and the members of the board joining with the Committee as to the latter, the appointments of the new members were in consequence set aside, and orders given to the factory at Dacca accordingly. Mr. Leycester, however, entered a minute, confirming the opinion against a reduction in the number of the council, which we further refer you to.

37. We received a letter from Lord Clive, during his absence at Benaras, representing his opinion of your title to a moiety of the money obtained there by our army, in consequence of the deed of gift from the King to the Company, of such proportion of all plunder, &c. which should be taken in India by his forces on land, and their orders, putting their own military on the same footing, and reserving to them the other moiety. He, at the same time, pointed out, as an argument, the stipulation in favour of the Company, of one-half of what should be taken at Manilla, esteeming it a similar case with the one in question, and referred the subject to the consideration of the board.

38. It appearing, on reference to the registers of council before his Lordship's arrival, that the board considered the said money as a voluntary gift from the merchants, rather than a ransom for the town obtained by military force, and that for the reasons assigned they thought proper to consent to the army's receiving it, without reserving any claim to the Company; the other members did not think, this being the case, that a demand on them for a share of the money could now, with any propriety, be made; and they communicated these their sentiments accordingly, in answer to his Lordship, transmitting, for his particular information, extracts of those registers; viz.

Of the letters to the commanding officers of the 6th of November, and 6th of December last. And,

Of the consultation of the 3d of January, upon an application received from the officers and men of the 96th regiment, and his Majesty's Marines.

To which we beg leave to refer you upon the occasion.

39. Upon his Lordship's return to the presidency, he informed the board, that, while he was with the army, he had formed it upon the establishment and plan laid down in your commands of the first of June 1765; and proposed, for the better regulating their pay in future, and the prevention of any abuses, that there should be separate paymasters, with deputies, and a commissary to each brigade.

The board agreed with him entirely in the propriety of those appointments, and the paymasters were accordingly nominated, and the other officers remaining to be fixed at a future meeting.

40. The select Committee having taken under consideration your orders, touching the inland trade in the articles of salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, they communicated to the board in their next proceedings a set of regulations formed thereupon, as the ground-work of a plan for carrying it on in future; we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings themselves for your particular information of this plan, and have here to inform you, that Messrs. Summer, Verelst, Leycester, and Gray, were in consequence constituted the Committee for receiving charge thereof, and managing it on behalf of the body of proprietors, with authority to correspond with the subordinate factories, and to pursue all such measures as might, conformably thereto, appear to them eligible and proper; and that the necessary advice and orders were given accordingly to the subordinates, and publication made, prohibiting all persons depending on the country's government from entering into any new engagements in those articles, unless as contractors with the Committee, for the purchase or sale of them. We have also to note to you, that Messrs. Leycester and Gray dissented to the authority the select Committee had taken upon themselves on this occasion, esteeming it in no wise delegated to them by the terms and intention of their appointment; and that the subject should have been considered and determined on in council.

41. The Committee of trade having entered upon the prosecution of the plan, we have received from them a representation for having the society secured against any innovations in the course of their present engagements, and soliciting from us such a deed as we may think sufficient to insure to them the exclusive right to the trade till these engagements are concluded, the same to be renewed every season, so long as it shall be agreeable to you that this plan should subsist; we could not but agree with them entirely in the propriety of this measure, and have given directions for drawing accordingly such a writing as may be thought sufficient to secure the Proprietors the right in question, and we now request your permission to renew the same for the future concerns, if the plan meets with your approbation.

42. Commodore Tinker having received from the late Nabob, Meer Jaffier, a grant of 12,50,000 rupees, as a donation to himself and the squadron under his command, for their services in the war against Meer Cossim, he presented to the board, on his departure, a translation of the same; and requested their assistance in procuring regular payments, conformably to the terms; to which the board replied, expressing their satisfaction at the Nabob's having thought proper to consider the services of the squadron, and assuring Mr. Tinker, that, so far as might appear to them in his power, consistently with the performance of the engagements of his treaty, the Commodore might depend on their compliance with his application. Two of the periods of payment having expired, and no part been yet received, the agents have now addressed us, inclosing the translation of a letter from the present Nabob, with a confirmation of his father's grant, and soliciting our interposition for procuring them the amount due; representing, with a view of adding weight to their application, that many of the officers and men of the squadron having contracted debts during their abode in Calcutta, their drafts on the donation had, upon the strength of the board's promise, been accepted in discharge thereof, by merchants of the place, whose private fortunes have already suffered, and must suffer still more by any further delay of payment.

43. The representation having been considered and debated on, the majority of the board were of opinion, that, in consequence of our acquisition of the Duanney of these provinces, and the agreement thereupon made with the Nabob, by which, after the stipulations for the King and his Excellency, the remaining part of the revenues devolves to the Company, they could not of themselves determine upon the subject, but that it should be referred to your decision; and the circumstances being accordingly thus stated to you, we wait your answer and orders thereon.

44. The ships Lord Anson and Prince of Wales having been reported clear of their consignment on the 29th of April and 24th of June, they were immediately dismissed your service, and their journals and other books of their voyage required, conformably to your orders, to be returned to you; the same are transmitted you by this opportunity; and we have discharged the balances of freight remaining to be paid the owners in India, as per their respective accounts received in the Packets: we have also reimbursed the commanders for sundry necessaries provided in the course of their passages, for the use of the recruits whom they brought out; viz. to the former Crs. 1,989 : 5 : 7, and to the latter Crs. 9,044 : 6 : 0, both accounts being properly vouched and certified.

45. The Solebay, one of the two ships taken up last year for furnishing your presidency of Fort Marlbro' with slaves from Madagafcar, having concluded her voyage, arrived with us on the 22d ult. and we received by her a packet from the president and council, under a general address to either of the three settlements, inclosing several papers respecting her, in consequence of a demand on the commander upon account of the owners, for the sum of 2500l. advanced to them in England, which he refused payment of. These papers they therefore transmitted, pointing out particularly to the observation of those who might receive them, that your instructions to them were very explicit, although the Charter-party appeared rather defective in the wording; that, if it appeared eligible, an attempt might be made to recover the money by course of law. We perused and examined the different papers, but not chusing to proceed upon our own judgment upon a case of this nature, we
referred

referred them to the attentive consideration of an attorney in the Mayor's Court, Mr. Richard Whittal, who, we understood, was most capable and versed in his profession, requiring his sentiments at full, whether or not there was sufficient ground on which to found a prosecution here on the occasion; and having received an answer from him, stating his opinion in the affirmative, we have directed him to repeat the demand in due form, and, upon a refusal still of payment, to commence an action against the owners accordingly.

46. We send you further the general books of the presidency, with their subsidiaries to April 1764, and hope, from the sub-accountant's report, to forward to you the subsequent set in the course of this season, having, upon his application some time ago, wrote in very urgent terms on this subject to the subordinates. The entire loss of their books and accounts, at least some of them, in the late troubles, have unavoidably occasioned great delay in bringing them up.

47. We are to advise you of the decease of Capt. Alexander Scott, our master attendant, on the 12th ult. and of Capt. Page Keble's succession to the charge of that office, agreeably to your nomination. On this occasion we received a petition from the deputy, Mr. Richard Deane, representing his long services to the Company, in the different gradations of the marine, which he hoped had fully qualified him for the appointment, and soliciting it. Accordingly, he was advised, in answer, that Captain Keble had obtained it in pursuance of your orders; with an assurance however, that we had a just sense of his services, and should take care to make proper mention of him to you, and we beg leave therefore to recommend him to your notice.

48. Mr. Robert Hunter, whom you have this season been pleased to appoint a factor on the Fort Marlbro' establishment, having some months before come over to this presidency had, on account of his particular merit and abilities in the profession, been entertained as one of our principal surgeons; on being therefore advised of your appointment, he delivered in a letter to us, representing, that it was obtained entirely without his knowledge and intention, while he was detained on the French islands, and six years after his first application; and having then quitted the place, with leave from the president and council, and upon his admission into the service here, had from a dependance upon continuing in it, entered into connections and concerns with others, whose interest must suffer, and ruin attend his own by a speedy removal: he for these reasons, solicited our permission to relinquish that appointment, and be continued in his station here; expressing at the same time, his just sense of the favour and honour thereby conferred on him, for which he returned you his grateful thanks, and his hope, that in consideration of his misfortunes and long services, you would not be displeas'd with his proceeding; from this representation, and the character before given of him, we could not but very readily acquiesce in his desire, and, as we are extremely solicitous of his continuance with us, we hope for, and earnestly entreat, his confirmation here accordingly.

49. We further beg leave to recommend to you, for an appointment on your list of civil servants, Mr. Sutton Banks, a gentleman who has for a long while resided in the place as a private merchant, much esteem'd, and is entirely deserving the favour we solicit for him.

50. Captain George Burghall, of the corps of engineers, having been accus'd by Captain Martin, his superior officer, of disobedience of orders, he in consequence, of the opinion of a court of enquiry, underwent a trial by a court martial, appointed and approved by Major Munro, before his departure; at which having been found guilty of the charge, he was cashier'd the Company's service by the sentence of the court, and he proceeds home, with his family: By this opportunity Major Munro carried with him the proceedings of the court martial.

51. You will find the reasons of the select Committee, in which the board acquiesced, for the purchase of the Admiral Stevens on the occasion of this dispatch, and not employing the Lapwing, which still remained upon our hands, recorded on the Committee proceedings of the 21st June, and 4th of July; and the season now opening, we shall forthwith determine on some method of employing the latter, or otherwise dispose of her as may appear most eligible. The board, previous to the arrival of the Kent, had had some intentions of sending her to Fort St. George, to return to you with early advices from thence and this presidency.

52. Upon a report from the master attendant, of the condition and value of the Admiral Stevens, we agreed to pay for her, at the price demanded by the owners of 59,000 Arcot rupees; and Captain Griffin, who we advised you had quitted the Lapwing to proceed to Fort St. George, in his private concerns, having returned to the place, we gave him the command of her, appointing, upon proper recommendations, Messrs. James Angus, James Lenox, Edward Wilton, and Robert Fairfull, her Officers; we at the same time wrote to Cossimbuzar, and Dacca, to send us down from each factory for her 100 bales of their finest piece of goods, and we have the satisfaction to find she carries you upon the whole, considering her size, a valuable charge, the amount being as per invoice C. Rs. 794,100.

53. With a view to increase it as much as possible, we determin'd, upon an application from the Captain and Officers on the subject of their privilege, to make them a tender, in lieu of any allowance in her tonnage, of the sum of 10,000 Arcot rupees, and the same having been accepted, we required from them an acknowledgement of it, with an obligation not to ship, in consequence thereof, any merchandize as adventures.

54. We have also given in charge to Captain Griffin 1500 ounces of foreign silver, for the use of the ship, in case she should be under a necessity of touching at any place, and advanced him the sum of A. Rs. 3918 : 4, on account of four months imposts of himself, officers, and Europeans, his table allowance for the voyage, and usual batta on this account, from his appointment to this time.

55. Since writing the foregoing, we have received advice from the gentlemen at Fort St. George of the arrival at that place of the Grenville and Fox, on the 6th and 7th instant, the former having touched at St. Jago and Falô bay, from whence she sailed the 21st of July, and lost there by desertion thirteen of her recruits, besides twelve buried on her passage; but we are sorry to learn at the same time the long detention which the Speke, Pacinck, and Pontborne met with at Spithead from contrary winds; we hope, however, they took the opportunity of sailing about the same time as the Fox, and that we shall soon have some accounts of them in these parts; we now find, by your advices to that presidency of the 4th January, that the Faimouth is not to return to you, but only taken up for the run to India, to assist in bringing on our recruits: Those gentlemen expected to give the Earl of Middlesex her dispatches about the end of this month, and at their request we transmit you a copy of the invoice of provisions put on board her here for victualling the prisoners from the French islands, that the commanders may account with you for the same. We also forward a packet received from them to your address, with one from the gentlemen at Fort Malbro'. The Buckingham having concluded her destination to that place, we understand, is likewise arrived at Fort St. George.

56. The mint master having laid before the select committee a representation, setting forth the inconveniencies resulting to the company, and the public, from the stop put to the issuing of new siccas, and the difficulties and dangers consequent on any attempt to a general re-coinage, or abolition of the annual fall of the batta on sicca rupees, the same has been referred to us, and is at present under our consideration; he has now presented an address to the board, with separate statements of the mint for a year before and after he took charge of it, and the assay book; from the latter time, to which he referred us for an explanation of the advantages arising from the regulations proposed by him in the month of January; and, at his request, we transmit you in the packet copies of those different addresses, as also the assay book, and copies of the statements accompanying the last to the board, that by referring them to and consulting the tower office, you may be perfectly satisfied of the nature of the improvements he has made, and how far his appointment to the direction of the mint has answered expectation.

57. The members of the select Committee have entered a minute in reply to Mr. Leyeester's before mentioned, confirming his dissent to the diminution of the council, Messrs. Leyeester and Gray have also on their parts delivered in other minutes, upon the sentiments recorded by the Committee on their conduct, and Mr. Burdett's, in not conforming to Mr. Sumner's desire upon the same subject; Mr. Leyeester, a further one, touching the powers of the Committee, to which last they have informed him they shall reply to you in their own department, and Mr. Gray, another in consequence of imputations laid to his charge before Lord Clive, which he has desired may be enquired into before the board, and his Lordship has acquainted him, shall be communicated to them accordingly. — You will find all these recorded in the proceedings of the 25th Inst. and we beg to refer them with the rest to your perusal and consideration.

58. We have also received an answer from Mr. Burdett to Lord Clive's minute upon his resignation, and the letter referred to in it from Raja Dulubram, confirming his first reason assigned for quitting the service at the time he did, and declining to answer to the demand from Roy Dulub, till he should be first informed what punishment would be inflicted on him, if he should prove him guilty of a falsehood; upon which, his Lordship has minuted, That he has not leisure at present to reply thereto, but will do it fully by the next ship.

59. Upon the perusal of a draft of the letter, Lord Clive remarked on the circumstances mentioned in Mr. Middleton's address to the board, quoted in the 23d paragraph, That he did not tell him as there related, "It was the intention of the Committee to remove him shortly, and place Mr. Sykes in his stead;" but only, "That this gentleman was soon to proceed to the city on particular business from them."

60. The select Committee have laid before us a copy of their proceedings, containing their conclusion of the plan for carrying on the inland trade, with respect to the Company and the classes of proprietors; and the same has been delivered over to the Committee for managing the trade, with instructions to proceed conformably thereto.

61. General Carnac having declined receiving a present from the King, as he had not the consent of the governor and council, his Majesty has written a letter to the board, representing, that the General has always refused to accept any reward for his great services; that to permit him to remain unrewarded, is injurious to his royal dignity, and that it is therefore his Majesty's pleasure, that we grant General Carnac permission to receive from his Royal bounty the sum of two lacks of rupees.

62. You are so well acquainted with the merits and moderation of this gentleman, that we need not add our sentiments on the subject: The great attention and respect he has always paid the King, from the time of his Majesty's misfortunes, when he surrendered himself at

Patna, to his present state of peace and affluence, together with the attachment shewn to him on many occasions in the field, demand some return of gratitude; and we trust you will rejoice that an opportunity should at last offer, of placing General Carnac in a state of independence, at the eve of a long and faithful service.

63. There being some doubts, whether the power of permission, upon such occasions is intended to be lodged with the governor and council, we have not absolutely granted it, but refer it to you; and should be glad of your instructions for our guidance in future. We beg leave only to observe, that such power would perhaps be a means of keeping the military in proper subjection to the civil authority in this settlement.

64. Mr. Peter Downes having, some time ago, requested permission to quit his offices, in order to prepare for his return to Europe, has now resigned his service, and proceeds by this ship.

65. The Mayor's court have presented to us a list of several law books wanted for the use of the court, which they request may be sent them by the first opportunity, and the same is transmitted you in the packet.

66. We have only further to add, that the necessary papers respecting this ship are inclosed; and wishing her safe and speedy arrival with you, we have the honour to remain, with respect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful

And obedient humble servants,

Fort William,
the 30th Sept. 1765.

CLIVE.
WM. B. SUMNER.
H. VERELST.
CHARLES SYKES.
R. LEYCESTER.
GEORGE GRAY.

Postscript.

1. Since concluding this address, it has occurred to us, that we are much in want of several printed sets of the Act of Parliament for the punishing of mutiny and desertion among your troops here, with which we request you will furnish us by the first opportunity.

2. At the consultation of this day for the dispatch of the ship, Mr. Leycester entered a further minute respecting the present which he received from the Nabob when in a deputation to him. Mr. Gray recorded one likewise, on the same subject as that mentioned in the 57th paragraph, upon certain imputations laid against his charge, which he requested might be enquired into; to both which we beg, as before, to refer you. And we remain, with respect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful

And obedient humble Servants,

Fort William,
the 30th Sept. 1765.

CLIVE.
WM. B. SUMNER.
JOHN CARNAC.
H. VERELST.
CHARLES SYKES.
R. LEYCESTER.
GEORGE GRAY.

Calcutta, 30th September, 1765.

Gentlemen,

BY the letter from the select Committee, and copy of their proceedings, which are transmitted to you by this conveyance, you will be enabled to form a general idea of the state of this settlement on the arrival of the ship Kent, together with the measures we thought necessary to pursue, in order to settle the Company's affairs in these provinces upon an advantageous and permanent foundation. You will permit me, however, to lay before you my own sentiments in particular, concerning these measures, and to communicate also, by this earliest opportunity, such others, as I wish should be adopted before I quit the government, and which I hope will not only be approved of, but likewise so fully confirmed and established by the Court of Directors, that the abuses which may otherwise be revived by the ambition and avarice of some future governors or councils may be effectually prevented.

Upon my arrival, I am sorry to say, I found your affairs in a condition so nearly desperate as would have alarmed any set of men, whose sense of honour and duty to their employers had not been estranged by the too eager pursuit of their own immediate advantage; the sudden, and, among many, the unwarrantable acquisition of riches, had introduced luxury in every shape, and in its most pernicious excess. These two enormous evils went hand in hand together through the whole presidency, infecting almost every member of each department; every inferior seemed to have grasped at wealth, that he might be enabled to assume that spirit of profusion, which was now the only distinction between him and his superior. Thus all distinction ceased, and every rank became, in a manner, upon an equality; nor was this the end of the mischief, for a contest of such a nature among our servants necessarily destroyed all proportion between their wants and the honest means of satisfying them. In a country where money is plenty, where fear is the principle of government, and where your aims are ever victorious; in such a country, I say, it is no wonder that corruption should find its way to a spot so well prepared to receive it. It is no wonder that the lust of riches should readily embrace the proffered means of its gratification, or that the instruments of your power should avail themselves of their authority, and proceed even to extortion, in those cases where simple corruption could not keep pace with their rapacity. Examples of this sort, set by superiors, could not fail of being followed, in a proportionable degree, by inferiors; the evil was contagious, and spread among the civil and military, down to the writer, the ensign, and the free merchant.

3. The large sum of money acquired by donation, besides the means I have already mentioned, were so publicly known and vindicated, that every one thought he had a right to enrich himself, at all events, with as much expedition as possible; the monopoly of salt, beetle, tobacco, &c. was another fund of immense profits to the Company's servants, and likewise to such others as they permitted to enjoy a share, while not a rupee of advantage accrued to the government, and very little to the Company from that trade. Before I had discovered these various sources of wealth, I was under great astonishment to find individuals so suddenly enriched, that there was scarce a gentleman in the settlement who had not fixed upon a very short period for his return to England with affluence. From hence arose that forward spirit of independency, which in a manner set all your orders at defiance, and dictated a total contempt of them, as often as obedience was found incompatible with private interest. At the time of my arrival, I saw nothing that bore the form or appearance of government; The authority and pre-eminence of the governor, were levelled with those counsellors; every counsellor was as much a governor as he who bore the name, and distinction of rank, as I have already observed, was no longer to be found in the whole settlement. Notwithstanding a special order from the Court of Directors, founded on very wise and very evident reasons, that all correspondence with the country powers should be carried on solely in the governor's name, I found that our whole correspondence with the Great Mogul, the Subahs, Nabobs, and Rajahs, had been of late carried on by and in the name of the whole board, and that every servant and free merchant corresponded with whom they pleased.

4. Your orders for the execution of the covenants were positive, and expressly mentioned to be the resolution of a general court of proprietors: Your servants at Bengal, however, determined to reject them; and had not the Select Committee resolved that the example should be first set by the council, or a suspension from your service take place, it is certain they would have remained unexecuted to this hour. You will not, I imagine, be much surpris'd at this breach of duty, if you look over the general letters, where you cannot avoid seeing how many are annually committed, and how fast every thing was tending to a contempt of your authority. From a short survey of the late transactions, I was convinced that no other remedy was left, than an immediate and vigorous exertion of the powers with which the Committee were invested. Happy, in my opinion, was it for the Company, that such

powers were granted; for that the settlement, so conducted, could have subsisted another twelvemonth, appears to me an impossibility. A great part of the revenues of the country, amounting to near four millions sterling per annum, would have been divided among your servants, and the acquisition of fortunes being so sudden, a few months must have brought writers into council, seniority must have been admitted as a just claim to a seat at the board, without the qualification of age or experience, because the rapidity of succession denied the attainment of either.

5. Nor were these excesses confined to your civil servants alone, the military departments also had caught the infection, and riches, the bane of discipline, were daily promoting the ruin of our army. The too little inequality of rank rendered the advantages of captains, lieutenants, and ensigns, so nearly upon a par, and so large, that an independant fortune was no distant prospect, even to a subaltern. If a too quick succession among those from whom you expect the study of commerce and policy is detrimental to your civil concerns, how effectually destructive, must that evil prove to your military operations? The most experienced European Officer, when he has entered into the East India service, although he may be able in many points to suggest improvement to others, will nevertheless find that something new remains for himself to learn peculiar to this service, which cannot be attained in a day—judge then how the case must stand with youths, who are either just sent out from the academy, or, which more frequently happens, who have no education at all; for to such have we often been reduced to the necessity of granting commissions. How much must the expectations of your army be raised, when they are suffered, without controul to take possession, for themselves, of the whole booty, donation money, and plunder, on the capture of a city? This I can assure you happened at Benares; and what is more surprizing, the then governor and council, so far from laying in a claim to the moiety, which ought to have been reserved for the Company, agreeable to those positive orders from the Court of Directors a few years ago, when they were pleased to put their forces upon the same footing with those of his Majesty, gave up the whole to the captors—You have heard of the general mutiny that happened among your Seapoys a little before my arrival—What would have been your consternation, had you also heard of an unanimous desertion of your European Soldiery. These were very serious events indeed, and had it not been for one well-timed vigorous act of Major Munro, and the unwearied zeal and military abilities of General Carnac, who totally suppressed the spirit of mutiny among the soldiers, your possessions in India might at this time have been destitute of a man to support them, and even the privilege of commerce irrecoverably crushed: Common justice to the principles and conduct of General Carnac, oblige me further to add, that I found him the only officer of rank who had resisted the temptations to which by his station he was constantly subject, of acquiring an immense fortune; and I question much whether he is not the only man who has of late years been honoured with the command of your forces, without acquiring a very large independency. The letter from the Great Mogul to the governor and council, requesting the permission for him to accept a present of two Laaks, which his majesty is desirous of bestowing on him as a reward for his disinterested services, will corroborate what I have said in his favour; and as this affair, agreeable to the tenor of the covenants, is referred to the Court of Directors, I make no doubt they will readily embrace the opportunity of shewing their regard to such distinguished merit, by consenting to his acceptance of his Majesty's bounty.

6. If the picture I have drawn be a faithful likeness of the presidency, (and I call upon the most guilty, for guilty there are, to shew that I have aggravated a feature) to what a deplorable condition must your affairs soon have been reduced? Every state (and such now is your government in India) must be near its period, when the rage of luxury and corruption has seized upon its leaders and inhabitants. Can trade be encouraged for public benefit, where the management unfortunately devolves upon those who make private interest their rule of action? And farther, has sudden affluence ever failed, from the infancy of military discipline to the present perfection of it, to corrupt the principle and destroy the spirit of an army? Independency of fortune is always averse to those duties of subordination, which are inseparable from the life of a soldier; and in this country, if the acquisition be sudden, a relaxation of discipline is more immediately the consequence. I would not be thought by these observations to exclude riches from the military: Honour alone is scarcely a sufficient reward for the toilsome service of the field. But the acquisition of wealth ought to be so gradual, as to admit not a prospect of completing it, till succession, by merit, to the rank of a field officer should have lain a good foundation for the claim. Such is the idea I entertained of this matter, when I delivered my sentiments to the Court of Directors, in my letter of the 27th April 1764; and I have acted in conformity thereto, by regimenting the troops in the manner I then proposed. I need not repeat the observations I troubled you with in that letter. It is sufficient to remark here, that the good effects of the plan are already visible, that subordination is restored, abuses corrected, and your expences, of course already greatly diminished.

7. The war which, to my great concern, I found extended above 700 Miles from the presidency, is now happily concluded, and a peace established upon terms which promise lasting tranquillity to these provinces. This event has, I find, disappointed the expectations of many, who thought of nothing but a march with the king to Delhi. My resolution however, was, and my hopes will always be, to confine our assistance, our conquest, and our possessions, to Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá: To go farther is, in my opinion, a scheme so extravagantly ambitious and absurd, that no governor and council in their senses can ever adopt it, unless the whole system of the Company's interest be first entirely new modelled.

8. I forbear troubling you with a detail of the negociations of General Carnac and me, with the country powers, and the particulars of the treaty of peace with the Vizier of the Empire, as they will be spoken of at large in the letter from the Select Committee, and appear likewise upon the face of our proceedings. I will however just remark, that our restoring to Shujah Dowla the whole of his Dominions, proceeds more from the policy of not extending the Company's territorial possessions, than the generous principle of attaching him for ever to our interest by gratitude, though this has been the apparent, and is by many thought to be the real motive. Had we ambitiously attempted to retain the conquered country, experience would soon have proved the absurdity and impracticability of such a plan. The establishment of your army must have been added to your list, and more chiefships appointed; the acts of oppression, and innumerable abuses, which would have been committed, and which could neither have been prevented nor remedied, at so great a distance from the presidency, must infallibly have laid the foundation of another war, destructive and unsuccessful; our old privileges and possessions would have been endangered by every supply we might have been tempted to afford in support of the new; and the natives must have finally triumphed in our inability to sustain the weight of our own ambition.

9. To return to the point from which this digression has led me, I must carry you back to the description above given of the situation in which I found your affairs on my arrival. Two paths were evidently open to me: the one smooth, and strewed with abundance of rich advantages that might easily be picked up; the other untrodden, and every step opposed with obstacles. I might have taken charge of the government upon the same footing on which I found it; that is, I might have enjoyed the name of governor, and have suffered the honour, importance, and dignity of the post, to continue in their state of annihilation; I might have contented myself, as others had before me, with being a cypher, or, what is little better, the first among sixteen equals; and I might have allowed this passive conduct to be attended with the usual *Douceur* of sharing largely with the rest of the gentlemen in all Donations, Perquisites, &c. arising from the absolute government and disposal of all places in the revenues of this opulent kingdom; by which means I might soon have acquired an immense addition to my fortune, notwithstanding the obligations in the new covenants; for the man who can so easily get over the bar of conscience as to receive presents after the execution of them, will not scruple to make use of any evasions that may protect him from the consequence. The settlement in general would thus have been my friends, and only the natives of the country my enemies. If you can conceive a governor in such a situation, it is impossible to form a wrong judgment of the inferior servants, or of the Company's affairs, at such a presidency. An honourable alternative however lay before me: I had the power within my own breast to fulfil the duty of my station, by remaining incorruptable in the midst of numberless temptations artfully thrown in my way; by exposing my character to every attack which malice or resentment are so apt to invent, against any man who attempts reformation; and by encountering, of course, the odium of the settlement. I hesitated not a moment which choice to make; I took upon my shoulders a burden which required resolution, perseverance, and constitution, to support. Having chose my part, I was determined to exert myself in the attempt, happy in the reflection that the honour of the nation, and the very being of the Company, would be maintained by the success; and conscious, that if I failed, my integrity and good intentions, at least, must remain unimpeached. The other members of the Committee joined with me in opinion, that, in order to proceed upon business, it was absolutely necessary for us to assume the powers wherewith we were invested.—We saw plainly, that most of the gentlemen in council had been too deeply concerned themselves, in the measures which required amendment, for us to expect any assistance from them; on the contrary, we were certain of finding opposition to every plan of Innovation, and an unanimous attempt to defeat the intentions of the proprietors who solicited my acceptance of the government. The Committee therefore immediately met, and I had the happiness to find myself supported by gentlemen whom no temptations could seduce, no inconveniences or threats of malice deter. Our proceedings will convince you, that we have dared to act with firmness and integrity, and will at the same time demonstrate, that temper, unanimity, and dispatch must ever mark the proceedings of men unbiassed by private interest.

10. The gentlemen in council of late years, at Bengal, seem to have been actuated, in every consultation, by a very obstinate and mischievous spirit. The office of governor has been in a manner hunted down, stripped of its dignity, and then divided into sixteen shares. Whether
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ambition, obstinacy, pride or self-interest is usually the motive to such a pursuit, I will not take upon me to determine; but am sure it can never arise from a just idea of government, or a true sense of the Company's interest. In my opinion, it is the duty of the council to make the power of the president appear as extensive as possible in the eyes of the people; that all correspondence with the country princes, should be carried on through him alone, some particular cases excepted; that the council should, upon all occasions, be unanimous in supporting, not in extenuating, the dignity of his station; and that he ought to be considered among the natives as the sole manager and conductor of political affairs. This should be the outward appearance of administration, though in reality the council must be allowed a freedom of judgment; and when they perceive in the governor a tendency to absolute or unjustifiable measures, it then becomes their duty to check him. If they at any time have reason to distrust the rectitude of his principles, they should not allow him to execute designs, even of the smallest moment, without previously laying them before the board, and obtaining their approbation. In short, the best governor should not, except in cases of necessity, be suffered to conclude any points of importance without the sanction of the board. But the expedient of a select Committee equally prevents any ill conduct in the governor, and is besides attended with advantages, which can rarely be expected from the whole body of counsellors. Five gentlemen well versed in the Company's true interest, of abilities to plan, and resolution to execute; gentlemen, whose fortunes are honourably approaching to affluence, and whose integrity has never suffered them to exceed the bounds of moderation; a Select Committee, composed of such men, will transact more business in a week, than the council can in a month. The opinions and judgment of five men are as securely to be relied on, even in affairs of the utmost consequence, as sixteen: They are less liable to dissent, and it may be said beyond a contradiction, that their administration is more distant from democratic Anarchy. The council, however, would not be a useless body; for whilst the attention of the Committee was chiefly engaged in watching and repairing the main springs of government, the council would as materially serve the Company in attending to the many other movements of the grand machine, which are as essentially necessary to the public advantage and security. And that the Committee should not be able to carry their powers to any dangerous length, they might be ordered annually, before the dispatch of the Europe ships, to submit their proceedings to the review of the gentlemen in Council, who might transmit their opinions thereupon to the Court of Directors. Your present Select Committee have from time to time laid most of their proceedings before council, and we intend to continue the same system of candour, except in any political cases of secrecy, when prudence may require that our resolutions should be confined to the knowledge of a few

11. Thus freely I have given you my opinion upon the sort of government I could wish to see established in this settlement; nor shall I think my duty done, till I have pointed out every measure that seems to me best calculated to preserve your affairs from destruction. At Bengal the rule of succession among your servants is perniciously exact: There are frequent occasions where it ought to be set aside; where experience, understanding, integrity, moderation, ought to take place of accidental seniority. The demerits of most your superior servants have been so great, as you will learn from the Committee proceedings, that one can hardly imagine their future behaviour will intitle them to farther favours than you have hitherto bestowed on them. I do not pretend to surmise what sentence you may pronounce upon the gentlemen who came under the censure of the Committee; but whether it be moderate as ours, or severe as it deserves, it will not much concern them, since all of them are now in very affluent circumstances, and will probably return to Europe by this or the next year's shipping. Peruse then the list of your covenanted servants upon this establishment: You will find that many of those next in succession are not only very young in the service, and consequently unfit for such exalted stations, but are also strongly tainted with the principles of their superiors.—If your opinion should correspond with mine, some remedy will be judged necessary to be applied, and I confess I see but one. The unhappy change which within these few years has arisen in the manners and conduct of your servants at Bengal, is alone sufficient to remove the objections I once had to appointments from another settlement: and the difficulty which now too plainly appears of filling up vacancies in council with the requisite attention to the Company's honour and welfare, inclines me to wish such appointments more frequent. In the present state of this presidency, no measure can, I think, prove more salutary, than to appoint five or six gentlemen from the coast to the Bengal establishment, and there to post them agreeable to their rank and standing in the service; Messrs. Russell, Floyer, Aldersey, and Kelsall are among those who would be well worthy your attention, if this plan should be adopted. I cannot help further recommending to your consideration, whether, if every other method should be found ineffectual, the transplanting a few of the young Bengal servants to Madras, would not be of signal service both to themselves and the Company. You will likewise consider whether the settlement of Bombay is capable of furnishing us with a few meritorious servants. With regard to Madras, the conduct of the gentlemen upon that establish-

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ment is in general so unexceptionable, that to present Bengal with such examples of regularity, discretion, and moderation, would, I think, be a means of restoring it to good order and government. It is past a doubt, that every attempt of reformation must fail, unless the superior servants be exemplary in their principles and conduct. If we see nothing but rapacity among counsellors, in vain shall we look for moderation among writers.

12. The sources of tyranny and oppression which have been opened by the European agents acting under the authority of the Company's servants, and the numberless black agents and sub-agents acting also under them, will, I fear, be a lasting reproach to the English name in this country: it is impossible to enumerate the complaints that have been laid before me by the unfortunate inhabitants, who had not forgot that I was an enemy to oppression. The necessity of securing the confidence of the natives, is an idea I have ever maintained, and was in hopes would be invariably adopted by others; but ambition, success, and luxury, have, I find, introduced a new system of politics, at the severe expence of English honour, of the Company's faith, and even of common justice and humanity. The orders so frequently issued, That no writers shall have the privilege of distrusts, I have strictly obeyed; but I am sorry to inform you, that all the wished-for consequences are not to be expected; the officers of the Government are to sensible of our influence and authority, that they dare not presume to search or stop a boat, protected by the name of a Company's servant; and you may be assured that frauds of that kind, so easy to be practised, and so difficult to be detected, are but too frequent. I have at last, however, the happiness to see the completion of an event, which, in this respect as well as in many others, must be productive of advantages hitherto unknown, and at the same time prevent abuses that have hitherto had no remedy; I mean the dewannee, which is the superintendancy of all the lands, and the collection of all the revenues of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá. The assistance which the Great Mogul had received from our arms and Treasury, made him readily bestow this grant upon the Company; and it is done in the most effectual manner you can desire. The allowance for the support of the Nabob's dignity and power, and the tribute to his Majesty, must be regularly paid; the remainder belongs to the Company. Revolutions are now no longer to be apprehended; the means of effecting them will, in future, be wanting to ambitious muskulmen; nor will your servants, civil or military, be tempted to foment disturbances, from whence can arise no benefit to themselves. Restitution, donation money, &c. &c. will be perfectly abolished, as the revenues from whence they used to issue will be possessed by ourselves. The power of supervising the provinces, though lodged in us, should not, however, in my opinion, be exerted. Three times the present number of civil servants would be insufficient for the purpose: whereas, if we leave the management to the old officers of the Government, the Company need not be at the expence of one additional servant; and though we may suffer in the collection, yet we shall always be able to detect and punish any great offenders, and shall have some satisfaction in knowing that the corruption is not among ourselves: by this means also, the abuses inevitably springing from the exercise of territorial authority, will be effectually obviated; there will still be a Nabob, with an allowance suitable to his dignity, and the territorial jurisdiction will still be in the chiefs of the country, acting under him and the Presidency in conjunction, though the revenues will belong to the Company. Besides, were the Company's officers to be the collectors, foreign nations would immediately take umbrage; and complaints preferred to the British Court might be attended with very embarrassing consequences: nor can it be supposed, that either the French, Dutch, or Danes, will acknowledge the English Company Nabob of Bengal, and pay into the hands of their servants the duties upon trade, or the quit-rents of those districts, which they have for many years possessed by virtue of the Royal Phirmaund, or by grants from former Nabobs.

13. Your revenues, by means of this new acquisition, will, as near as I can judge, not fall far short, for the ensuing year, of 250 lacks of Sicca rupees, including your former possessions of Burdwan, &c. Hereafter they will at least amount to 20 or 30 lacks more. Your civil and military expences, in time of peace, can never exceed 60 lack of rupees; the Nabob's allowances are already reduced to 42 lack, and the tribute to the King is fixed at 26; so that there will be remaining, a clear gain to the Company of 122 lacks of Sicca rupees, or £.1,650,900. sterling, which will defray all the expence of the investment, furnish the whole of the china treasure, answer the demands of all your settlements in India, and leave a considerable balance in your treasury: besides, in time of war, when the country may be subject to the invasions of bodies of cavalry, we shall, notwithstanding, be able to collect a sufficient sum for our civil and military exigencies, and likewise for our investments; because a very rich part of the Bengal and Bahar dominions, are situated to the eastward of the Ganges, where we can never be invaded. What I have given you is a real, not imaginary, state of your revenues, and you may be assured they will not fall short of my computation.

14. Permit me here to have the honour of laying before you one striking circumstance which has occurred to me, in considering the subject of the Dewannee, and the consequences of your large increase of revenues. I have already observed, that our acquisition will give no umbrage to foreign nations, with respect to our territorial jurisdiction, so long as the present appearance

of the Nabob's power is preserved; but I am convinced they will, ere long, entertain jealousies of our commercial superiority. Public complaints have indeed been already made from both French and Dutch Factories, that the dread of the English name, added to the encouragement of your servants at the different Aurungs, has deterred the weavers from complying with their usual and necessary demands; and I am persuaded, that, sooner or later, national remonstrances will be made on that subject. Perhaps one half of the trade being reserved to the English Company, and the other divided between the French, Dutch, and Danes, in such proportions as may be settled between their respective commissaries, might adjust these disputes to the mutual satisfaction of all parties. Besides, as every nation which trades to the East-Indies constantly brings out silver, for the purchase of merchandize in return, and as our revenues will, for the future, enable us to furnish all our investments, without any remittance from England, it seems necessary that we should, in some degree, encourage the trade of others, in order that this country may be supplied by them with bullion, to replace the quantity we shall annually send to China, or to any other part of the world. It is impossible for me to be a sufficient judge of the practicability or propriety of admitting other nations to such a proportion of trade with us in these parts; nor will you suspect that I entertain a thought of taking any step, without instructions from you, in an affair of such national importance. I do not even presume to argue upon the subject; I only mention it as a point which has occurred to me, and which, I think, well merits your most serious consideration.

15. Considering the Excesses we have of late years manifested in our conduct, the princes of Indostan will not readily imagine us capable of moderation, nor can we expect they will ever be attached to us by any other motive than fear. Meer Jaffier, Cossim Aly, the nabob of Arcot (the best Mussulman I ever knew) have afforded instances sufficient of their inclination to throw off the English superiority. No opportunity will ever be neglected that seems to favour an attempt to extirpate us though the consequences, while we keep our army complete, must in the end be more fatal to themselves. This impatience under the subjection, as I may call it, to Europeans is natural, but so great the infatuation of the natives of the country, that they look no farther than the present moment, and will put their all to the hazard of a single battle. Even our young nabob, who is the issue of a prostitute, who has little abilities, and less education to supply the want of them, mean, weak, and ignorant, as this man is, he would, if left to himself, and a few of his artful Flatterers, pursue the very paths of his predecessors. It is impossible therefore to trust him with power, and be safe. If you mean to maintain your present possessions and advantages, the command of the army and receipt of the revenues must be kept in your hands: every wish he may express to obtain either, be assured, is an indication of his desire to reduce you to your original state of dependency, to which you can never now return, without ceasing to exist. If you allow the nabob to have forces, he will soon raise money; if you allow him a full treasury without forces he will certainly make use of it to invite the Marrattas, or other powers, to invade the country, upon a supposition that we shall not suspect the part he takes, and that success will restore him to the full extent of his sovereignty; for so ignorant is he, even of the nature of his own countrymen, that he would never imagine the very men he had paid to rescue the dominions from us, would only conquer to seize the spoil for themselves. Such is he whom we now call Nabob, and such are the faithless politics of Indostan. We have adopted however a plan, which if strictly adhered to, must effectually prevent his involving the Company, or himself, in any difficulties: Mahomed Reza Cawn, Roy Dullub, and Juggut Seat, men of the most approved credit and moderation, are appointed jointly to the management of all his affairs, nor is either of them to act singly in any measure of Government. The Royal Treasury is under three different locks and keys, and each of these Ministers of State has a key, so that no money can be issued for any service whatever, without the joint knowledge and consent of them all. Our Resident at the Durbar is to inspect the Treasury accounts from time to time, as he or the Governor and Council may think proper: but we are never to interfere in the appointment or complaint of any officer under the Government, nor in any particulars relative to the above-mentioned departments, unless some extraordinary conduct of the Ministry should render alteration requisite. This form of Government I thought proper to recommend, in order to purge the Court of a set of knaves and parasites, by whom the Nabob was surrounded, and who were always undermining our influence, that they might the more firmly establish their own. So far you will observe we have exerted ourselves in the arrangement of the Nabob's affairs; but it is a measure of the utmost consequence, since it lays the foundation of that tranquillity, moderation, and regularity, which will support the Government against any future attempts to a revolution; and we are determined to interest ourselves at the city in no other respect. I need only add, that Mr. Sykes, for whom we intend the Residentship, is a Gentleman, from whose inflexible integrity, and long experience in the country politics, we have reason to expect the most exact performance of every duty in such an important station.

16. The regulation of the nabob's ministry, the acquisition of the dewannee, and the honourable terms on which we have conducted a peace with the vizier of the empire, have placed the dignity and advantages of the English East India Company on a basis more firm than our most sanguine

anguine wishes could a few months ago have suggested. These however alone will not ensure your stability; these are but the out-works which guard you from your natural enemies, the natives of the country: all is not safe; danger still subsists from more formidable enemies within; Luxury, Corruption, Avarice, Rapacity, these have possession of your principal posts, and are ready to betray your citadel. These therefore must be extirpated, or they will infallibly destroy us; for we cannot expect the same causes which have ruined the greatest kingdoms should have different effects on such a state as ours. That sudden growth of riches from whence those evils principally arise, demands our most serious attention: The affairs of Bengal, however glorious and flourishing the prospect may now be, cannot be successfully managed by men whose views extend not beyond a year or two, and who will set all orders from the Court of Directors at defiance, well knowing they must have acquired an affluent fortune, or at least a comfortable independency, before repentment can reach them. A competency ought to be allowed to all your servants, from the time of their arrival in India, and advantages should gradually increase to each, in proportion to his station; but I would have few of them entertain hopes of returning to their native country, till they shall have attained the rank of counsellor; then the prospect should open to them, and they should be certain of being enabled to return in a few years with independent fortunes. This certainty would arise from the freight ships, from the privileges of trade (the advantages of which you are not unacquainted with) and also from the profits upon salt, beetle, and tobacco, agreeable to the new regulation which we have made, in order to rectify the abuses that have been so long committed in those branches of trade, to the great detriment of the country government, without view of benefit to the Company.

17. The regulation now established for the salt trade, will, I hope, be entirely to your satisfaction. I at first intended to propose, that the Company and their servants should be jointly and equally concerned in the trade itself, but upon better consideration, I judged that plan to be rather unbecoming the dignity of the Company, and concluded it would be better that they should give the trade entirely to their servants, and fix a duty upon it for themselves, equivalent to half the profits. This duty we have computed at the rate of thirty-five per cent. for the present, but I imagine, it will be able, next year, to bear an increase. The articles of Beetle and Tobacco, being of less consequence, and yielding much less advantage, the duties upon them, of course, must be less. For farther particulars of these regulations, I beg leave to refer you to the Committee's letter and proceedings, as I would not here trouble you with the repetition of a matter which is there so fully laid before you.

18. The advantages proposed for the Governor and Council, would undoubtedly appear extremely large, to those who are unacquainted with the riches of Bengal, and the numberless opportunities which the Company's servants have of acquiring money: but you, who are now perfectly informed of the revenues of these kingdoms, and the prodigious emoluments within the reach of gentlemen high in the service, will, I am persuaded, agree with me, that if some plan, of the nature proposed, be not adopted, the Governor and Council will not fail to acquire much larger fortunes, by other means, in a much shorter time; which must always be productive of that quick succession, not only so detrimental to your commercial interest, but so totally incompatible with the Acquisition of political knowledge, which ought now to be considered as a very material qualification in all your civil as well as military servants. To obviate an objection which may arise, that they may possibly proceed in the old way of procuring money, notwithstanding they accept of these allowances, I would have an oath tendered to them, of as strong and solemn a nature as can be penned; I have drawn out the form of one, agreeable to my idea of the expedient, and have the honour to enclose it for your consideration. To this may be annexed a penalty bond of £. 150,000 to be executed by the Governor, and of £. 50,000 to be executed by each of the Council. Thus the conscience of some will be awakened by the legal consequences of perjury; and pecuniary punishment will be a sure guard over the honesty of others. Could the hearts of men be known by their general character in society, or could their conduct in a state of temptation, be ascertained from their moderate attention to wealth, whilst the sudden acquisition of it was impossible, the proposal I make would be an affront to religion and to morality; but since that is not the case in any part of the World, and least of all so in the East, we must for our own security impose such restraints, as shall make it impossible even for hypocrisy to introduce corruption.

19. Having thus fully submitted to you my sentiments on the civil department, permit me to trouble you with a few observations on the military, which deserves a no less serious attention. In the former part of this letter, I have mentioned that luxury, and an abhorrence of subordination, had overspread your army, but that the good effects of appointing field officers had already become visible. The Committee letter will inclose a general return of their number, and enlarge upon the necessity of keeping each regiment complete to the establishment; I therefore avoid saying any thing here upon those subjects. That letter will also specify the proportion of emoluments proposed for the field officers, from the new-acquired advantages upon salt. The same objection may perhaps be made to this, which I supposed was likely to occur with re-
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pect to the plan for the benefit of the civil servants; if so, I beg leave to refer you to my proposal and remarks upon that subject, which are equally proper and applicable to this. These points then I conclude are sufficiently before you; and I proceed to recommend to your consideration, that the regimenting of the troops has introduced a much larger number of officers of rank, than has hitherto been admitted upon your establishment; and that this regulation beneficial and necessary as it is, will, notwithstanding, be productive of one dangerous evil, if not constantly guarded against by the authority of the Governor and Council, supported and enforced by the higher powers at home. The evil I mean to apprise you of, is the encroachment of the military upon the civil jurisdiction, and an attempt to be independant of their authority. A spirit of this kind has always been visible; our utmost vigilance therefore is requisite to suppress it, or at least to take care that it shall not actually prevail. I have been at some pains to inculcate a total subjection of the army to the government, and I doubt not you will ever maintain that principle. In the field, in time of actual service, I could wish to see the commander of your forces implicitly relied on for his plan of operations; orders from the presidency may frequently embarrass him, and prejudice the service: at such a time, he is certainly the best judge of what measures should be pursued, and ought therefore to be trusted with discretionary powers; but he should by no means be permitted to vary from the first general plan of a campaign, nor, from his own idea of the Company's interest, to prosecute operations of importance, when they are not also of real utility and emergency. I dwell not however entirely upon the conduct of a commander of the forces, as such in the field; he is to understand that upon all occasions, a gentleman in the Council is his superior, unless he also has a seat at the Board, and then he will of course rank as he stands in that appointment. The whole army should in like manner be subordinate to the civil power; and it is the indispensable duty of the Governor and Council to keep them so. If at any time they should struggle for superiority, the Governor and Council must strenuously exert themselves; ever mindful that they are the trustees for the Company in this settlement, and the guardians of public property under a civil institution.

20. It would give me pain to see a regulation so salutary as that of the appointment of field officers attended with any inconveniencies; and therefore I would earnestly recommend the following very easy and effectual mode of prevention. Let the Equality in civil and military rank be immediately settled by the court of Directors. Were disputes about precedence the only points to be adjusted, they would not be worth a moment's reflection: but we are to consider, that opportunities will sometimes happen when military gentlemen may assume power and authority from the rank they hold among the civil servants, and perhaps pay no attention to orders issued from their supposed inferiors. Such contentions may have disagreeable consequences; and to prevent them, I propose, that all the Colonels (the commanders of the troops excepted, who is intitled to the rank of 3d in Council) shall be equal in rank to the counsellors, but always the youngest of that rank; the lieutenant colonels should rank with senior merchants; the majors with junior merchants; captains with factors; and lieutenants and ensigns with writers. The rank of all officers below colonels, and of civil servants below counsellors, may be considered according to the dates of their commissions and appointments respectively: when such a regulation has taken place, I think the appointment of field officers cannot be charged with a single inconvenience.

21. Before I quit the subject of the army, I must repeat what, if I mistake not, I mentioned to Mr. Rous before I left England, the propriety of appointing Sir Robert Barker to the command of a regiment in case of a vacancy. On the death of Colonel Knox, I hesitated not to appoint Sir Robert to the 3d regiment, but it met with opposition, not only from some of the gentlemen in Council, but afterwards from Sir Robert Fletcher, who thought himself aggrieved, though at a time when Barker was a captain, he was only a volunteer in your service; and besides Sir Robert Barker must on all occasions, as the elder officer, have commanded in the field in the absence of General Carnac and Colonel Smith, even if this appointment had not taken place. If I could imagine that his seniority in the service did not sufficiently entitle him to his preferment, I would urge his experience, which is greater than that of the other gentleman, and his disinterestedness, which made him accept what is so infinitely inferior, in point of emoluments, to the command of the artillery. Lieut. Colonel Peach has in like manner been objected to by the majors appointed by the governors and Council; but it has always been customary to prefer officers of your own appointment to those of the same rank nominated by the governor and Council: I need not point out the propriety of your confirming this gentleman's Commission. The introducing Lieut. Colonel Chapman also to that rank has met with the same objections: with regard to him, permit me to acquaint you, that he is a very old major in the king's service; that he was strongly solicited at Madras to continue there, and on very advantageous terms, when his regiment was ordered home; but that I found him at the Cape in his way to Europe; and it was with the utmost difficulty that Messrs. Sumner and Sykes and myself could prevail upon him to return to India next in rank to Lieut. Colonel Peach. His merits on the coast have been very great, and I consider him as a very valuable acquisition to your service; I therefore

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most earnestly request you will be pleased to confirm his appointment as lieutenant Colonel on this establishment. Neither of these three gentlemen I have here spoken of can be censured for that spirit of licentiousness and independency, which I have pointed out as the great evils we ought to guard against; and the variety as well as length of their services will certainly be of considerable advantage to corps like ours. I must at the same time confess, that I cannot be responsible for that discipline and reformation we mean shall take place, unless the field officers are men I can depend upon. Most of the captains now in your service have had so little experience, and are, I fear, so liable to the general objection, that I could wish to have five or six captains sent out who have seen service, who understand discipline, and who are well recommended by their colonels. If you should think proper to extend this plan to majors, it will be so much the better; but there is no occasion to go higher. Among the appointments you may be pleased to make in England, I could wish to find a majority upon this establishment for Major Pemble, agreeable to the date of the brevet given him upon his arrival at this place. That gentleman has seen much service, both on the coast of Coromandel and Manilla, and at Bengal; but being on the Bombay establishment, where the rise is so very slow, he has had the mortification to see himself constantly superseded by the coast and Bengal officers. You may be assured I would not trouble you with this recommendation, if I did not know him to be worthy of your notice.

22. The enquiries I have found myself under the necessity of promoting, the regulations which I judged proper should take place without delay, together with those I have here had the honour to propose for your mature deliberation, will, I doubt not, meet with that candid discussion which the importance of the subject requires. You will be pleased, upon the whole, to observe, that the great object of my labour has been (and it must also be yours) to stem that torrent of luxury, corruption, and licentiousness, which have nearly overwhelmed the interest, and I might add the existence, of the Company in these parts; to reduce your civil servants to a sense of duty to their employers, and moderation in the pursuit of their own advantages; to introduce discipline, subordination, economy, into your army; and to prevent, in general, that sudden acquisition of riches, which is evidently the root of almost every other evil, both in the civil and military department.

23. Is there a man anxious for the speedy return of his son, his brother, or his friend, and solicitous to see that return accompanied by affluence of fortune, indifferent to the means by which it may have been obtained? Is there a man, who void of all but selfish feelings, can withhold his approbation of any plan that promises not sudden riches to those his dearest connexions; who can look with contempt upon measures of moderation; and who can cherish all upstart greatness, though stigmatized with the spoils of the Company? If there is such a man, to him all arguments would be vain; to him I speak not.—My address is to those who can judge coolly of the advantages to be desired for their relations and friends, nor think the body corporate wholly uninterested to their attention. If these should be of opinion, that an independent fortune, honourably acquired in a faithful service of 12 or 15 years, is more compatible with the interests of the Company, than to the late rapidity of the acquisitions, and at the same time satisfactory to the expectations of Reason; I will venture to assert, that the regulations already made, together with those proposed, will, when enforced by the authority of the Court of Directors, insure to the Company their commercial and political advantages, and be productive of certain independency to every servant who endeavours to deserve it.

24. The general terms in which I have mentioned the depravity of this settlement oblige me to point out to your attention the instances, the very few instances, of distinguished merit among the superior servants. To find a man who, in the midst of luxury and licentiousness, had retained the true idea of commercial economy; who, inferior in fortune to most of your civil servants in the rank of counsellors, was yet superior to all in moderation and integrity; whose regard for the welfare of the Public, and for the reputation of individuals, had made him warn others from falling into the temptations of corruption, which he saw were approaching; and who could actually resist those temptations himself, when a share was allotted him of money he thought unwarrantably obtained: to find such a man in such a settlement would appear incredible, to those who are unacquainted with Mr. Verelst. I have represented this Gentleman to you, as I should every one, in his real character; and shall only add, that, if you wish to see the measures we are now pursuing supported with integrity, abilities, and resolution, you will endeavour to prevail on him to continue in your service, by appointing him to succeed Mr. Sumner in the government. To omit mentioning Mr. Cartier would be injustice, as he stands high in my opinion: his character is clear, and his attachment to your service, what it ought to be, unbiassed by any mean attention to his own advantages. I wish sincerely your list of superior servants would enable me to detain you longer on subjects of commendation; but I have finished the picture, and I cannot add another figure that deserves to be distinguished from the groupe.

25. Having filled so many pages upon the subject of public affairs, you will indulge me with a few lines upon a circumstance which concerns myself. Mr. Johnstone, in his last minute in council, has thought proper to throw out some observations upon the validity of my title to

the Jaghire; insinuating that the defect which he pretends to have discovered was not known at the time of my litigation with the Company. As I would not wish that a point in which my honour is concerned should pass unnoticed, I must observe that the King's Sunnud, which Mr. Johnstone affirms was requisite to be obtained within six months from the granting of the Jaghire, for the confirmation of it, is a matter of form only, and not understood to be essential. As a proof of this, I inclose transactions of various Jaghire grants, properly attested by Mr. Vansittart, the Persian translator; as also an attestation of the same gentleman, that the grant to me was as complete as other grants of that nature generally are; but to put this matter out of dispute, the paper of agreement which Mr. Johnstone alludes to, is of no more consequence than a piece of blank paper, since it was never executed by me, or by any agent or vaquell on my account; nor was any agent ever named or thought of by me. Inclosed, I transmit you a translation of the very paper, attested by Mr. Vansittart.

26. Permit me now to remind you, that I have a large family, who stand in need of a father's protection; that I sacrifice my health, and hazard my fortune, with my life, by continuing in this climate: the first great purposes of my appointment are perfectly answered; peace is restored, and my engagement to procure for the Company the reversion of my Jaghire, is completed in the fullest manner, since it is not only confirmed by the present Nabob, but by the Great Mogul: I now only wait to be informed, whether my conduct thus far be approved of, and and whether the whole or any part of the regulations I have had the honour to lay before you are conformable to your ideas of the reformation necessary to be established; if they meet with your approbation, I doubt not you will immediately empower me, in conjunction with the Select Committee, to finish the business so successfully begun, which may easily be effected before the end of the ensuing year; when I am determined to return to Europe, and hope to acquaint you in person with the accomplishment of every wish you can form for the prosperity of your affairs in Bengal.

27. I shall conclude this tedious letter, by observing, that my anxiety to know whether you approve of my conduct or not, can proceed from no other motive than my concern for the Public; since I continue invariable in the resolution I formed, and expressed in a General Court long before the covenants were proposed, of acquiring no addition to my fortune by my acceptance of the government; and I beg leave also to assure you, that, in order to obviate all suspicion of a collusion in this delicate point, I have not permitted either of the gentlemen of my family to hold an employment in your service, nor to receive presents, although they are not bound by covenants to the contrary. The small congratulatory nazurs, elephants, horses, &c. which I have been under a necessity of receiving, do not, I imagine, amount to any considerable sum; but whatever it may be, not a farthing shall go into my own pocket. I have hitherto been too much engaged in matters of public importance to attend to a particular valuation; but I have caused an exact account to be kept of every, even the most trifling, present, which, at my return shall be submitted to your inspection; and in the mean time, the amount of the whole shall go towards defraying my extraordinary expences as Governor. The only favour I have to solicit for myself is, that although your Treasury here will for the future be so full as to render it difficult for individuals to obtain bills upon the Company, payable at home, you will be pleased to indulge me with the usual channel of remittance of my Jaghire, until it reverts to the Company. I have the honour to be, with the utmost respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and most humble Servant,

To the Honourable the Court of Directors.

CLIVE.

28. I cannot help requesting your attention to Mr. William Wynne, a young gentleman whom I brought out to India with me, and whom I was in hopes of seeing appointed a writer on the list of that year. I have caused him to transcribe this letter, that you may see he is qualified in point of penmanship; and as he has lived constantly with me, and acted as assistant to my secretary, I can take upon me to be responsible for his conduct and abilities in every respect: It is therefore my particular request that you confer on him the station of a writer, to rank from the time of his leaving England.

29. I beg also to recommend to your protection Mr. Maddison, a gentleman of a liberal education, and who promises to be a very valuable servant to the Company, from an uncommon facility in acquiring the Persian Language. As he is 27 years of age, you will not think me unreasonable in soliciting for him the appointment of a factor.

CLIVE.

No. 74.

Extract of a Letter from the Court of Directors to the President and Select Committee at Fort William in Bengal, 17th May 1766.

1. **O**N the 19th of last month we received the several packets committed to the care of Captain Griffin, in which was your letter of the 30th of September, one from Lord Clive, and a general letter, both dated the same day.

2. As

2. As some of the most important affairs have fallen under your management, which have never occurred since the Company had a being, it is with the utmost satisfaction we observe with what zeal and true regard to the interest of your employers you have pursued such measures, not only with respect to the political system of the country, but the arduous task of discovering, and laying open to our view, the infidelity, rapaciousness, and misbehaviour, of our servants in general; of all which, you may be fully assured, we have the highest and most grateful sense.

3. As stability to your plans for a peaceable possession of our acquisitions, and a thorough reformation in our servants in general, are objects of the greatest importance, and in which the presence of Lord Clive is essentially necessary; we made it our unanimous and earnest request, that his Lordship would continue another season in Bengal; and which we here again repeat, in confidence and hopes of his Lordship's ready acquiescence to complete what he has laid so good a foundation for, as you will observe by the accompanying triplicate of a letter we addressed to his Lordship, dated the 2d instant, which as the occasion was so important, we sent over land, for fear the mercury, by which you will receive this, should not reach Bengal before the departure of his Lordship.

4. Although we think you have made a most unexpected progress in investigating the many new and important affairs that have come before you, yet we consider what you have done as necessarily imperfect, till you have had some experience of the effect of your regulations. You must not therefore look on the following observations and directions as carrying any disapprobation of your conduct in general, but as reflections that occur to us on the first view of affairs so totally new to us. We trust entirely to the continuance of your zealous endeavours to bring this great work to perfection.

6. From the sentiments we expressed in every one of our late letters, you will easily judge the great pleasure it gave us to see the war with Souja Dowla ended so conformable to our wishes. We always esteemed the power of that Subah the strongest barrier we could have against the invasions of the northern powers, and of the Morattas, which have so long laid desolate the northern provinces; and, had the impolitic, injudicious views of our late governor and council been followed, and the king, or Nudjeef Cawn, been left in possession of Souja Dowla's Country, we are convinced they would not have had weight and abilities to have supported themselves, and we must either have had their wars to maintain at that immense distance, or they would have been drove back on us, and brought the war down to our own frontiers, or even into our own provinces. Nothing could so effectually restore that country to its former state, as putting its natural prince in the full possession of his dominions; and we are equally pleased to see the care that has been taken of all those who shewed their attachment to us in the course of the war. Bulwantsing's joining us at the time he did, was of singular service, and the stipulation in his favour was what he was justly intitled to.

7. Equally politic and prudent are the concessions in favour of the king, whose interest was but considered by the restoring Souja Dowla to his country, the only Subah in Indostan who is ever likely to support him in his pretensions to the Empire. The revenue agreed to be paid him must be, in the eyes of the Indian powers, a mark of our respect to the royal blood, and an acknowledgement of his right. We approve also the being guarantee for Nudjeef Cawn; and finally we hope the moderation and attention paid to all those who have espoused our interest in this war, will restore our reputation in Indostan; and that the Indian powers will be convinced no breach of treaty will ever have our sanction. We also hope the 50 Lacks stipulated to be paid by Souja Dowla will be, before this reaches you, discharged, and his Dominions entirely evacuated by our troops; and that none will remain under pretence of protection to the king's person, for that may lead to pretensions to support him in his claim to the Empire, a measure quite contrary to our views; being determined to make the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá, the utmost bounds of our political views or possessions.

8. The article in the treaty with Souja Dowla, stipulating a trade duty-free through his dominions, we direct to be confined solely to the Company's trade; and even in that sense of it, we mean only, if his dominions produce any goods fit for the European markets, or if it can be made the means of extending our trade in the woollen manufacture, or any other European goods.

9. We come now to consider the great and important affair of the Dewannee, on which we shall give you our sentiments, with every objection that occurs to us.

10. When we consider that the barrier of the country government was entirely broke down, and every Englishman throughout the country armed with an authority that owned no superior, and exercising his power to the oppression of the helpless Native, who knew not whom to obey; at such a crisis, we cannot hesitate to approve your obtaining the Dewannee for the Company.

11. When

11. When we look back to the system that Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the Select Committee found established, it presents to us a Souba disarmed, with a revenue of almost two Millions Sterling, (for so much seems to have been left, exclusive of our demands on him) at the mercy of our servants, who had adopted an unheard-of ruinous principle, of an interest distinct from the Company: This principle shewed itself in laying their hands upon every thing they did not deem the Company's property.

12. In the province of Burdwan, the resident and his council took an annual stipend of near eighty thousand Rupees per annum, from the Rajah, in addition to the Company's salary. This stands on the Burdwan accounts, and we fear was not the whole; for we apprehend it went further, and that they carried this pernicious principle, even to the sharing with the Rajah of all he collected beyond the stipulated Mulgazurry, or land revenue, overlooking the point of duty to the Company, to whom properly every thing belonged that was not necessary for the Rajah's support. It has been the principle too on which our servants have falsely endeavoured to gloss over the crime of their proceedings, on the accession of the present Souba, and we fear would have been soon extended to the grasping the greatest share of that part of the Nabob's revenues which was not allotted to the Company. In short, this principle was directly undermining the whole fabrick, for whilst the Company were sinking under the burthen of the war, our servants were enriching themselves from those very funds that ought to have supported the war. But to Lord Clive and our Select Committee we owe that the Company are at last considered as principals in the advantages as well as dangers.

13. We must now turn our attention to render our acquisitions as permanent as human wisdom can make them. This permanency we apprehend can be found only in the simplicity of the execution. We observe the account you give of the office and power of the King's Dewan in former times, was the collecting of all the revenues, and after defraying the expences of the army, and allowing a sufficient fund for the support of the Nizamut, to remit the remainder to Delhi. This description of it is not the office we wish to execute; the experience we have already had in the province of Burdwan, convinces us how unfit an Englishman is to conduct the collection of the revenues and follow the subtle native through all his arts to conceal the real value of his country, to perplex and to elude the payments. We, therefore, entirely approve of your preserving the ancient form of government in the upholding the dignity of the Souba.

14. We conceive the office of Dewan should be exercised only in superintending the collection and disposal of the revenues, which office, though vested in the Company, should officially be executed by our resident at the Durbar, under the controul of the governor and Select committee; the ordinary bounds of which controul should extend to nothing beyond the superintending the collection of the revenues, and the receiving the money from the nabob's treasury to that of the Dewannah or the Company. And this we conceive to be neither difficult nor complicated; for at the annual poonah the government settles with each Zemindar his monthly payments for the ensuing year; so the monthly payments of the whole, from the nabob's dewan is but the total of the monthly payment of each Zemindar; which must be strictly kept up, and if deficient, the Company must trace what particular province, Rajah, or Zemindar, has fallen short in his monthly payments; or if it is necessary to extend the power further, let the annual poonah, by which we mean the time when every landholder makes his agreement for the ensuing year, be made with the consent of the dewan or Company. This we conceive to be the whole office of the Dewanny. The administration of justice, the appointment to offices or Zemindarries, in short, whatever comes under the denomination of civil administration, we understand is to remain in the hands of the nabob or his ministers.

15. The resident at the Durbar being constantly on the spot, cannot be long a stranger to any abuses in the government, and is always armed with power to remedy them; it will be his duty to stand between the administration and the encroachments always to be apprehended from the agents of the Company's servants, which must first be known to him; and we rely on his fidelity to the Company to check all such encroachments, and to prevent the oppression of the natives.—We gave you our sentiments on the office of resident in our letter of the 24th December last, which were what we thought suitable to the office as it then stood; but now that is become of so much more importance we shall leave the regulating of it to you, and desire you will be very explicit on the subject; and shall only here sling out some few thoughts upon it.

16. We would have his correspondence to be carried on with the select Committee through the channel of the president; he should keep a Diary of all his transactions; his correspondence with the natives must be publickly conducted; copies of all his letters sent and received be transmitted monthly to the presidency, with duplicates and triplicates, to be transmitted home in our general packet by every ship.

Letter from the Court of Directors to Lord Clive.

My Lord,

1. We have received your Lordship's letter of the 30th September last, which, with the letter from the select Committee, and their proceedings, have given us a clear view of the state in which

which your lordship found our affairs on your arrival, and the state in which they were at the time of the said advices.

2. When we consider the penetration with which your lordship at once discerned our true interest in every branch, the rapidity with which you restored peace, order, and tranquillity, and the unbiassed integrity that has governed all your actions, we must congratulate your lordship on being the happy instrument of such extensive blessings to those countries; and you have our sincerest thanks for the great and important advantages thereby obtained for the Company.

3. We have the strongest sense of the deplorable state to which our affairs were on the point of being reduced, from the corruption and rapacity of our servants, and the universal depravity of manners throughout the settlement; we agree entirely with your lordship, that the train our affairs were then in would in a very few months have brought us to a most dangerous situation.

4. The war in which we so impolitically engaged against Suja Dowla, was carrying on at such an immense loss to the Company, as would in a short space have sunk a great part of our capital, and the funds that ought to have been destined to the support of that war were perverted to the baneful purpose of corrupting our servants: nor was this the only fatal consequence of this war, ruin to the Company might have sprung even from our success; for either the king, unable to maintain himself, would have been drove back on the Bengal provinces; or, if he had been successful thro' our assistance, the venality or ambition of our servants might have urged them on to have marched our forces with him to Delhi: Your Lordship and the select Committee have happily relieved us from these apprehensions, and put a period to the war, and all such wild projects, by restoring Suja Dowla to his dominions.

5. Your Lordship justly observes our danger from within was yet greater than that from without.—The general relaxation of all discipline and obedience, of both military and civil, was hastily tending to a dissolution of all government, the quick progress of private fortunes was big with very alarming consequences, which we do not dwell on, as you have expressed yourself so fully sensible of them; we hold the means by which they were obtained in every sense unlawful.

6. Our letter to the select Committee expresses our sentiments of what have been obtained by way of donations; and to that we must add, that we think the vast fortunes acquired in the inland trade have been obtained by a scene of the most tyrannic and oppressive conduct that ever was known in any age or country; we have been uniform in our sentiments and orders on this subject, from the first knowledge we had of it; and your lordship will not therefore wonder that after the fatal experience we had of the violent abuses committed in this trade that we could not be brought to approve it even in the limited and regulated manner with which it comes to us in the plan laid down in the Committee's proceedings: we agree in opinion with your lordship on the propriety of holding out such advantages to our chief servants, civil and military, as may open to them the means of honourably acquiring a competency in our service; but the difficulty of the subject, and the short time we have at present to consider of it, have obliged us to defer giving our sentiments and directions thereupon until the next dispatch.

7. For the same reasons your lordship will observe, by our letter to the select Committee, that we are under the necessity of postponing the consideration of the present intended for general Carnac by the King; but by the next dispatch your lordship may be assured we shall have due regard therein to your lordship's recommendations, and his particular merit.

8. As the inland trade has been abolished, principally with a view to the encouragement of the natives, we hope your lordship will find the means to prevent its becoming a Monopoly in any hands, but more particularly in the hands of any powerful native, from whom the poor might suffer those very inconveniences, for the prevention of which we have forbid our servants to trade in it, and have relinquished those advantages that we ourselves might make by such a Monopoly.

9. We have had too much occasion to remark the tyrannic and oppressive conduct of all European agents who have got away from under the eye of the presidency; and we with your lordship would make it an object of your consideration, how to confine the said Europeans as much as possible to the presidency, and to those subordinates where the largeness of the investment may require it to be conducted by covenanted servants, preferably to gomastahs.

10. We have not at present time to enter into the thorough examination of what your lordship proposes, respecting the establishing of rank and precedence between our civil and military servants. In our letter of the 24th of December, we determined, that the president and council might delegate their authority to any civil servant they pleased; and every military officer, be his rank what it might, should pay the same obedience to the orders of such civil servant, as to those of the president and council.—It is not meant however that such civil servant is to controul the military officer in the execution of military operations, which is his proper department.

II. We have the most perfect sense of your Lordship's disinterestedness in every part of your conduct, and we shall not fail to represent this to the proprietors, and shall at the same time inform them of the many great advantages your Lordship has obtained for the Company; but we fear, my Lord, past experience will teach them as it does us, that the permanency of those advantages will depend much on your Lordship's continuing in India, till you have seen the regulations firmly established for the conducting these important affairs: Another year's experience and peaceable enjoyment of our acquisitions, might fix them on a basis that would give hopes they may be as lasting as they are great; and there is no doubt, my Lord, but the general voice of the proprietors, indeed we may say, of every man who wishes well to his country, will be to join in our request, that your Lordship will continue another year in India: We are very sensible of the sacrifice we ask your Lordship to make, in desiring your continuance another year in Bengal, after the great service you have rendered the Company, and the difficulties you have passed through in accomplishing them, under circumstances, in which your own example has been the principal means of restraining the general rapaciousness and corruption, which had brought our affairs so near the brink of ruin: These services, my Lord, deserve more than verbal acknowledgments; and we have no doubt that the proprietors will concur with us in opinion, that some solid and permanent retribution, adequate to your great merits, should crown your Lordship's labours and success. We are,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

loving friends,

London, 17th May 1766.

CHARLES CHAMBERS

J. PARDOE,

JO^s DU PRE,

THOS SAUNDERS,

GEORGE CUMING,

JOHN HARRISON,

J. PURLING,

JOHN ROBERTS,

PETER DU CANE, Junior,

GEORGE WOMBWELL,

ROB. JONES,

GEO. DUDLEY,

THOS ROUS,

JOHN STEPHENSON,

CHA. CUTTS,

HENY SAVAGE,

CHRISTO BARON,

FREDK PIGOU,

F. W. BARRINGTON,

EDWD WHELER,

LUKE SCRAFTON,

E. H. CRUTTENDEN.

No. 75.

Berkley Square, 14th January 1768.

Gentlemen,

I conceived that my answer to your secretary's letter of the 1st instant might have induced you to reflect, that if there were any materials in my possession, which did not appear in the public proceedings of my government, they were unnecessary, if not improper, for public communication; but I find that my letter, instead of having such effect, has almost produced a requisition of some papers, which you have been informed, have been in my hands, containing proofs of Mr. Vansittart's having received seven Lacks of Rupees for making the Mongheer treaty; as you have thought proper, thus to press this matter, I will not decline to acknowledge that I am possessed of some informations upon that subject; I must at the same time acquaint you, that I transmitted from Bengal to Mr. Dudley, your chairman, my reasons for not entering into every public enquiry directed in your letters by the Camden, and I now inclose a copy of such part of my advices to him, for your observation. I have to add, that upon my arrival in England I communicated to your chairman, Mr. Rous, the informations now alluded to: After such proceeding on my part, I might have hoped, that if at any time these private materials became necessary to the Court of Directors, on grounds of public utility, the application for them would have been in a private request from the chairman, with whom I have ever been most ready to co-operate, and whose representation of a real necessity of producing the particulars would have had weight with me. I will hope, that upon due consideration of what I have now laid before you, no farther exposition will be thought necessary for me.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

your most obedient and

most humble servant,

CLIVE.

To the honourable the Court of Directors
for affairs of the honourable united
Company of merchants of England trading
to the East Indies.

Extract

A P P E N D I X, No. 76, 77, 78.

Incloſure in No 75.

*Extacl of a Letter from Lord Clive to George Dudley, Eſquire, dated Calcutta, 8th Sep-
tember 1766.*

After having explained myſelf ſo fully upon this ſubject, give me leave to expoſtulate with you as chairman, in that friendly manner, and on that intimate footing, which I would always wiſh to be with the preſent Court of Directors. After a general court of proprietors had reſoſed ſo much confidence in me, and that confidence was ſo ſtrongly confirmed by a letter which I received from the Court of Directors, where was the neceſſity of pointing out to me ſo many very diſagreeable and odious enquiries? Could not the directors have poſtponed their ſentiments until they had ſeen in what manner I had conducted myſelf? Could a Court of Directors, for whom I had ſo high an eſteem, imagine that I would leave ought undone; or unenquired into, that would tend to their honour, or the advantage of the Company? Certainly I would not; my own reputation was too much at ſtake to admit a thought to the contrary.

You may be aſſured it gives me pain to be reduced to the neceſſity of declining obedience to any of your orders; but retroſpection into actions, which have been buried in oblivion for ſo many years; which, if enquired into, may produce diſcoveries which cannot bear the light; which can be of no advantage to the Company, but may bring diſgrace upon the nation, and at the ſame time blaſt the reputation of great and good families, who will ſuffer for the Iniquity of individuals; wantonly to occaſion ſo much uneaſineſs is what I cannot reconcile to thoſe principles of humanity by which I have always been actuated; neither do I think it ſound policy to enquire into the proceedings of that committee which placed Coſſim Ally upon the Muſnud: The bad actions of ſervants frequently reflect diſhonour upon their maſters; the preſent flouriſhing condition of our Eaſt India Company cannot but occaſion much national jealousy; and proceedings of ſuch a nature, made public, might occaſion a parliamentary enquiry, and that enquiry might extend to the India Houſe itſelf: upon reflection, I am perſuaded the Directors will approve of my conduct in diſcouraging this examination, in the manner pointed out in their general letter of Lord Camden.

With regard to the other enquiries, where the Company's intereſt and honour are more immediately concerned, they ſhall be fully investigated.

No. 76.

Gentlemen,

Pefinas, 20th April, 1768.

I Have received another letter from your ſecretary, demanding, a ſecond time, ſome papers relative to Mr. Vanſittart's conduct in Bengal. Although I ſtill perſevere in thinking you have no manner of right to require the papers from me, yet as Mr. Vanſittart himſelf ſeems deſirous, by his letter to me (copy of which he informs me he has incloſed to you) that thoſe papers ſhould be ſent, I have given my attorneys inſtructions accordingly to deliver them into your hands, to be uſed as to you in your diſcretion ſhall ſeem meet, if he ſtill perſiſts in the ſame way of thinking. I have the honour to be,

gentlemen,

your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

To the Court of Directors.

CLIVE.

No. 77.

Paris, 19th June 1768.

Gentlemen,

I N conformity with Mr. Vanſittart's requeſt, dated the 13th inſtant, and received by the laſt poſt, I tranſmit to you the Depoſitions of Bollachidaſs and Sheik Heydayat Alla, with reſpect to that gentleman.

I have the honour to be, with reſpect,

Gentlemen,

To the honourable the Court of Directors
for the affairs of the united company
of merchants of England trading to the
Eaſt Indies.

Your moſt obedient,

And moſt humble ſervant,

JOHN WALSH.

No. 78.

Sheik Hedayet Alla depoſeth,

T H A T in the year 1762, in the month of December, when Mr. Henry Vanſittart, accompanied by ſeveral other gentlemen, waited on the Nabob Coſſim Ally Cawn, at Monghyr, he then acted in the office of treaſurer under his excellency; and that, in purſuance of the Nabob's commands, he iſſued the ſum of two lacks, at four or five different payments.

APPENDIX, No. 79, 80.

for Mr. Van Sittart; and that two ladies who were in company with the Governor went into the Zenana, and received Jewels.

This, being a faithful translation from the Persian original, is attested this
18th day of January, by me,

W. H. COXE, sworn translator.

The Mark -|- of Sheik Hedayet Alla.
Sworn to before me,

H. VERELST.

No. 79.

The Deposition of Bollackidafs, Sabicar, or Banker.

IN the year 1762, in the month of December, Mr. Henry Vansittart arrived at Monghyr, and had an interview with the Nabob Cossim Ally Cawn: I was employed in negotiating bills for the said Nabob one or two days before the departure of Mr. Vansittart for Azimebad; his excellency retiring with me into a private apartment, signified to me his pleasure that I should transmit the sum of five lacks of rupees to Mr. Henry Vansittart in Calcutta; in consequence of these his excellency's instructions, I wrote an order to Gurdharreloll, my Gomastah in the factory of Hughly, to pay the aforesaid amount into the hands of Mr. Vansittart; afterwards, on the return of this gentleman to Calcutta, the Gomastah caused the money aforesaid to be delivered to him, and gave me information thereof, which I made report of to his excellency the Nabob.—The strict truth of this transaction I have faithfully related. Written this 6th day of Shawban (January) in the eighth year of his Majesty's auspicious reign.

The above, being a faithful translation from the Persian original, is attested
this 18th day of January 1767, by me,

W. H. COXE, sworn translator.

The hand Writing of Bollackidafs.
Calcutta, the 19th of January 1767.
sworn before me,

H. VERELST.

No. 80.

London, 15th September, 1768.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

I HAVE received from your secretary the copies of two papers delivered to the Court by Lord Clive; one being a declaration of Boolakydafs; setting forth, that a day or two before I took leave of Meer Cossim, at Mongheer, he received orders to pay me five lacks of Rupees; the other, an information of Sheik Hedayet Colla, importing, that he by the same order, paid me two lacks of Rupees; and that the ladies who were with me visited the Nabob's ladies, and received a present of Jewels.

Nobody is better acquainted with the customs of that country than Lord Clive, who has brought these informations before the Court. I appeal to his own candour, whether, upon visits of this sort, presents are not customary, and in a manner indispensable.

But I do not mean to recriminate upon his lordship; much less upon any ladies who had the honour of being in his company upon such occasions. I shall content myself with defending my own character; and shall expose to you very fairly the principles upon which I acted at all times in your service.

From the earliest date of the Company's settlements, presents from the people of the country made a part of the benefit of your governments; and this advantage increased in proportion to the extent of your connexions, until, by a fresh covenant, in the year 1765, you thought fit to put a stop to it.

In such circumstances, I hope some praise is due to those servants who made the most moderate use of the opportunities their situation presented to them; who preferred always the Company's interest to their private emolument; who never directly or indirectly sought for presents; but, on the contrary, refused all such as could in any manner affect or retard payments due to the Company, or lay the person offering it under any distress or Inconvenience.

Let Lord Clive say if any inhabitant of Bengal has a complaint to make against me upon this head, or indeed upon any other: As to Boolakydafs and Sheik Hedayet Colla, whose names appear to the informations laid before you by his lordship, it will be seen that the former complains only of the authority by which he was forced to give that information; and as to the latter,

matter, I do not even recollect his name; nor did I, to my knowledge, ever transact any business with him.

All Meer Cossim's payments were made, either by Boolakydafs, Coja Petrus, or the Roy Royan, or in assignments payable to the Chiefs of Patna and Cossimbuzar.

In these different ways I received all that was due to the Company; I received likewise several sums upon account of Lord Clive, and other gentlemen, for the remaining part of a present, stipulated in the year 1757, and upon various other accounts; but I do not remember that Sheik Hedayet Alla was employed upon any of these occasions.—Soon after Boolakydafs had given to Lord Clive the writing which he has laid before the Court, he wrote me a letter to acquaint me, that in compliance with his lordship's commands he had signed a paper, of which he sent me a copy.

Herewith I have transmitted the original letter, and a translation; and can only lament, that, at a time when the degrees of censure and of praise were measured upon the scale of his lordship's good pleasure, it was my misfortune to have him take so determined a part against me.

But supposing for a moment that the informations were true to their full extent; which, however, I do not admit; what do they import? that the chief of the country having fulfilled all his engagements with the Company, paid off the Arrears of his predecessors troops, and brought his finances into good order, made presents of money and jewels to his friends in the customary manner.

But it seems by your letter to lord Clive, of the 6th January last, that his lordship had represented the presents alluded to in the informations in question, as a consideration given by Meer Cossim for the treaty of Mongheer. If the regulations contained in that treaty had been asked or proposed by Meer Cossim, or had conveyed any benefit or advantage to his Government, there might have been some shew of reason for his lordship's unfriendly construction; but when it is seen that the object of those regulations was to give the English traders a decided right to partake in the inland trade upon the most moderate terms, a duty of 9 per cent. upon a trade which the Company have since rated at 40 per cent. and that Meer Cossim consented only, as he declares in many letters, for the sake of preserving good harmony with the English; when both the parties concerned in the treaty regarded it as an acquisition to the English traders, and a concession on the part of the Nabob; in such a case, for what should he give a consideration? shall he who gives up his pretensions, give money likewise to induce the other party to accept his resignation? such a supposition is so contrary to reason, that the attempt to propagate it could proceed only from the most ungenerous design to prejudice me in your opinion; but, I flatter myself, without effect; for you are so far from regarding the articles proposed at Mongheer, as a regulation in favour of the Nabob, that you call it "A treaty exacted by force to obtain a sanction for a trade to enrich ourselves." The Nabob could be little inclined to give presents for such a consideration, it might rather have induced him to omit the usual civilities.

I have never endeavoured, gentlemen, to make you or the World believe that I passed through the government of Bengal without receiving presents, at a time when there was no law against it, and so many great examples for it; but this I have said, and with the strictest truth, that I never received one that could prejudice the Company, or distress the country, or put back, even for a day, any public or private payments depending for others. Whenever any thing of this sort interfered, and in short, whenever the least objection could arise, I constantly refused all presents; and refused them absolutely and without reservation.—It is well known that upon this principle I rejected all Meer Cossim's Offers of presents in the first part of his government. You have an instance of this in the consultations from Bengal, the January, 1761; which, though the sum in question was not very large, may still serve to shew that I had a certain rule of conduct in which I persevered invariably. I might otherwise have been tempted by the offer which Meer Jassier pressed on me, by means of Nundcooman and Juggutchund, just before I left Bengal.

They told me that Meer Jassier insisted on my receiving a present of five lacks for the charges of my voyage. I was not then restrained by any orders or covenants, but the state of the Nabob's circumstances was sufficient in my opinion to forbid it; and accordingly my answer was, that being sensible of the many engagements he had to fulfil, I would by no means add to his distress.—This fact is mentioned by Juggutchund in his examination, which is before the Court, and partly also by Nobkissen, who, as he knew such an offer was made me, must also have known the result, although he chuses to be as short as possible upon it.

Here, gentlemen, I shall leave the matter to your candid and impartial consideration, persuaded that the more you examine my conduct, the more you will be convinced that the love of money was never my ruling passion. If it had, my opportunities were many, and I could have gratified it to as great an extent as any of my predecessors; I speak this without

envy or resentment ; but I really think his lordship might have spared his reproaches upon this score.

I am with respect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your most obedient humble servant,
HENRY VAN SITTART.

N^o. 81.

Letter from Boolakydofs to Mr. Vansittart, dated the 20th of Shawbaun, in the 8th Year of the Reign.

YOU are well acquainted with my situation. Lately Lord Clive sent for me, and said, the nabob Cossim Aly Cawn gave Mr Vansittart five lacks of rupees through your hands, is it not true? I answered, it is true. But in that amount was a bill for the expences of Mr. Ellis the chief of Patna, and there was likewise included the price of the jewels deposited by the Nabob Jaffier Aly Cawn. This was the state of the matter.—Lord Clive then said, write, and give me a declaration under your hand, of five lacks of Rupees.—Being without remedy, I wrote it conformably to his order, and gave it him ; and I have sent you herewith an exact copy of it for your refusal.—As you are my only friend and protector, I thought fit to acquaint you with the matter.

No. 82.

Copy of a Letter from Lord Clive to Thomas Reus, Esquire, dated at Madras, the 17th April 1765.

Dear Sir,

WE arrived at this place the 10th instant, and shall proceed to Bengal next Saturday. The Prince of Wales kept us company the greatest part of the way to Ceylon, and is by this time, I hope at her destined port, all well. I must now enter with you into the politics of India. The particulars of our late success, and now very flourishing condition of the Company's Affairs in Indostan, you will have been informed at large, before this reaches you. I shall therefore only trouble you with my sentiments, in consequence of those successes, and trust to your co-operating with me in carrying into execution, and in establishing upon the most solid basis, such parts of my plan as appear capable of answering what we have both so disinterestedly at heart, the Company's honour and prosperity.

We have at last arrived at that critical period, which I have long foreseen ; I mean that period which renders it necessary for us to determine, whether, we can or shall take the whole to ourselves. Jaffier Ally Kan is dead, and his natural son is a minor ; but I know not whether he is yet declared successor. Sujah Dowla is beat from his dominion ; we are in possession of it, and it is scarcely hyperbole to say, to-morrow the whole Mogul Empire is in our power. The inhabitants of the country we know by long experience have no attachment to any obligation ; their forces are neither disciplined, commanded, nor paid, as ours are. Can it then be doubted that a large army of Europeans will effectually preserve us sovereigns, not only holding in awe the attempts of any country prince, but by rendering us so truly formidable, that no French, Dutch, or other enemy will presume to molest us.—You will I am sure imagine with me, that after the length we have run, the princes of Indostan must conclude our views to be boundless ; they have seen such instances of our ambition, that they cannot suppose us capable of moderation. The very Nabobs whom we might support, would be either covetous of our possessions, or jealous of our power. Ambition, fear, avarice, would be daily watching to destroy us, a victory would be but a temporary relief to us, for the dethroning of the first Nabob would be followed by the setting up another, who, from the same principles, would, when his treasure admitted of his keeping up an army, pursue the very path of his predecessor. We must indeed become Nabobs ourselves in fact, if not in name, perhaps totally so without disguise ; but on this subject I cannot be certain until my arrival in Bengal.—Let us, and without delay, complete our three European regiments to 1000 men each ; such an army, together with 500 Light Cavalry, three or four companies of Artillery, and the forces of the country, will certainly render us invincible. In short, if riches and security are the objects of the Company, this is the method, the only method, now for securing them.—Our troops you will hear are at this time above half way to Delhi, a march I highly disapprove of : I mean absolutely to bound our possessions and conquests to Bengal. Never shall the going to Delhi be a plan adopted by me, if possible to be avoided ; and you may depend upon my putting a stop to it ; nor should I even have thought of going such length, if others had not rendered it necessary. I could have wished that our operations had been carried on upon a plan of more moderation, and that we had not been obliged to maintain any other military force, than what might be sufficient to preserve and pursue our commerical advantages ; but since our views are extended, and since

since commerce alone is not the whole of the Company's support, we must go forward; to retract is impossible. One word more: Increase our army to the establishment above mentioned; 20,000 small arms, with gunpowder sufficient, and remember that the Light Cavalry are most necessary. The establishment for Madras is sufficient, no addition is wanted there; but Bengal requires your attention. Give me leave now to lead you for a few moments into the civil department. See what an Augean stable is to be cleansed. The confusion we behold; what does it arise from? Rapacity and luxury; the unwarrantable desire of many to acquire in an instant, what only a few can or ought to possess. Every man would be rich, without the merits of long services; and from this incessant competition undoubtedly springs that disorder, to which we must apply a remedy or be undone; for it is not only malignant but contagious. The new covenants (though I do not entirely approve of their present shape) will make a beginning. Many of the civil servants will probably resign their employments, the Court of Directors must supply the settlement with young men, more moderate or less eager in their pursuit of wealth; and we may perhaps be reduced to the necessity of drawing some senior servants from the other settlements.—It must be your care, and I trust you will do all in your power, to send out proper gentlemen: Affairs seem to be coming to such a pass, that in a little time there will be hardly any person at the council board, above the rank or age of a writer. In short, the evils, civil and military, are enormous, but they shall be rooted out. Whatever odium may be thrown upon me, by the malice or disappointment of individuals, I am resolved to act for the advantage of the Company in every respect. I have not time here to inform you of my whole plan of reformation, but the motives upon which I have founded it being no other than the public good, you may safely exert yourself in its support, if it should stand in need of your assistance, which I hardly think it can, even though faction should be still raging. I propose no advantage to myself—I am determined to return to England without having acquired one farthing addition to my fortune—Surely then I cannot possibly design any thing but public good.

Our affairs are now in such a situation as to require the conduct of them should be managed with the utmost secrecy, and consequently the knowledge of them confined to few.—I mention this because I find that your secret Committee is abolished, and I wish to hear very soon that it is re-established.

As I have written to Mr. Walsh upon this subject, and thought proper to use the same precaution I have to you, I must beg you to furnish him with the key, and likewise with a copy of this letter.

I am, Dear Sir
Your obliged Friend,
and humble servant,
(Signed) CLIVE.

N^o. 85.

Madras, 17 April 1765.

Copy.

Dear Walsh.

Memorandum: Those Parts in Cypher,
are distinguished thus “ ”

I Have desired Mr. Rous to furnish you with a copy of my letter to him of this day's date, likewise with the cypher, that you may be enabled to understand what follows: “ The contents are of great importance, that I would not have them transpire. Whatever money I have in the public funds, or any where else, and as much as can be borrowed in my name, I desire may be without loss of a minute invested in East India stock. You will speak to my attornies on this point. Let them know I am anxious to have my money so disposed of; and press them to hasten the affair as much as possible.”—If a successor to Mr. Palk is not absolutely fixed upon, I beg you will exert your whole influence with Mr. Rous in favour of Mr. Call. I can assure you he appears to me by far the most proper person in this settlement to succeed to the government; in him both the civil and military qualities are united; and I need not add, that in the recommendation of him I am biassed by nothing but the good of the Company.

I am,
Dear Walsh,
Your affectionate Friend,

CLIVE.

No. 84.

Fort William, the 7th May, 1765.

At a Select Committee;

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, President,
William Brightwell Sumner, Esquire,
Francis Sykes, Esquire.

HAVING, in a council held the 5th instant, read and duly considered the paragraphs of the honourable Company's general letter, under date the 1st June 1764, whereby the right honourable Lord Clive, William Brightwell Sumner, Esquire, Brigadier General John Carnac, Harry Verelst, and Francis Sykes, Esquires, are appointed to constitute a select Committee, in order to restore peace and tranquillity to the Company's affairs in Bengal: We do now by virtue of these powers assemble ourselves, in the manner enjoined by our instructions, as the only means which occurs to us, in the present situation of affairs, for obtaining the salutary end proposed.

Resolved, that the following oath be taken by the several members of the select Committee:

"I A. B. do swear, that I will not reveal to any person whatever, any of the proceedings of this Committee, until the same be laid before the council, or until this Committee be dissolved."

Agreed, That Mr. Alexander Campbell be appointed Secretary, Mr. Edward Barber Sub-secretary, and Mr. William Rooke, assistant, to the Committee; and that the following oath of secrecy be administered to them:

"I A. B. do swear, to be true and faithful to the trust reposed in me by the select Committee, and to reveal to no person whatever the proceedings of that department, until the same are laid before the council."

The right honourable the president having delivered a letter, containing a full declaration of his lordship's own intentions, and his sense of the particular duty of the Select Committee;

Ordered, that the same be here entered.

The Right honourable the President's Letter to Committee.

Gentlemen,

Little did I imagine, when I resigned this government five years ago, that I should ever enter upon it again; nor are you ignorant that my present circumstances and situation of life render such an appointment on my part by no means an object either of necessity or choice; but the late distracted state of affairs in these parts having alarmed the proprietors of stock, their mutual interests necessarily became the serious consideration, not only of the Court of Directors, but also of several general Courts; and at one of the most numerous of those, it was proposed, that I should be desired to resume the government of Bengal; a motion which was warmly seconded, and approved of by every member present: thus solicited by the unanimous voice of the proprietors, thus flattered with the opinion they had conceived of my abilities to settle their affairs upon a solid plan, my zeal for the service took place of every private consideration; and I accepted the appointment upon such conditions as I judged expedient for the public good.

The success of the forces I had the honour to command in the year 1767, completed a revolution in favour of Meer Jaffer; an event on which the existence of the East India Company at that time absolutely depended, and which afforded the fairest prospect of future tranquillity to this country: The treaty concluded with him was productive of large advantages to the nation, as well as to individuals, and seemed to insure to the company the benefits of commerce in a much wider extent than they had heretofore enjoyed.

My successors, soon after my departure, thought proper to raise Cossim Aly Cawn to the Subahship; doubtless, because he thought such a step necessary; the consequences however, from whatever cause, were unfortunate; but let us draw a veil over those distant transactions; let us consider only the present state of the politics and commerce; and let our whole attention be employed in establishing the Company's affairs upon a firm and lasting foundation: nor do I in the least despair of seeing this important business accomplished, since I have the peculiar happiness of finding myself assisted by a committee of known abilities and incorruptible integrity. If at any time we should happen to differ in opinion, we shall differ like gentlemen, with temper and cool reasoning. The minutes of our consultations will not, I trust, be prolonged by dissension, nor disgraced with the prejudice of faction; we will endeavour to be unanimous.

A very few days are elapsed since our arrival; and yet, if we consider what has already come to our knowledge, we cannot hesitate a moment upon the necessity of assuming the power that is in us of conducting, as a Select Committee, the affairs both civil and military of this settle-

ment:

ment: what do we hear of, what do we see, but anarchy, confusion, and what is worse, an almost general corruption. To remedy, or at least to prevent, these evils in future, is a duty incumbent upon this Committee, which we owe to that Company we have engaged to serve, and a duty which we owe to ourselves, if the pleas of honour, reputation, and conscience, are worthy your attention. Happy, I am sure you would have been, as well as myself, had the late conduct of affairs been so irreproachable, as to have permitted them still to continue in the hands of the Governor and Council; a very transient view, however, of what has passed since Meer Jaffer's death will convince us, that the great point of reformation we aim at cannot be attained through that channel.—The Committee therefore, in my opinion, must immediately act: a measure so necessary, that I conclude you can have no objection to it. For my own part, I will venture to assert, that the critical situation of the Company renders it absolutely indispensable, for the speedy settling of their affairs, that the power should be vested in the hands of a few; and give me leave further to add, that, unless the spirit of their orders in that respect be pursued, it is but too evident, that the general sense of the Proprietors, when they honoured me with their solicitation to accept of this government, will be baffled and delayed, if not totally eluded, by their servants.

To establish a country government, to secure the commercial interest, and to perpetuate the revenues of the Company; to form the military and to amend the civil departments; these will be the objects of our serious attention. By this Committee I shall hope to see these important matters compleatly regulated, before I resign the government; and you know that my intention is to remain in it no longer than my assistance may be thought necessary towards accomplishing these great and salutary purposes.

I shall now only repeat what you have often heard me declare, That I totally disclaim any emolument to myself; I will not add to my fortune one single rupee, by the opportunities I might have as Governor; on the other hand, be assured that every advantage to others, consistent with my idea of the Company's honour and interest, shall be promoted to the utmost of my power here, and of my influence at home.

To this letter from the Right Honourable the President, Messrs. Sumner and Sykes agreed to deliver in an answer at the next meeting of the Committee.

After duly considering the Honourable Company's instructions, in their general letter of the 1st of June 1764, relative to the covenants; it is the opinion of the Committee they ought immediately to be executed in the form prescribed, by such members of the Council, and other servants of the Company, as have not already signed this obligation.

Agreed, That the abstracts of such proceedings of the Select Committee, as may be deemed of material consequence, be transmitted to Brigadier General Carnac; and that the above oath, administered to the members of the Committee now present, be also tendered to him by the Company's senior servant on the spot.—Also, That we acquaint him of our having formed ourselves into a Select Committee, agreeably to the Company's instructions, and require that he correspond with us accordingly.

Agreed, That an office, with every necessary for the Secretary's department, be immediately provided.

Agreed also, That Mr. Verelst be advised of the meeting of the Select Committee, and his immediate attendance required.

Having read a letter from General Carnac, under date the 21st of April, the Select Committee resolve to write him an answer; the same to be entered after the proceedings.

CLIVE,
W. B. SUMNER,
FRANCIS SYKES.

7th May, 1765.

To Brigadier General John Carnac, Commander in Chief of the Army.

Sir,

Agreeably to the instructions of the Honourable Company, specified in several paragraphs of their general letter, we have this day assumed the powers of a Select Committee, with which we are vested; and as a constant intercourse with you, as a member of this Committee, will be expedient to the public service, we expect you will favour us with a communication of every occurrence that may relate more immediately to this department.

Copies of the paragraphs referred to, and of the oath administered to the members of the Committee now present, will be transmitted to you; and it is our desire that you receive the oath from the Company's servant on the spot, in order that our correspondence may be without reserve.

Your letter of the 21st of April, addressed to the President and Council, is come to our hands; but, as we have not yet found leisure to obtain sufficient information respecting the

A P P E N D I X, No. 84,

points you mention, we submit the necessary measures to be pursued to your own discretion, sensible that your zeal for the public interest, and the honour of the Select Committee, will enable you to give entire satisfaction to,

Fort William, the 7th May, 1765.

Sir,
Your most humble Servants,

Fort William, 11 May, 1765.

At a Select Committee;

P R E S E N T,

The right honourable Lord Clive, president,

W. B. Sumner, Esq;

Francis Sykes, Esq;

Read, approved, and signed the proceedings of the 7th instant.

The Select Committee, observing, with regret, the contempt shewn for the positive and repeated orders of the governor and council recalling free merchants residing up the country,

Resolve, that the former orders on that head be now enforced; and letters dispatched to the chiefs of the several Subordinates, requiring them, at the expiration of one month after notice given, to convey in safety to Calcutta all who refuse to comply with a measure so salutary to the Company, and necessary to the peace and good order of the country.

Being informed also that a great number of Europeans, Stragglers from ships, and others, who have no claim from indentures to any share of the Company's countenance or protection, are variously employed up the country, and dispersed all over the nabob's dominions, to the great prejudice of the Company, and molestation of the nabob;

Resolved, they be immediately secured, and brought to Calcutta.

The Committee finding some difficulty in procuring an exact account of the names of such Europeans;

Agreed, that the chiefs of the subordinate factories be made acquainted with the resolutions of the Committee, and required to transmit, without delay, the most accurate lists in their power of all Europeans not immediately in the Company's service, who reside in or about their respective districts.

The secretary representing that another assistant will occasionally be wanted for the dispatch of business;

Agreed, that Mr. William Wynne be employed as a monthly writer, after taking the oath of secrecy.

Messieurs Sumner and Sykes delivered in their answer to the president's letter, entered in the proceedings of the 7th Instant.

Ordered, It be entered.

Agreed, we acquaint General Carnac of the several detachments on their way to Patna, either to join him, or to form an army of observation, as circumstances may require; and that we desire he will not suffer the public dispatches to be retarded by private letters.

Ordered, the same be entered after the proceedings.

CLIVE.
W. B. SUMNER.
FRAS SYKES.

11th May, 1765.

To the right honourable Robert Lord Clive, president of the Select Committee.

My Lord,

The situation of the Company's affairs, which have been described, and the measures proposed by your Lordship for retrieving them, are perfectly agreeable to our sentiments: We are sensible of the difficulty of establishing order and tranquillity, where anarchy and confusion have so long prevailed; but the experience we have of your Lordship's great abilities, the steadiness with which we have seen you encounter danger and difficulty, and the regard we are sensible you have for your own honour, and the interest of the Company, encourage us to hope for the most fortunate issue to the proceedings of the Select Committee. The sentiments which your Lordship is pleased to entertain of our attachment to you, and to the interest of our employers are just; we will, my Lord, express ourselves with freedom on every subject that regards the public; but we can never be wanting in temper and decency, where we entertain so much respect. We are urged, my Lord, by the most powerful motives to that unanimity which you recommend. The present unhappy situation of the Company's affairs arises more from the dissensions, than the incapacity, of those gentlemen into whose hands your Lordship resigned the government; it will be our ambition to approve ourselves deserving of the trust reposed in us by the Company, to assist your Lordship with our utmost abilities, to fulfil the hopes conceived from your prudence and capacity, and to enable you to return, as you ardently wish, to your native country, with the satisfaction of having baffled the malice of faction, rendered commerce flourishing, and peace permanent, and the peculiar

peculiar honour of raising the Company's affairs in Bengal a second time, from that desperate state into which they were sunk, through the luxury and corruption that prevailed among their servants

We have the honour to be,
my Lord,
your Lordship's
most obedient and
most humble servants.

Fort William,
the 8th May 1765.

To Brigadier General John Carnac, Commander in Chief of the Army.

Sir,

Since we wrote to you on the 7th instant, we are advised by private letters, that Nudjuf Cawn has surrendered himself to the Marattoes; which advices are confirmed in a letter dated the 1st instant, from the chief at Benaras: We wish that intelligence of such consequence had been communicated by yourself, but we imagine your silence on this head may be owing to your particular situation, which will not admit of procuring any certain information.

It is the request of the Select Committee, that henceforward all advices of any consequence, which come to your knowledge, may be sent alone, and not retarded with private letters; since it has frequently happened, by this means, that matters of the last importance have been known by every inhabitant of Calcutta before they reached the board.

The detachment lately sent under Captain Muir, that under Major Champion, and these troops, were under orders to march from Ghyratty, will form a body of six hundred men, rank and file: With these different reinforcements we imagine you will be able to form a second army, which may be stationed either at Patna, or on the Carumnassa, as you will think expedient.

Our reasons for mentioning this, proceed from our apprehensions, lest a part of the enemy's numerous army should invade the province of Bahar, which would reduce you to the necessity, either of retreating or detaching; both of which we would, if possible, avoid in our present circumstances.

We hope you have formed sufficient magazines of provisions to enable you to keep Shujah Dowla at bay, until the rains are well set in; should there be a deficiency of these, the consequence is easily foreseen; for as to his making an impression on so formidable an army as you now command, we are under no apprehensions.

The field officers, and others on duty, are under orders for marching up the country; and should a separate corps be judged necessary, Colonel Smith, and the field officers under him, will of course have the command; the rest will join you with all possible expedition. However, as we can entertain no doubt of your zeal for the service, we will leave it to your prudence and discretion to act as circumstances may require, since we at this distance cannot possibly be judges of the exigence of affairs.

Fort William,
the 11th May 1765.

We are,
Sir,
your most humble servants.

1st June, 1765.

At a Select Committee;
P R E S E N T,
The Right Honourable Lord Clive, President,
W. B. Sumner,
Harry Verelst,
Francis Sykes, Esquires.

Read, approved, and signed, the proceedings of the 11th ultimo. The oath of secrecy being administered to Mr. Verelst, that gentleman took his seat at the Committee, agreeable to the honourable Company's appointment.

His excellency the Nabob having, immediately on his arrival in Calcutta, and previous to any enquiries into his situation, delivered a letter to the right honourable the president, addressed to his Lordship, and the gentlemen of the Committee;

Agreed, that a translation of the above letter be read, and the same entered after the proceedings.

The facts advanced in this letter, and other circumstances which have this day appeared before them, being maturely weighed and considered, the Committee are of opinion, that Mahomed Reza Cawn, since the death of the late Nabob, has distributed among certain persons near twenty Lacks of Rupees;

And that it is incumbent upon them to discover to whom such sums have been paid, and for what consideration, in order that the most effectual measures may be pursued, to remedy for the present, and to prevent for the future, any dangerous consequences which may have
arisen,

arisen, or which may arise, not only to the country government, but likewise to the company, from such practices.

Since our last meeting, we have received six letters from General Carnac, dated the 28th and 30th of April, the 2d, 3d, 7th, and 14th ult. The first acquainting us, that, in consequence of advice that Suja Dowla, with Caz Dyn Cawn, was on his way to Korah, to join Mulhar, who is there with the Morattoes, he had crossed the Ganges; likewise, that Captain Graham had had a smart skirmish with a disaffected Zemindar, wherein the latter, with a considerable number of his men, was killed; and that we had sustained a material loss, in one Tarbeg, Leader of our few Persian Horse, who died of his wounds. The second informs us, that Sir Robert Fletcher had left under an arrest, at Illahabad, Captains William Smyth and M'Kenzie, and Lieutenant Harpur; and incloses copies of the charges delivered in against them; further, that unless the enemy fall back, we may expect soon to hear of a battle. The third is found to contain an account of Nudjuf Cawn's return, with 600 or 700 horse, and the greatest part of the two companies of Seapoys that went with him, together with the General's sentiments thereon. The fourth advises us of his having routed the enemy; and the fifth of his having removed the army to Jajaman, on the banks of the Ganges, on account of intelligence received, that Sujah Dowlah and the Morattoes had separated; that the latter were crossing the Jumna; and that Sujah Dowlah was returning to Triernuchabad, the Capital of Akinud (Chan's Bungush) possessions. The sixth contains a particular reply to a letter addressed to him, dated the 8th of April, and incloses a letter from his majesty.

Received a Letter from Mr. Marriot, dated the 11th May, advising, that Nudjuf Cawn had surrendered to the morattoes, and that Sir Robert Fletcher had gained the banks of the Ganges; also, that he had deferred his proposed journey to Illahabad, as Captain Dow expected that place would in a few days be invested by the enemy.

To the above-mentioned letter the secretary was ordered to reply, requesting that Mr. Marriot would in future transmit the earliest advices in his power.

Received a letter from Fort St. George, dated the 20th, advising of their being obliged to send 48 recruits from the Kent, in order to do duty at their garrisons, which have been drained to oppose the approach of Nizun Aly, who had already entered the province of Dalmarchery.

Received a letter from Dacca, dated the 30th ult. acknowledging the receipt of our orders of the 15th of May, for recalling European agents, and promising all due obedience thereto. And

Another from Mr. Hugh Watts, resident at Midnapoor, to the same effect.

Colonel Smith sends in a letter, acquainting us that he is prevented from setting out for Patna as soon as he intended by an unfortunate accident (a very severe fall from his horse) which obliges him to keep his chamber.

Received a letter from the chiefs and Council at Benaras, wherein they acknowledge to have received our secretary's letter of the 12th inst. to Mr. Marriot; and inform us, that, for two days past, no advices had been received from camp; that Captain Galliez had a slight skirmish; and that his majesty had marched from Illahabad, to receive the submissions of several Rouhillah Chiefs, who are willing to acknowledge him.

The following letters were likewise dispatched by the Committee since their last meeting.

On the 14th ult. we wrote to General Carnac, acknowledging the receipt of his letters of the 28th and 30th April, commending his diligence in effecting a Junction with Sir Robert Fletcher, under such difficult circumstances; and advising, that the select Committee postponed any resolution in respect to Captain M'Pherson's promotion till further enquiry, and submitted Captain Smyth's conduct to the judgment of a court martial.

On the 15th ult. orders were dispatched to the subordinates to recall all free merchants.

On the 18th ult. a letter was dispatched to General Carnac, in answer to his of the 3d; congratulating him on his success over the enemy, and advising him of the strong reinforcements on their way to join him.

On the 24th ult. orders were issued for Colonel Smyth to take the command of the detachments proceeding to Patna, where he was to be governed by General Carnac's instructions.

Colonel Smyth having sent in a letter, acquainting the Committee, that he was indisposed, in consequence of a fall from his horse, orders were issued the 29th ult. to Sir Robert Barker to succeed to the command of the detachments till Colonel Smith's recovery.

On the 30th ult. General Carnac's letters of the 2d and 14th were answered, the Asperity of his stile to the Board considered, and directions given to take no resolutions respecting Nudjuf Cawn, till Lord Clive's arrival in camp.

CLIVE,
WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
FRAN^s. SYKES,

Translation of a Letter from his Excellency the Nabob Najim-o-Doulah to the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President, &c.

Gentlemen of the select Committee,

The Situation which I am now in will not permit me to acquaint you with all the circumstances which have happened; but I will make part thereof known to you, which is as follows:

My father, leaving Calcutta, arrived at Moorshedabad, where he continued in perfect health for some time; after which he fell sick, and finding his disorder increasing every day, and growing irrecoverable, he delivered me a paper of advice, and on the 7th day of Shawbun, he was pleased to deliver to me the Kelaut received from the king, and several other presents. He recommended Mah Rajah Nundcomar to my notice; and ordered him to send for Mr. Middleton, and the other English gentlemen, Mahomed Irrick Cawn, &c. friends, and all the servants belonging to the Nizamut (or Government) and before them to set Nabob Najim-o-Dowlah Bahadre in his place, and on the Nizamud Mussinaud; and to order the people in general to give Nuzers of congratulation, and also to make them strictly know that they must obey Nabob Najim-o-Dowlah in every respect as they did him, and be always ready at his command. According to the above orders of my deceased father, the above named Mah Rajah has fully performed; and I myself being willing and desirous to execute the business laid to my trust. On the 14th of the aforesaid Month my father departed this life; after the usual solemnization of his funeral, I have comforted and enlivened the people in general, and began to manage the affairs, and ordered a proclamation to be made throughout the city, and Messrs. Middleton and Grey, and all the Nizamut servants, came and presented Nuzers.

Through the will of God, all the business is carried on in the same good manner as before.

Six days afterwards Mr. Middleron came and acquainted me, that two of the counsellors were coming up from Calcutta for my comfort. This deputation I certainly thought was coming for my benefit and welfare: the day Messrs. Jonstone and Leycester arrived at Cossimbuzar, I sent Mah Rajah Nundcomar Bahadre to meet them. Mr. Jonstone was somewhat displeased with the said Mah Rajah before, about the Pergunnah Tumalook, therefore his meeting these gentlemen was not agreeable to Mr. Jonstone.—The next day the above gentlemen, &c. came to me; I was confident that these my friends and well wishers would have done me the compliments of condolence, and comfort me; but they did not to me the least thing of this kind: instead whereof, they began to incumber me with many troublesome things, and at the same time they sent out all the people which were present, together with my brother Nabob Syful Dowlah, and then they told me to send for Mahomed Reza Cawn from Dacca, and set him as Naib of the Nizamut. This troubled me much; and they told me also, that till Meer Mahomed Reza Cawn arrived from Dacca, and till he was set up as Naib of the Nizamut, I must not sit in the Dewan Connah, and that I must live in the same place where I was, and put a stop to all public business.

The abovenamed Reza Cawn has had long ago evil intentions on the Nizamut; my father, therefore deemed him always as his enemy; and besides there is a large sum of money due from him to the Sircar. For these reasons I thought proper not to acquiesce to any of the above proposals which were made to me. I told them to peruse the paper of advice of my deceased father and see how it directs, and which I shall readily follow. In answer to this, they replied, that your paper of Advice was of no force or virtue; and every thing must be done as we think proper.

In this manner they have vexed me, by sitting almost every day from the first of their arrival to their departure.

They presented me with a paper, and requested I would sign it. This paper was that which they brought with them, and insisted on me to comply with their request. I sent for Meer Mahomed Irrick Cawn, Mah Rajah Nundcomar Bahadre, &c.; the first acquainted the gentlemen, that whatever paper they wanted to be signed, they would have no difficulty in it; at the same time it was proper for all of them to peruse it first: Messrs. Jonstone and Leycester being much displeased at this, asked in a very angry manner, who they were that wanted to peruse the paper? after this Mounshy Sndoler Oo Dy, who was near my presence, told me to bring the former treaty, and compare that with this, and then to sign it.

At this Mr. Jonstone turned out the Mounshy; and they told me, that in case I did not set up Mahomed Reza Cawn in his Naibship, and immediately sign the paper, I should have no great chance of being in the possession of the Subadarry, and then I should be extremely sorry for it. When I saw him pressing me so eagerly, and in an unfriendly manner, I thought proper to sign and deliver the paper to them, and they carried it away.

After this Mahomed Reza Cawn arrived, and sat as Naib. He, for the better securing his Naibship, above twenty laaks of rupees (in money and goods) out of my treasury, has distributed among such people as he thought proper, and this without my knowledge. Besides, there is a balance due from the abovementioned Cawn of about 20 laaks of rupees on account of Dacca Syllat Rosshanabad, of which he does not chuse to pay a single coury. The above said Mahomed Reza Cawn made Mr. Jonstone his protector, and Mr. Leycester his Vakeel,

and made Rajah Dullubram his fellow partner, and took from the Mounshees, Mochulca papers under their hands: he keeps my seal under his own seal, and there is nothing to be done with my will or order. Titles, employments, kelauts, elephants, horses, and jewels, are granted and distributed to others as he pleases.

Mah Rajah Nundcomar, my intimate well-wisher, when he has occasion to ask any question, they answer him in the Negative, and with this displeasure, while this man continues in the service, they cannot impose upon me any extraordinary charges. They, for the sake of their own profits, have censured him with an old accusation, which was long ago strictly examined by General Carnac, who acquitted him of it; and now they maliciously accuse him again; and by this means they sent him down to Calcutta with a guard of seapoys.

There is a balance due to the Sircar, from the Selladars, of Fifteen Laaks of rupees, and now new employments are granted to them, and the lands divided into several divisions.

Calysha, Jagheer, &c. rents were duly collected all the time, while the abovenamed Mah Rajah had the management. They have disposed of the present year's rents and pynons as they pleased. When I intended going down to Calcutta, I was much distressed for money for paying my servants wages, and other current expences.

Mr. Johnstone's bad treatment to me after my father's death, and Mahomed Reza Cawn's station, are to me as if I was day and night in a flame; but the news that his lordship was coming to this place has releived me of my Anxieties. At last God Almighty was pleased to hasten his lordship's arrival at this place: this has put into me fresh life and vigour. Now I beg your lordship, &c. as my protector and sincere friend, to put my affairs, which were ruined by these people, on a proper footing, as they were in my father's time. In doing this I shall think myself happy.

N. B. The following lines are written in the nabob's own hand.

Gentlemen,

I have wrote my sentiments in the above lines as brief as possible, and beg you will hear my Petition,

Fort William, the 5th June 1765.

At a Select Committee;

P R E S E N T

The Right honourable Lord Clive, President,

W. B. Sumner,

Harry Verelst,

Francis Sykes, Esquires.

Read, approved, and signed the proceedings of the 1st instant.

Taking into consideration the many attempts which have been made to destroy the unanimity and corrupt the Integrity of the members of the Committee, both seperately and jointly, by the nabob, through Nundcomar's influence, and other ill disposed persons who were admitted into his presence;

Resolved, that all intercourse with the nabob, his ministers, and country powers, be maintained, and conducted by the right honourable the president, as the most effectual method to convince those ill disposed persons, that no motives of private advantage, no desire of increasing their fortunes, can ever seduce the members of this board from the duty they owe to themselves, the confidence they repose in each other, or the steady resolution they have formed to pursue every method that tends to promote the Company's interest, and the peace, prosperity, and happiness of the country. And the president observing how necessary it will become, for the security of his own reputation, and the rights of the Committee, that all his transactions with the nabob, &c. should be confirmed with the sanction of this board;

Agreed, That his lordship be required to lay his correspondence, from time to time, before the Committee, and to communicate to them every measure of importance before it be carried into execution.

Several papers, written in the Persian language, being offered to the consideration of the Committee;

Agreed, that Mr. George Van Sittart be employed to translate them into English, after taking the following oath of secrecy:

“ I. A. B. do swear to be true and faithful to the trust reposed in me by the Select Committee, and to reveal to no person whatever, such parts of the proceedings of that department as shall be communicated to me.”

Received a letter, dated the 13th ult. from Mr. William Maltby, requesting we will grant him a further indulgence of time, than that specified in the order for recalling free merchants.

Agreed, that four months be allowed him, from the 21st instant; and that the secretary acquaint him with this our resolution.

Received a letter from the president and council at Bombay dated the 13th April, congratulating us on our success against Sujah Dowlah, and requesting their detachment may be sent back immediately.

Agreed

Agreed, We write in answer, that our present circumstances will not possibly admit of our complying with their request.

Received a letter from the chief and council at Benaras, dated the 25th ult. acquainting us of the motions and disposition of the army.

CLIVE,
W^m. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
FRAN SYKES.

Fort William, 6th June, 1765.

At a Select Committee;
P R E S E N T,
The Right Honourable Lord Clive, President,
W. B. Sumner,
Harry Verelst,
Francis Sykes, Esquires.

Read, approved, and signed the proceedings of yesterday.

In consequence of a minute entered in our proceedings of the 1st instant, and since laid before the council, we have made the enquiries therein specified, and received the following attested accounts from Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seat.

Agreed, the above mentioned accounts be entered after the proceedings of this day.

Agreed likewise, that a council be called by the right honourable the president, in order to lay before the board evidences of so much consequence; and that Mr. Johnstone's presence be requested.

The Select Committee think it necessary to observe that the following circumstance might be added, "When the gentlemen demanded an acknowledgement from me, I asked, Is not this to be a general affair, and are not the other gentlemen to have a share? &c." To which they replied, "No, this must be for us: Let them look to themselves."

Received a letter from General Carnac, dated the 21st ultimo, advising that he had entered the province of agra, after several fatiguing marches.

Received a letter from Islamabad, dated the 28th ultimo, and another from Patna of the 29th, in answer to our orders for recalling free merchants.

Colonel Smith sends in a letter, acquainting us of his recovery, and resolution to set out for Patna as soon as he can be supplied with boats.

CLIVE,
W^m. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
FRANCIS SYKES.

Narrative of Mahomed Reza Cawn.

The circumstances of the gentlemen of council's application for presents from the Nabob as hereafter specified, are as follows: After his excellency had been seated on the Musnud, the general of council first of all sent a message by Mootyram, and afterwards themselves said to me, the gentlemen who have assisted former Nazims have obtained presents; now that we have seated his excellency on the Musnud, and rendered him service, we hope that he will make presents to us also: Do you represent this to his excellency: I answered, "Do you, gentlemen, yourselves mention it." At length, as they were earnest with me, and I perceived they would be offended at my refusal, I represented it to his excellency in conformity to their desire: His excellency said to me, It must be done; do you make out a list, and bring it me: I replied, "Your excellency is the matter; yourself determine upon whatever may be your pleasure." Accordingly an account of the presents for the gentlemen was made out before the Nabob's face, and given under his hand and Seal to Mr. Johnstone, in the presence of all the four gentlemen; after three or four days, Mr. Johnstone carried this paper to the Nabob, and said, "if your excellency has given this paper unwillingly, and contrary to your inclination, we do not want it." His excellency answered, "I have given it to you of my own pleasure and inclination." After this conversation had passed, Mr. Johnstone said, "What shall we do with a bare paper? Let orders be given to Mahomed Reza Cawn for the payment of the money;" his excellency accordingly commanded me to pay the money agreeable to the paper: I made some days delay, and upon Mr. Johnstone and the other gentlemen making again a demand upon me, I presented the following Ferd—Sevaul (a) to his excellency "with regard to giving the money for the gentlemen's presents; whatsoever is your excellency's pleasure;" his excellency signed thereon, "let Mahomed Reza Cawn Bahadre pay it." Accordingly, from the 20th of Shevaul, of the 1178 year of the Hegyra, to the 10th (b) of Zecadal inclusive, 875,000 Rupees were given to nine gentlemen, 250,000 by four bills upon the House of the Sects, the date of the payment whereof will appear from their books; and the remaining 625,000, in ready money from the treasury; the date of the payment of which shall be particularly specified upon the arrival of Jumma Kerch Papers from Moorshadabad.

A true translation.

6th June 1765.

GEORGE VANSITTART, Persian translator.

(a) A Paper of Enquiry, Petition, or Representation. (b) 12 April, 1765.

Fort William, the 6th June, 1765.

Account of Presents from the Nabob.

	Received.	Due.	Total.
Mr. Spencer received, by a bill on the Seer's House, dated the 7 th of Zecada of the 1178 year of the Hegyra	100,000	100,000	200,000
Mr. Playdell received	50,000	50,000	100,000
Mr. Burdett received	50,000	50,000	100,000
Mr. Gray received	50,000	50,000	100,000
Mr. Johnstone received by Mootyram, in ready money from the Treasury, from the 20 th Shevail of the 1178 th year of the Hegyra, to the 10 th of Zecada, inclusive	237,500	—	237,500
Mr. Middleton received, by Santyram Sing, his muttad, in ready money from the Treasury, D ^o date	112,500	—	112,500
Mr. Senior received, by his man Moonshy Rambullub, in ready money from the Treasury, D ^o date	112,500	—	112,500
Mr. Leycester received	112,500	—	112,500
Mr. Johnstone's younger brother received, by Mootyram, in ready money from the Treasury, D ^o date	50,000	—	50,000
Mr. Cartier, by means of Mr. Johnstone, a bond was given to this purport, that representation should be made to the Nabob, and the money caused to be given	—	100,000	100,000
Total	1875,000	350,000	1,225,000

A true translation,

GEORGE VAN SITTART, Persian Translator.

* 28th April, 1765.

† 12 April to 1 May, inclusive.

With regard to the presents which I made to the Gentlemen of Council, the state of the affairs is this: Mr. Johnstone sent me a message by Mootyram, as follows: Whereas you have been appointed his Excellency's Naib, it is proper that you make us some present from yourself. I represented my situation, that I would do what was in my power, but that I could not furnish any very great matter. In the end, the sum of 475,000 rupees was agreed upon, of which I have paid 225,000, and 250,000 remain due, according to the underwritten particulars.

Fort William, the 6th June, 1765.

Account of the Presents from Mahomed Reza Cawn.

	Received.	Due.	Total.
Mr. Johnstone received, by two bills on the House of Mooty-chund, at Burdwan, payable to Mootyram, dated the 13 th of Rumzaun of the 6 year	50,000		
Received, by a bill on the House of Juggut Seet, at Hoogly, payable to Mootyram, dated the 14 th of Rumzaun	50,000		
	100,000	50,000	150,000
Mr. Leycester received a bill on Juggut Seet's House at Hoogly, payable to Mootyram, dated the 13 th of Rumzaun of the 6th year	50,000	50,000	100,000
Mr. Senior received, in ready money, from the 19 th of Zecada of the 6th year to the 25 th D ^o	50,000	50,000	100,000
Mr. Middleton	—	100,000	100,000
Mr. Johnstone's younger brother received, by a bill on Oodychund's House, at Hoogly, payable to Mootyram, dated the 21 st of Rumzaun of the 6th year	25,000	—	25,000
Total for Mr. Johnstone and Co.	225,000	250,000	475,000
Mr. Spencer. There was not any agreement made with him; but formerly, and now, I have given him presents according to the underwritten particulars; viz.			
In the time of the late Nabob, when I came to Moorshedabad about the affairs of Dacca, I sent from Moorshedabad			20,000
From Dacca			20,000
After my appointment to the Neabut, I gave, by a bill on Juggut Seet's House, payable to Ramage Paul, dated the 12 th of Rumzaun	50,000		
	90,000		90,000
Total	315,000	250,000	565,000

A true translation,

GEORGE VAN SITTART, Persian Translator.

* 6 March, 1765

† 7 March, 1765.

PRESENTS received by the undermentioned Gentlemen from the Nabob Mahomed Reza Cawn, and Juggut Seat.

Names of the Gentlemen.	From whom presented.		Sums total presented.	How received.					Total Received.	Remaining to be paid.
	The Nabob	Mahomed Reza Cawn.		Juggut Seat.	By Bills on Juggut Seat.	By Bills on Mooty chund at Muxadavad	By Bills on - - - at Dacca.	By Bills on Oodchund Bauboo.		
Mr. Spencer	2,00,000	90,000	—	150,000	20,000	20,000	—	—	190,000	100,000
Mr. Playdell	1,00,000	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	50,000	50,000
Mr. Burdett	100,000	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	50,000	50,000
Mr. Gray	100,000	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	50,000	50,000
Mr. Johnstone	237,500	150,000	—	50,000	50,000	—	—	2,37,500	337,500	50,000
Mr. Senior	1,12,500	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,02,500	102,500	50,000
Mr. Leycester	1,12,500	100,000	—	50,000	—	—	—	1,12,500	102,500	50,000
Mr. Middleton	1,12,500	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,12,500	1,12,500	1,00,000
Mr. Johnstone's younger brother	50,000	25,000	10,000	—	—	—	25,000	60,000	85,000	—
Messieurs Johnstone, Leycester, Senior, and Middleton	—	—	1,15,000	—	—	—	—	40,000	40,000	75,000
Mr. Cartier	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100,000
Totals	12,25,000	5,65,000	1,25,000	400,000	70,000	20,000	25,000	725,000	1240,000	675,000

Narrative of Juggut Sect.

When Mr. Johnstone, and the other gentlemen of council, went to Moorshedabad, and applied themselves to the regulation of the whole subadarry, they sent me the following message by Mootyram: "Make us some acknowledgment, and we will settle all your business according to your hearts desire, otherwise we shall be displeas'd, and your business meet with no assistance; for you formerly made an acknowledgment to Lord Clive and other gentlemen." I informed them that Lord Clive never said a word on this subject, and that I did not give him even a single daum. They sent me a message in answer as follows: "You may not be acquainted with it, but your fathers made an acknowledgement; give us five laaks of Rupees." I answered, "Our fathers never did give Lord Clive a single daum." They replied, "If you would wish to have your business go freely on, make us some acknowledgement." Being reme-diless, I consented to give 125,000 Rupees, 50,000 immediately, and the rest when I could collect in my debts from the country. The gentlemen agreed to this; and accordingly I sent them 50,000 Rupees by my Muttafuddies and Mootyram: In fine, there were none of my debts collected in when Mr. Johnstone, &c. returned to Calcutta; and I also came to Calcutta to pay my respects to Lord Clive; so that thus the affair rested." Inquiry having been made of me, I have written these particulars, in which there is by no means a word of untruth.

Written the 15th of Zeechidja of the
6th Year, 5th June, 1765.

A true translation.
George Vansittart
Persian translator.

Fort William the 7th June, 1765.

At a select Committee,

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Clive President.

W. B. Sumner, }
Harry Verelst, } Esquires.
Francis Sykes, }

Read, approved, and signed, the proceedings of the 6th Instant.

Upon advice being received that certain bills specified in Mahomed Reza Cawn's attested accounts, and these said to be received, had been since offered back to the said Mahomed Reza Cawn by one Bussunt Roy, employed for that purpose by Mootyram the Phouzedar of Hoogly,

The Committee judging such voluntary restitution to be of a very extraordinary nature, and suspecting it was designed to screen Mootyram from detection, and cover transactions with which it might highly concern the public to be acquainted,

Resolved, that the said Bussunt Roy be seized, brought before the Committee, and sworn to answer truly to such questions as shall be proposed to him.

Bussunt Roy being sworn before the Committee, deposed as follows:

Q. Did you go this day to Mahomed Reza Cawn, and offer him back the obligations which he gave for the payment of money to several gentlemen?

A. They are not obligations, but bills.

Q. Did you carry the bills to M. R. C.?

A. I did.

Q. By whose order did you carry these bills.

A. By Mootyram's.

Q. At what time did you receive them from Mootyram?

A. At eight this morning.

Q. At what hour did you carry them to M. R. Cawn?

A. At eleven this day.

Q. Where did you receive the bills from Mootyram?

A. At his own house.

Q. What order did Mootyram give you when he delivered the bills?

A. To carry them to M. R. C. and nothing more.

Q. Did you ever carry the bills before M. R. Cawn?

A. No.

Q. What answer did M. R. Cawn make when you offered him the bills?

A. He was angry, would not receive them, and asked why I brought them.

Q. Did you know if these bills were ever offered by any one else to Mahomed Reza Cawn?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know on what account these bills were granted to Mootyram?

A. No I don't, having since that time been received into his service.

Q. Did you return from M. R. Cawn's to Mootyram; and what did he say to you?

A. I

A. I heard he was under a guard, and no one permitted to speak to him; and I have not seen him since.

The bills being produced, appear to be drawn for the following sums, and all in favour of Mootyram.

No. I. A bill for A. Rs. 25,000, drawn by Myaram Dyaram, at Moorshedabad, on Jugjeun Dafs Gain Chund, at Hoogly, in favour of Mootyram, dated the 19th cheit (March) payable at ten days after sight.

No. II. For A. Rs. 50,000, dated the 3d cheit.

No. III. For A. Rs. 50,001, dated the 4th cheit.

Each drawn on Seet Manan Chund and Anan Chund at Moorshedabad, on Jugget Seet Futter Chund, and Seet Anan Chund at Hoogly, in favour of Mootyram, both payable at 10 days sight.

No. IV. } Each for Sunat Rupees 25,000, dated the 30th cheit, drawn by Mutty Chund Joy

No. V. } Chund at Moorshedabad, on Jerderdafs at Burdwan, in favour of Mootyram, payable at 10 days after sight.

Total per the above bills, Rupees Arcot and Sunat 175,001.

Clive.

W. B. Sumner.

Verelst.

Fra. Sykes.

Fort William the 8th June, 1765.

At a select Committee,

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Clive, President,

W. B. Sumner,)

Harry Verelst, } Esquires.

Francis Sykes,)

Read, approved, and signed the proceedings of the 7th Inst.

It appearing from the evidences of Mahomed Reza Cawn and Jugget Seet, and also from the deposition of Bussunt Roy, that Mootyram Phouzedar of Hoogly, was deeply concerned in all the pecuniary transactions specified in those evidences, bills to great amount having been drawn in his favour:

The Committee resolve that he be sent for, sworn, and examined in their presence, and also that he be confronted by Mahomed Reza Cawn and Jugget Seet, in order that it may appear with certainty whether the said Mootyram was authorized to demand money of the Seets, or whether he presumed to prostitute the characters of the Gentlemen of the deputation, by making use of their names without the sanction of their express authority.

The deposition of Mootyram Phouzedar, of Hoogly.

Q. Did you go to Jugget Seet to Demand money?

A. I did.

Q. Who sent you to Jugget seet?

A. Mahomed Reza Cawn sent Ismeal Ally Cawn with me to Juggut Seet.

Q. Who sent you to Mahomed Reza Cawn?

A. Mr. Johnstone.

Q. What Message did you carry from Mr. Johnstone to Mahomed Reza Cawn?

A. I was ordered to desire him to ask the Seets for presents.

Q. Did any of the other gentlemen join in this message to Mahomed Reza Cawn?

A. I had my order from Mr. Johnstone only.

Q. Did Mr. Johnstone send you in his own name, or in that of the deputation?

A. He sent me in his own, and in the names of Messrs. Senior, Leycester, and Middleton.

Q. What passed when you went to Mahomed Reza Cawn; did you ask him for money from the Seets?

A. I did, I asked him for three Laaks.

Q. What day did you go to M. R. Cawn?

A. I cannot say for certain, but the affair was about twenty days in settling.

Q. Can't you determine within a day or two of the time you first mention?

A. I cannot, but it was about the twenty first of Rumzaun.

Q. What answer had you from Mahomed Reza Cawn when you desired he would make this demand on the Seets?

A. He first said, "very well, I'll try what I can do;" but on my application, he said, "It was very improper to ask money of the Seets,—it will get me a bad name."

Q. Do you confess the contents of Juggut Seet's letter to be true

A. I do.

Q. What

Q. What did you say to Mahomed Reza Cawn about stopping the business of the Seets, unless they complied with the demand?

A. I did tell him that the gentlemen would protect their business, if they would make a present; if not, the business of the Seets would meet with no protection or countenance.

Q. You say that Ismeal Ally Cawn was sent with you to the Seets; what passed there?

A. When Ismeal Ally Cawn demanded three Laaks of Rupees for the gentlemen, Juggut Seet answered, "If the gentlemen will be satisfied with rings, jewels, and such presents, from ten to twenty-five thousand rupees, I will comply." But on Ismeal Ally Cawn's pressing him farther, he agreed to give 50,000, which was not accepted: And then Juggut Seet said, well, I will speak to Mahomed Reza Cawn myself."

Q. Was you present at all this conversation?

A. I was, but did not speak.

Q. Do you know how the affair was settled?

A. Yes, I heard that Juggut Seet afterwards consented to give 75,000 Rupees, then he rose to a laak, and at last consented to give 125,000.—This I heard from Mahomed Reza Cawn.

Juggut Seet being present at this examination, was asked, "If he ever communicated the conversation between him and Mootyram, as set forth in his letter?" He answered, "yes, to my brother, to Brigauloul my Mounshy, and to Chickimull my Vakeel."

Q. Did you demand the money of the Seets in your own name, or on the gentlemen's account?

A. I demanded it on account of the gentlemen surely, and those that sent me.

Q. When the money was sent by Juggut Seet to M. R. Cawn's house, did he forward it immediately to Mr. Johnstone at Mootyhill in a Stackeree, and was Mr. Johnstone angry?

A. He did forward it to Mootyhill in a Stackeree, with which Mr. Johnstone was angry, and said, why was not the money given to Mootyram, or sent more privately.

Q. You are charged by Juggut Seet with having visited him thrice, once when he was alone, once in presence of Ismael Ally Cawn, and once when his brother was with him.—Is this true?

A. It is true, I did visit him thrice.

Q. Had you any conversation with him about the demand in any of these visits?

A. I had I must confess. At the time I visited Juggut Seet when he was alone, he told me he would agree to give 75,000 Rupees to the gentlemen, and desired I would represent to them that his circumstances would not afford more, which I promised to do.

Q. Did you go to Mahomed Reza Cawn and offer to return some bills, desiring he would take them until all things were settled; and he was part of the way on his return from Calcutta, saying, you would meet him at Hoogly, and there take their amount?

A. I did. I went by Mr. Johnstone's order about 12 or 14 days ago, and tendered the bills to Mahomed Reza Cawn, and desired he would take them, and told him that as soon as disputes were over, I would receive their amounts if he then consented to pay; but Mahomed Reza Cawn refused taking the bills.

Q. What Number of bills, and to what amount did you offer back?

A. Five bills drawn in my own favour, amounting to 175,001 Rupees.

Q. What is become of those bills?

A. I sent them yesterday morning by Buffunt Roy to Mahomed Reza Cawn.

Q. On whose account did you receive those bills?

A. They were the amount of a present to be paid by Mahomed Reza Cawn to Messrs. Johnstone and Leycester, and to Mr. Johnstone's younger brother.

Q. Do you know how much for each of the gentlemen?

A. For Mr. Johnstone 105,001, Rupees, for Mr. Leycester 50,000, and for Mr. Johnstone's brother 20,000 Rupees.

Q. What money have the gentlemen received from the Nabob?

A. Mahomed Reza Cawn had the management of that business.

Q. To what amount might have come through your hands of the Nabob's money?

A. Mr. Johnstone first received through my hands from the Nabob 137,500 Rupees, and afterwards a Laak more, making 237,500 Rupees, besides which, his brother received afterwards 50,000 Rupees of the Nabob, but what was paid to the other gentlemen I know not, their own Misfuddies transacting that business for them.

Q. Do you know whether these demands were the act of Mr. Johnstone singly, or whether they proceeded from the deputation jointly?

A. I received my orders from Mr. Johnstone only.

T. Was it of your own accord, or was you ordered to tell Mahomed Reza Cawn, that if the Seets complied with their demand, their business should be protected; otherwise it would have no countenance or encouragement?

A. I was ordered by Mr. Johnstone.

M. Is this evidence which you give true in every circumstance according to the best of your Judgment?

A. It

A P P E N D I X, No. 84,

A. It is, and I never will retract it; but if there should appear any thing contradictory or unsatisfactory at first, it was owing to the confusion I was under when brought before this company.

Clive.
W. B. Sumner.
H. Verelst,
Fra. Sykes

11th June 1765. At a Select Committee,
P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Clive, President.

Harry Verelst, } Esquires.
Francis Sykes, }

Mr. Sumner indisposed.

Read, approved, and signed, the Proceedings of the 8th Instant.

Letters from General Carnac of the 26th and 27th ultimo, advising that Sujah Dolwah, as his last resource, had thrown himself upon our generosity, and was now actually in camp, ready to receive such terms of peace as we shall prescribe; and this appearing to the Committee a favourable opportunity for establishing the tranquillity of the country on a permanent foundation, by demanding no other conditions than such as shall appear to be for the mutual interest of the contracting parties, equitable in themselves, and evidently calculated for the publick benefit;

Resolved, That the general's letters be acknowledged, his sentiments approved, and the following instructions sent to him for settling preliminary articles with Sujah Dowlah, which he is not to conclude definitively until Lord Clive's arrival in camp.

Bulwant Sing to be secured in the possession of his country, Nudjuff Cawn to be restored to the possession of his former dominions, and all those who either joined or assisted the English to be encouraged, the king's honour, safety, and subsistence to be consulted; Cossim Ally, Sumroo, and the deserters to be demanded or put to death by Sujah Dowlah himself; but this last article not to be considered as essential, though obtaining it would be agreeable, it being the opinion of the Committee he should be engaged to our interest by the ties of gratitude, and not by compulsion.—To acquaint the general that full powers will be given to Lord Clive, in conjunction with them, to settle every thing as they shall think proper and necessary to the stability of the intended peace, also to desire he will use his influence to prevail on the Vizier to shorten Lord Clive's journey, and meet his lordship at Benaras, or at Patna.

Received a letter from general Carnac, dated the 22d ultimo, advising he had repulsed the enemy, and was returning to Jajeman to meet Sujah Dowlah, who had desired an interview.

Ordered, The general's letters minuted in the former part of these proceedings, and also the Committee's answer, be entered.

Agreed, That the secretary send copies to Messrs. Senior and Middleton of the proceedings of the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 8th instant, requiring their immediate and explicit answers to such particulars in the above-mentioned papers as relate to them.

Received a letter from the chief and council at Dacca, dated the 8th, setting forth the prejudice that must arise to the affairs of the gentlemen of the factory, should the order for recalling free merchants be immediately enforced.

Agreed, that four months beyond the time limited in those orders, be allowed to their several agents; and that we write them to this effect.

Clive.
H. Verelst.
Fra. Sykes.

To the Right honourable Lord Clive, President and governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have been honoured with your letters of the 7th, and 12th, and with one from the council under date the 6th, inclosing to me a copy of the paragraphs from the honourable Company's last general letter relative to the Committee, but the copy of the oath which I am to take, is not yet come to my hands.

I have the highest and most grateful sense of the confidence you are pleased to repose in me, and beg leave to assure you, it will be ever my earnest study and wish, to act in such manner, as to merit your approbation.

I advised the board in a letter under date 28th ultimo, of Nudjuff Cawn's having joined Sujah Dowlah. It must frequently happen that particular news will reach Calcutta, previously to the advice thereof from me, as others write upon mere Hearsay and Report, whereas I cannot with propriety do so but in consequence of certain information.

You may depend upon my punctually observing your directions, to send my letters alone, in case of any material advice; a rule which, to the best of my recollection, I have hitherto constantly observed.

I arrived here yesterday, having left the army to follow in two divisions by easy marches. The first division I expected in to-morrow. I acquainted the board the 22d (a Duplicate of which adrefs will be dispatched by this conveyance), with the reasons of my being in such a hurry to return, viz. on occasion of a letter from Sujah Dowlah; the copy of the original, a translation thereof, and the substance of my answer, your lordship, &c. will receive herewith. If we can make a friend of Sujah Dowlah, which I really believe we may, provided we use with moderation our success, and do not urge him to despair, I am firmly of opinion that he, from the extreme regard in which he is held throughout the country, even in his present distress, will prove a much better security to our frontier than any one we can put in these dominions in his room: I beg to be favoured as soon as possible with your sentiments on his head,

I am, with the greatest respect,
My Lord, and Gentlemen,
your most humble servant
John Carnac.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President, and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Hearing that Sujah Dowlah was drawing near, I sent Captain Swinton with Rajah Shittabroy to meet him. He arrived in the evening on the opposite side of the river, and immediately crossed it with his brother-in-law Salar Jung and a very few followers, in order to wait upon me. I received him with all possible marks of distinction, at which he expressed much satisfaction. He appears, however, a good deal dejected at his present condition, which must bear very hard upon him; and he must find himself without resource; or being, as he undoubtedly is, the most considerable man in the empire, and of an uncommonly high spirit, he would not have submitted to such a condescension. It will, in my opinion, greatly add to the English name throughout the country, our behaving with generosity towards a person who has all along bore a high reputation in Hindostan.

Jajeman,
the 27th May, 1765,

I am,
with the greatest respect,
My Lord, and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant.
John Carnac.

A translation of Sujah Dowlah's Letter to general Carnac, received the 19th May, 1765.

It is known all over the world, that the illustrious chiefs of the English nation are constant and unchangeable in their friendship, which my heart is fully persuaded of. The late disturbances were contrary to my inclinations; but it was so ordered by providence. I now see things in a proper light, and have a strong desire to come to you; and I am persuaded you will treat me in a manner befitting your own honour. You have shewn great favours to others; when you become acquainted with me, you will see with your own eyes, and be thoroughly sensible of my attachment, from which I will never depart while I have life. I am this day, 26th of the moon, arrived at Bilgram: please God, in a very short time I shall have the happiness of a meeting with you. As for other particulars I refer you to Mouyro Dowlah, and Rajah Shittabroy.

With his own hand.

My Friend,

I regard not wealth, nor the government of countries; your favour and friendship is all I desire. Please God I will be with you very soon, when you will do for me what you think best.

General Carnac's Answer, the 24th May, 1765.

I have been favoured with your Letter, in which were some lines wrote with your own hand, declaring your intentions of coming to me; that you was arrived at Belgrim, and expect such a reception as becomes a brave man to give; and that I will be sensible of the warmth and sincerity of your friendship, after we become acquainted; and that you do not look for country nor wealth, but the friendship of the English nation; and that, please God, you will be very soon with me.

The Receipt of this letter gave me great pleasure: You was before unacquainted with our customs and dispositions; thanks be to God that you are now become sensible of the justice and upright intentions of the English. Now that you are pleased to come to me in a friendly manner, you may depend on the best reception in my power suitable to our customs; and I will not be deficient in forwarding whatever is reasonable for your interest; and when your excellency shall shew a real attachment to the English, their friendship towards you in return will

be made manifest to the whole World: You may with perfect confidence come here as to your own house, and to those that wish your welfare; further particulars you will learn from Mouyr-o-Dowlah, and Shittabroy.

A true copy.

A. Swinton.

To Brigadier General John Carnac, Commander in chief of the Army.

S I R,

Your letters of the 26th and 27th ultimo afford us great pleasure; the intelligence they convey is important, and the sentiments you express generous, and such as we are determined to adopt. We join with you in opinion, that every appearance of insult and violence to a person of Sujah Dowlah's character ought to be carefully avoided in the terms we demand. Among men of honour and sentiment, a peace can only be permanent where the advantages are reciprocal.

Lord Clive, who proposes to set out for the army in four or five days, will be impowered, in conjunction with you, to settle every thing in whatever manner shall appear most conducive to the great object we have in view,—that of immediately restoring the publick tranquillity, and establishing peace on a lasting and solid foundation. The honourable reception you propose giving the Vizier will put him into such good humour with the English, that he probably may be prevailed on to shorten Lord Clive's journey, and meet his lordship at Benaras, or even at Patna.

In the mean time the settling preliminary articles, and adjusting a plan of pacification with him, will greatly facilitate matters; but you must come to no final determination until his lordship's arrival.

The points we would chiefly recommend to your regard in sketching these preliminaries are, that Bulwant Sing be pardoned, and secured in the possession of his country, on the same terms as when he was under the government of Sujah Dowlah; that Nudjuff Cawn be also restored to the possession of Korea, his country; and that all others who have joined, or afforded assistance to the English, meet with equal favour and encouragement. The king's honour must be consulted, and his safety and subsistence secured where-ever he chuses to reside. Cofsim Ally and Sumroo we would be glad to have delivered into our hands, if Sujah Dowlah will do it voluntarily, or else put to death by himself; but if neither can be effected without disgusting him, and thereby endangering the stability of the peace, it must be left to his own honour. In short, we would rather bind them to us by the ties of gratitude, than by force and compulsion.

In money affairs we must appear generous and disinterested; and if you stipulate for any sums to be paid, they ought to be on account of the company, who have some claim to an indemnification, and whose interest ought to be our principal object. In other particulars we rely on your own discretion and approved zeal for the good of the service, being, with great esteem,

Fort William,
the 10th June, 1765.

S I R,
Your most obedient,
and humble Servants.

P. S. We would further recommend, that you stipulate with Sujah Dowlah for the establishment of factories, and an entire liberty of trade in every part of his dominions; but we mean not to support this privilege by any military force, nor to introduce troops or garrisons into his country.

21st June, 1765. At a Select Committee,
P R E S E N T,
The Right Honourable Lord Clive, President,
W. B. Sumner,
Harry Verelst,
Francis Sykes, Esquires.

Read, approved, and signed, the proceedings of the 11th inst.

Having perused a letter under date the 7th Instant, addressed to the select Committee, from General Carnac, wherein he intimates his intention of speedily concluding peace with Sujah Dowlah, and differs in some material particulars from the sentiments of the select Committee;

Agreed, That we immediately write to the general, repeating our instructions of the 10th instant, to enter into no definitive engagements before Lord Clive's arrival in camp:—And,

Ordered, That the general's letter, with the Committee's answer, be entered after these proceedings.

The several evidences, depositions, and letters, relative to the application of money issued from the Nabob's treasury, since the death of Meer Jaffier, and of presents from Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet, to Messrs. Johnstone, Senior, Middleton, and Leicester; also the minutes

minutes and letters of those gentlemen; as entered in the consultations of the board, and in our proceedings, being duly weighed and considered;

The Select Committee are unanimously of the following opinions;

That Mr. Johnstone has actually received the several sums, in money and bills, specified for his use in the general accounts of Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet.

That he appears, from the evidences entered in our proceedings, agent and manager in obtaining and distributing the presents, but unacquainted, we would willingly suppose, with the menaces used by Mootyram, in his name, to Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet, in order to extort a sum of money from the latter for the use of the Deputation;—and lastly, That he is guilty of actual disobedience to the Company's orders, in arraigning indecently, and refusing positively, to acknowledge the authority wherewith the Select Committee are invested by the Honourable the Court of Directors, and by urging their usurped powers in excuse for declining any reply to charges that so deeply affect his character.

That Mr. Senior has received all the money specified for his use in the evidences already mentioned, and also the further sum of 50,000 rupees from Mahomed Reza Cawn on his own account; but that he neither authorized the messages delivered by Mootyram, nor was active in obtaining or distributing the presents.

That Mr. Middleton has received presents from the Nabob and Juggut Seet only, firmly believing them to be voluntary, and that he always intended to refuse the present designed him by Mahomed Reza Cawn.

That Mr. Leyceiter has received the several sums affixed to his name in the above-mentioned accounts, but that he neither did nor intended to receive the bills lodged with Mootyram for his use, nor was any way concerned in the menaces thrown out by that person to Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet;—all which is further confirmed by the oath which he voluntarily took before the whole board.

That Messrs. Playdell, Burdett, and Gray, have each received 50,000 rupees from the Nabob, in the full persuasion that the same was a free gift to the gentlemen who then composed the board, without any application on their parts, or consideration on the Nabob's, for services performed.

That Mr. Cartier was utterly a stranger to any demands made in his name, and that he would absolutely have refused a laak of rupees intended for him by the Nabob, as specified in the above-mentioned general account of Mahomed Reza Cawn, had it been ever tendered to him.

That upon the whole the gentlemen who sat at the board, as well as those who negotiated at the Durbar, were guilty of actual disobedience to the Company's positive Orders relative to the covenants, both in delaying to execute them, and in receiving presents contrary to the express letter and spirit of those obligations; yet to avoid every appearance of exerting with rigour the powers wherewith they are intrusted, or of being actuated by any other motives than those of honour, and a firm attachment to the interest of their employers;

Resolved, That the Select Committee leave to the Honourable Court of Directors to pass final judgment, and refer to their minutes, entered in consultation of the 23^d instant, for a justification of their proceedings.

Such are the sentiments, and such the resolution of the Select Committee, on a subject which they entered upon with pain, and prosecuted with reluctance; and now they appeal to the Honourable Court of Directors, and the common sense of mankind, to judge whether they have pursued their inquiries with decency and candour; whether they have pried officiously into facts that were not publickly known to the settlement; whether they have handled private characters with indelicacy, sought occasion to condemn where they possibly could acquit, or divulged what the duty they owe to themselves, their employers, and the public, would suffer them to conceal; and lastly, whether they have extended beyond the bounds of the utmost moderation those powers with which they are vested, “To pursue such ways and means as to them shall appear necessary for restoring peace and tranquillity?”

Taking into consideration the youth, inexperience and incapacity of the nabob, the necessity of placing the administration in the hands of men capable to support the weight of government, and attached to the Company's interest, and likewise the great danger that may arise to the stability of the present establishment, from suffering the whole power and absolute management of the three provinces to rest in a single person.

Resolved, That Mahomed Reza Cawn be advised to relinquish the title of Naib Subah, and also a part of the unbounded authority wherewith he was vested by the late treaty, as a measure not only agreeable to the Nabob, but necessary to the safety of the present government, and the future tranquillity of the country; in justification of this resolution, the Select Committee think it necessary to observe, that notwithstanding Mahomed Reza Cawn is accused by the Nabob of dissipating his treasure, and withholding his revenues, yet so openly and candidly has he accounted to the Select Committee for every rupee disbursed from the treasury, they cannot, without injury to his character, and injustice to his conduct, during his short administration, refuse continuing

him

him in a share of the government, although they judge it necessary to retrench his authority and balance his power, in order to produce that perfect equilibrium of influence which alone can remove the nabob's jealousies, and give permanency to the measures they are taking to prevent the necessity of future revolutions.

Taking likewise into consideration the character and abilities of the several great personages about the nabob's court and person, their influence in the country, and their attachment to the English;

Resolved, That Roydulub and Juggut Seet be associated in the administration of the government, with Mahomed Reza Cawn, as Persons whose characters afford us the fairest prospect of giving stability to the present government, and that each enjoy an equal share of power and authority.

And that the Honourable Court of Directors may be satisfied of the reasons which determined the committee to this choice, they beg leave to remind them, that Roydulub was a principal agent in effecting the revolution in 1757, in favour of Meer Jaffier, since which time he has continued firmly attached to the English; and that Juggut Seet is son and nephew of the two great men plundered of their effects, and cruelly put to death, by that tyrant Cossim Ally Cawn, on account of their faithful services to the company.

Ordered, That the regulations for the administration of the country government be entered after these proceedings.

The right honourable the president having acquainted the Committee; that he intends leaving Calcutta in a few days, to take upon him the command of the army, and desiring he may be intrusted with powers, in conjunction with general Carnac, for concluding peace with Sowjah Dowlah, and regulating the Company's Interest with the country powers;

Ordered, That the necessary powers, and the Committee's sentiments respecting the term of pacification, be drawn out and conveyed to his lordship in the form of a letter.

A draft of the above-mentioned letter being prepared, read, and approved,

Ordered, That a fair copy be sent to his lordship, and the letter entered after these proceedings.

Resolved, That Mr. Verelst be appointed supervisor of the Burdwan revenues, and impowered to make such inquiry into the late deficiency and present situation of the rents of that country, as may enable the Committee to form a plan for regulating the future collections in such manner as shall appear most conducive to the happiness of the people, and interest of the Company.

Also that the Council at Burdawn be advised of his appointment, and directed to correspond with him accordingly, but without interruption to their intercourse with the board.

Having considered the important dispatches, it will be necessary to transmit to the Court of Directors, as early as the season will permit, the advantages which will result from employing a ship of burthen, on this service, and also the time requisite for equipping her;

Agreed, That we recommend to the Council the purchasing the admiral Stevens, and having her immediately surveyed.

Messrs Vansittart and Plowman, setting forth in a letter to the Committee the loss that must arise to Mr. Henry Vansittart, should his agent, Mr. Hargrave at Rungpoor, be recalled at the time required by the late order of the Committee, and requesting that an indulgence of three or four months longer may be granted:

Agreed, That the secretary acquaint them Mr. Hargrave will be allowed four months from this date, for collecting Mr. Vansittart's affairs, and that he likewise inform all who may in future apply, that the Committee are resolved to see the Company's orders rigidly enforced at the expiration of this period.

Mr. Skinner sends in a letter on the same subject.

Ordered, his request be granted, and that the secretary acquaint him of the above-mentioned resolution.

Received a letter from Mr. Scotney at Patna, representing to us the prejudice it would be to his own affairs, as well as those of his constituents, should he be obliged to return to Calcutta in the space of one month.

As Mr. Scotney's representation was thought disrespectful and improper,

Ordered, The secretary write him in answer, that such applications, it is expected, should be made in terms more moderate and respectful, but that influenced by no consideration of the manner in which he chose to ask for an allowance of time, we do agree to grant him four months longer from this date, for collecting his affairs, at the expiration of which he is desired to repair to Calcutta, without further Notice.

This month's proceedings examined
by Edward Baber,
sub. secretary.

CLIVE.
W. B. SUMNER.
H. VERELST.
FRAS. SYKES.

To the right honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have been honoured with your letters of the 14th and 18th ultimo, and have received from your secretary, by your order, the extracts from the Company's general letter, and the copy of the oath of secrecy. This I cannot at present take, there being no Company's servant with me, but I will not fail doing it the first opportunity; and in the interim you may depend on my observance thereof, with the same strictness as is sworn.

The Introduction of captain M'Pherson upon the Bengal establishment was doubly an injury upon our officers; first, as it was directly contrary to an assurance which had been made them in public orders by Mr. Vansittart, that the Officers of the Bombay Corps should not be admitted into ours; and secondly, on account of the motive of his reception, which was avowedly no other than in consideration of his paying to Captain Whichcot the sum of 10,000 arcot rupees. This I set forth so plainly to the board, as your lordship, &c. may observe, in the course of my correspondence, that I never could have imagined they would have persisted in keeping him upon our establishment.

It is hard to account why Sujah Dowlah did not unite the forces under Sombre to the Mahrattas in their late incursion; either they were intended to enter by another quarter from which they were deterred by the quickness with which we accomplished our business in this, or which is more probable, Sombre was afraid to enter the lists against us, and his matter had not power sufficient to oblige him; for however contemptible he may be before us, yet having, as I am assured, still near 300 Europeans with him of one sort or other, and from five to six thousand seapoys, with some guns, Sujah Dowlah must have been in awe of him, and appears to me to be glad to have got clear of him. This villain is now said to be negotiating for service with the Jauts.

My last address was dated the 27th ultimo, advising you of Sujah Dowlah's being come in to me, since which I have not troubled you, having nothing material to communicate. I have deferred coming to any absolute agreement, till I have seen the king, and know his pleasure. He has left Allahabad, and has got to Manibpur on his way thither; but as the rains are to near setting in, I think it most adviseable to save him that trouble, and that we should move towards him. I am accordingly crossing our troops over the Ganges speedily as possible for that purpose, and in the interim, that no time may be lost, we are proceeding on the trials of the several gentlemen in arrest. I have undertaken so far as to give Sujah Dowlah hopes of the Subah of Aud, being assured that his majesty will gladly deliver it to him, as the only means to secure tranquillity to the country, and that it cannot be made over to any other, who will be able to maintain it longer than while our army remains. I have intimated to him, that some indemnification will be expected by us from him, for the immense expence in which he involved us, and shall strenuously insist thereon; and I flatter myself of succeeding, though he pleads poverty, and has solemnly asserted to me, in the name of God and his prophet, that he has not two laaks of rupees: should you be of opinion with me, that the Zamyndary of Benaras, &c. is at too great a distance to be worth our keeping, this may also be hereafter ceded to him, in consideration of a sum of money in exchange for the same.

Major Stibbert, whom I detached towards the frontier on this side of Lucknau, has been very active and diligent, and has entirely removed the disaffected parties that still remained in that neighbourhood, by means of a forced march. He fell in with, on the morning of the 2d instant, one Mungul Chan, a Jematdar, who had been particularly troublesome. After a short skirmish, the enemy were put to the rout, Mungul Chan himself, with several of his people were killed, and a parcel of country guns, which they had with them, all taken.

I have been reduced to the necessity of forcing some other forts near our camp; and as we lost a volunteer, and a few men on the occasion, the ill-fated delendants have paid the forfeit of their lives for their obstinacy.

I have discovered a most flagrant fraud in the muster of the quarter master's coolies belonging to the Bombay detachment. Finding that their number greatly exceeded what their quantity of stores required, I examined the quarter-master's bavian, who acknowledged his having taken from the Bazar upwards of three hundred men to stand the muster. I immediately confined the acting quarter-master, the established being sick at Allahabad, and you may be assured I will use every endeavour to trace the fraud to its source, that an exemplary punishment may be inflicted on those capable of so shameful an imposition.

Camp at Nagapur,
the 17th June 1765.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,
my Lord, and Gentlemen,
your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN CARNAC.

To Brigadier General John Carnac, Commander in Chief of the Army.

S I R,

We have just received your Letter of the 7th instant, in which you express your expectations of concluding matters very speedily with Sujah Dowlah. By this we imagine you understand the adjusting certain preliminary articles, to serve for the outlines of a peace, to be finally concluded on Lord Clive's arrival in camp. You are already informed that his lordship, in conjunction with you, will have full power to pursue such measures and form engagements, as he may think necessary, and you will perceive from our Letter of the 10th instant, that the Intentions of the select committee respecting the terms of pacification are different in some material particulars from those you express; for this reason, we hope it will reach your hands soon enough to prevent your entering into any definitive engagements.

Captain M'Pherson's appointment would probably never have taken place, had Lord Clive then been in charge of the government. As things are now circumstanced, we are of opinion the officers ought to rest satisfied with his losing rank, and coming in the youngest captain on the English establishment, as a farther concession cannot be made with any propriety by the board. We are with great regard,

S I R,

Fort William the 21st June, 1765.

Your most humble Servants

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the select Committee.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have received a letter, signed by your secretary, dated the 13th instant, conveying several extracts and papers from your proceedings, touching an inquiry made by you into the business of the late deputation, of which I had the honour to be a member, and requiring me to answer to such facts as related to myself, which I shall now do, and in as clear a manner as possible.

That I have received a present from the nabob I will not take upon me to deny, but not in the manner set forth in the narrative, No 1; and am much surpris'd that Mahomed Reza Cawn should have forgot himself so much. I had heard that the nabob did intend a present to the gentlemen in council, but what it was I never knew, till one Evening that Messieurs Johnstone and Leycester came to sup with me at Moodapoor, when the latter told me, that Mahomed Reza Cawn had been at Mooty Jill that afternoon, and brought a paper from his excellency, offering a sum of money to the gentlemen of the deputation, and desired to know my opinion of the matter, whether or no I intended taking of it; to which I replied, if it is a voluntary gift, I should have no objections, nor did I think the world could blame me for it. Much more passed on the occasion, which I cannot now recollect; but as it was only made a secondary part of our Conversation, it is not material to the subject. He further told me, that Mahomed Reza Cawn would be at Mooty Jill the next Morning, and desired I would come over. Accordingly Mahomed Reza Cawn came at the appointed time, and presented us with a paper, wrote upon in the Persian Language, which he explained, and was to this purpose: The nabob Nizam ul Dowlah desires the gentlemen of the deputation to accept of a present as follows: To Mr. Johnstone 1,37,500; to Messieurs Senior, Middleton, and Leycester, 1,12,500 each; which paper we returned to Mahomed Reza Cawn, and, to the best of my Remembrance, told him, That if the nabob designed us such a present, it must come directly from himself, and not through the hands of him, M. R. Cawn, or words to the same purpose. A short time after having business at the Durbar, we waited upon the nabob, and after some conversation with him, he himself presented us with the before-mentioned paper, which we again refused, telling him, that as he had in a manner expressed a dissatisfaction at our proceedings, how could he think we would accept a present from him? He upon this appeared something alarmed, and told us, That he was by no means displeas'd with our behaviour to him; on the contrary believed us his sincere friends; but if we still persisted in the refusal, he should look upon us hereafter as his enemies; and that we had some other reason for it, or words to that effect. Upon which we accepted the paper, and delivered it to Mahomed Reza Cawn for payment. No more was said of the matter; as I know of, till such time Nundcomar was ordered to Calcutta, when about three Days after we returned the paper again, as we heard his excellency had been greatly displeas'd at this proceeding of calling down his minister, and laid the whole blame upon the gentlemen of the deputation. He accordingly appeared to lose all confidence in us, and said, that he was now convinced we were his enemies, and were determin'd to remain so, &c. which induced us to take back the paper, and it seemingly gave him perfect satisfaction. Mahomed Reza Cawn, thereupon became answerable for the payment of the money, which was accordingly made.

With regard to the present received from Mahomed Reza Cawn, as set forth in his narrative, (N^o 2.) I am greatly surpris'd he should assert that the proposal came from the members of the deputation; and do solemnly declare, that it never was done in my presence, or to my knowledge, nor did I ever consider it in the light he mentions, but as a token of his gratitude for the

many

many good offices he has repeatedly expressed to have formerly received at my hands; as to what he mentions regarding the rest of the council, I am entirely ignorant of the matters; nor did I believe that such a question was ever put to him, or such an answer made him, by any of the members.

Touching the Seet's present, I do declare upon my honour, that I never knew of any threatening messages being sent him on the occasion, either through Mootyram, or any others; but always looked upon it as an offer made by himself. Nor would I by any means have agreed to the receiving of it, had I in the least suspected that even an application had been made to him for it.

Thus have I answered, as far as is in my power, the particulars requested of me. It is possible my not being perfectly acquainted with the language of the Durbar may have occasioned some small variation in trifling circumstances, but I am conscious of having acquitted myself in the late deputation, truly for the honour as well as interest of my employers. I cannot therefore accuse myself, or think I stand liable to the censure of others, by benighting something my private fortune in a service which has ever been known to prove advantageous to such gentlemen as have heretofore been employed on the occasion.

I am,
Cossimbuzar,
the 18th June 1765.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,
your most obedient
humble servant,
A. W. SENIOR.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Having received a letter, dated the 13th instant, from your secretary, inclosing copies of your proceedings of the 1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th June, relative to some presents said to be received by the Members of the deputation from the Nabob, Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet, with their narrative of the affair, and requiring me to declare how far those parts relating to myself are true;—I beg leave to trouble you with the following remarks and answer.

In Mahomed Reza Cawn's narrative, (No 1.) I observe the following paragraph, said to be a speech from us to him.

“The gentlemen who have assisted former Nazims have obtained presents; now that we have seated his excellency on the musnud, and rendered him service, we hope that he will make presents to us also; do you represent this to his excellency:” And that he desired we would mention it to his excellency ourselves: but that on our further pressing him, (he, apprehensive of our being offended at a refusal) did apply to the Nabob, and obtained his consent. To this I reply, That no conversation to this effect did ever pass in my presence, or to my knowledge; nor did I ever know of any present being demanded either from the Nabob or Mahomed Reza Cawn. The latter, on a visit to us at Mootyhill produced a paper, with the Nabob's seal, containing an offer of 475,000 rupes to be distributed as follows: to Mr. Johnstone 137,500, to Mr. Senior 112,500, to Mr. Leycester 112,500, and to myself 112,500, which we then rejected, and desired Mahomed Reza Cawn to return it to the Nabob. About two days after this, being at the Kella on business, the Nabob himself presented us with the paper, which we again refused; and it was not till after his most earnest and repeated solicitation (and being seemingly offended at our refusing it) that we agreed to take it; and he then ordered Mahomed Reza Cawn to see it paid.

In Mahomet Reza Cawn's second narrative, I observe the following message, said to be delivered to him by Mootyram as from us: “Whereas you have been appointed his excellency's naib, it is proper that you make us some present from yourself.” I deny that any message of the kind was ever sent to my knowledge, or by my consent, either by Mootyram or others; nor did I ever desire any acknowledgement from Mahomed Reza Cawn, but was informed by Messrs. Johnstone and Leycester, that a present of one laak was intended by him to each of the deputies. I avoided receiving any part of this, and afterwards determined on refusing it, with which I acquainted Mr. Leycester, on my arrival at Calcutta; and then he told me, he had intended the same for some time.

Juggut Seet in his narrative says, that he received by Mootyram the following message as from the deputation: “Make us some acknowledgment, and we will settle all your business according to your heart's desire, otherwise we shall be displeased, and your business will meet with no assistance; for you formerly made an acknowledgment to Lord Clive and other gentlemen.” That on his declining it was again repeated with threats, and he was thereby obliged to promise 125,000 rupes, 5000 of which he paid down. I must here declare I know of no message being ever sent, or application made, to Juggut Seet, regarding a present or acknowledgement from him to us. Mr. Leycester acquainted me, that Juggut Seet intended something to the gentlemen of the deputation, but he did not then know how much. Some

time

Time after Mahomed Reza Cawn at Mootyhill said in my Presence, that Juggut Seet intended 115,000 Rupees to be divided between the four Deputies; that 40,000 was paid to them; and I some Time after received from him 10,000 Rupees as my Proportion. The above is all I know relative to this Transaction, being entirely ignorant of Mootyram's being employed in this Business. In your Proceedings of the 8th instant, containing an Examination of Mootyram, I find the above Narrative of Juggut Seet confirmed by the Deposition of Mootyram, who, however says he received his Orders from Mr. Johnstone alone; but in the Name of all the Gentlemen of the Deputation: I think it necessary, in Justice to my own Character, to declare, I never authorised Mr. Johnstone to give such Orders, nor did I ever hear from him that such Messages were sent, as I ever esteemed the Sum I received from Juggut Seet a voluntary Offer of his own.

I observe that Mahomed Reza Cawn desires that it may be minuted in your Proceedings, that on the Gentlemen desiring a Present from him, he asked if it was not a general Affair, and if the other Gentlemen of the Council were not to have a Share? To which the Deputies replied, "This must be for us, let them look to themselves." Of this I declare myself entirely ignorant, as I never heard of such a Question being put, or such an Answer being given.

Having now, as far as came to my Knowledge, replied to every Particular concerning myself; and as you have been pleased to take upon you to enquire into these Transactions, I freely submit it to your Determination, being conscious of having never acted contrary to the strict Principles of Honour, or in the least deviated from the Duty I owe my Employers. I am with great Respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Moradbaug,
the 18th June 1765.

Your most obedient Servant

Samuel Middleton.

Regulations for the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia.

The Nabob Nudjum-ul-Dowlah, Meer Nudjum-ul-Decn Ally Cawn Bahadre, Nazim, the Nabob Maen-ul-Doulah, Syed, Mahomed Beza Cawn Bahadre, Nayb, Mharaja Doolabram Br. Dewaan, Juggut Seet Cooshaulchund and Mharaja Odweichund, Chiefs of Trade.

The appointing and displacing of the Fougzdars, Aumils, and other Officers of the Nisamat, and the Regulation of the whole Business of the Revenues and the Country under his Excellency, shall be managed by the Nabob Maen-ul-Dowlah Br. Mharaja Loolabram Br. and the Seets, and his Excellency shall consent thereto.

If any one be oppressed, his Effects seized, or his Life endangered, the aforesaid Gentlemen shall use their Endeavours to put a Stop to such Proceedings, and if they suspect that it is not in their Power to put a Stop to them, they shall advise the Governor thereof with all Speed, that he may inform the Gentlemen of the Council or Committee of such Proceedings, and put a Stop to them.

After the necessary Expences of Government have been provided for, if there be any Overplus, it shall be deposited in the public Treasury, under the Care of the aforesaid Gentlemen; and there shall be three different Locks to the Door of the Treasury, and three Keys, one to remain in the Possession of each of the aforesaid Gentlemen, that neither of them may be able to take out any Money without the consent of the others.

Of these three Gentlemen Maen-ul-Dowlah Br. Mharaja Doolabram, and the Seets, if any one act contrary to the Opinion of the other Two, those Two shall give Advice thereof to the Governor, that he may lay the Matter before the Gentlemen of the Council or Committee, and take proper Measures on the Occasion.

Such Number of Horse and Foot shall be kept up as the aforesaid Gentlemen shall judge necessary for the Business of the Collections, and all needless and improper Expences shall be reduced.

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Let them remove from the Durbar all mischievous men, deceitful and evil counsellors, and not put it in their power to make any disturbance.

Let not the aforesaid Gentlemen go to the Durbar without each other's knowledge, nor attempt any Thing to each other's Prejudice.

For the Preservation of friendship and harmony, and the care of the Nabob's affairs, and the company's money, a Gentleman of Council, of probity, and abilities, shall be appointed to reside at the capital, on the part of the Company. A monthly allowance shall be made him by the Government proportionable to his rank, and the accounts of the receipts and expences for the business of the Government, &c. shall be laid before him monthly for his perusal.

Instructions from the Select Committee.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. &c.

My Lord,

We greatly approve your resolution to embrace the present favourable opportunity of establishing a general peace, and effecting a cordial and lasting friendship with the country powers.

These important ends, so necessary to the prosperity of the Company, will more effectually be answered by a personal interview with Sujah Dowlah, and the other chiefs, than from a correspondence carried on at this distance, as many circumstances leading to a direct knowledge of their real sentiments will occur in the course of your conferences.

It is from a consideration of these circumstances that we apprehend any particular instructions to your lordship will be unnecessary. Much must be left to the discretion of those who act on the Spot; and we are happy in the assurances that your lordship's perfect acquaintance with, and zeal for, the Company's interest, will enable you to fulfil our most sanguine wishes.

The preliminary articles transmitted the 11th instant to General Carnac contain our general sense of the terms which we ought to demand; and to restrain your Lordship to express instructions, would only serve to retard and embarrass your negotiations.

We therefore empower your Lordship, in conjunction with Brigadier General Carnac, to stipulate such conditions with Sujah Dowlah, to form such connexions with the country powers, and to pursue such means as you shall judge necessary to the Company's interest, the public welfare, and the obtaining a safe, honourable, advantageous, and lasting peace. At the same time we must request your Lordship's particular attention to the preliminaries already conveyed to the General, and now inclosed, upon which we shall beg leave to enlarge, since we consider them as essential to the stability of the public tranquillity.

Experience having shewn that an influence maintained by force of arms is destructive of that commercial spirit which we ought to promote, ruinous to the Company, and oppressive to the country, we earnestly recommend to your Lordship, to exert your utmost endeavours to conciliate the affections of the country powers, to remove the jealousy they may have conceived of our ambition, and convince them that we aim not at conquest and dominion, but security in carrying on a free trade, equally beneficial to them and to us.

With this view policy requires that our demands be moderate and equitable, and that we avoid every appearance of an inclination to enlarge our territorial possessions. The sacrifice of conquests which we must hold on a precarious tenure, and at an expence more than equivalent to their revenues, is of slight consideration to us, yet will such restitution impress them with a high opinion of our generosity and justice.

For this reason we think Sujah Dowlah should be reinstated in the full possession of all his dominions, with such limitations only as he must see are evidently calculated for our mutual benefit, the good of his country, and happiness of his people. We would decline insisting upon any terms that must prove irksome to his high spirit, and imply our suspicion of his sincerity. Retaining possession of any of his strong holds may be deemed a necessary pledge of his fidelity; for our parts, we would rather consider it as the source of future contention, and an unnecessary burden to the Company, unless it is proposed one day to resume the thoughts of extending

their dominions—a measure very opposite to the sentiments in which we left the Proprietors and Court of Directors.

Thus by engaging the Vizier to a strict regard to the conditions of our amity by the ties of Honour, Gratitude, and Interest, we form the most secure barrier to the Nabob's dominion on this quarter that can well be devised. It is General Carnac's opinion, and it is like our's, that no other person can be placed in that station, whose authority, influence, and popularity, will so effectually answer this intention, or whose character promises fairer to become a faithful ally, when wrought upon by motives of gratitude and interest. He has thrown himself into our arms, he vests his hopes on our generosity, it becomes us therefore not to disappoint his expectations, and urge him on to despair.

It will be necessary, however, that your Lordship obtain a full grant, in the fullest terms, for carrying on a free trade through his dominions, with the privileges of establishing factories wherever we shall think proper, to which shall be annexed such contiguous lands and districts, as may be found necessary to the convenience and support of the settlements. We mean without charge to Sujah Dowlah, or diminution of his revenues. But the keeping possession of Chinagur, and other strong holds, and protecting our commerce by military power, is a measure concerning the expediency of which your Lordship will judge from a further enquiry into circumstances.

That Bulwant Sing be secured in the possession of his Zemindary, Nudjuff Cawn restored to the same situation and circumstances as at the commencement of the war, and all possible protection and favour obtained for those who assist us, are terms which Justice and Honour demand.

That Coffin Ally, Sombre, and the deserters, be surrendered to us, or put to death by Sujah Dowlah, is a point we extremely wish to obtain, if it can be effected without violence to his inclinations, and danger to the stability of the peace; but hitherto Sujah Dowlah has appeared so averse to this concession, which so deeply affects his honour, that we doubt whether your Lordship will meet with success.

We would likewise recommend, that provision be made for the security of the king's person and dignity; but in what particular manner we leave to your Lordship and General Carnac to determine, from a consideration of the circumstances and situation of the country.

And this, my Lord, would appear to us the most favourable occasion that may ever occur for obtaining Sunnuds from the king for the Dewannee of Bengal; a point of great consequence to the Company, much desired, and strongly solicited, by General Carnac, but without effect; a price being expected and demanded that was thought by the Governor and Council more than equivalent to the advantage. Times are since altered. The King is now dependant on our bounty; his whole hopes of protection and subsistence rest upon us. It cannot therefore be supposed he will prove obstinate in denying a request of little consequence to him in his present circumstances, but advantageous to us his greatest benefactors; and, we may say, his only friends. We therefore beg leave to recommend this as one of the most important points to be negotiated.

Lastly, We are of opinion your Lordship should require such indemnification for the great expences incurred by the Company as justice demands, Sujah Dowlah may be brought to think reasonable, and the country can afford, without oppressing the people, and thereby laying the foundation of fresh discontents.

Upon the whole, my Lord, notwithstanding we have reason to conclude, from the report of Sujah Dowlah's character, that acts of generosity are the most likely means to secure his friendship and fidelity, yet we must submit to your Lordship's judgment, formed on a more intimate knowledge of his sentiments and disposition, how far it will be necessary to guard against a breach of faith, and the disappointment of our hopes. Princes are not always confined to the laws prescribed by Honour and Justice, nor governed by the dictates of good policy. Sparks of resentment may lie concealed in his breast, ready to be kindled into a flame by the first gust of passion or ambition. In course of your conferences many opportunities will occur of penetrating into his most secret wishes, from which your Lordship may determine, whether it will not be expedient to bind him down by stronger ties than those of Honour and Gratitude, and operate on his fears, when we despair of engaging his affections. Restitution of his country, should we even retain Chinagur and Jaonpoor, is more than he can possibly hope in his present situation; yet should this restriction appear the only obstruction to a cordial and permanent peace, we think it ought to be relinquished.

These, my Lord, are the principal objects which we beg leave to offer to your attention; the rest we readily submit to the conduct of that prudence which has so often availed our employers in more difficult situations. We have only further to request, that your Lordship will favour us with a communication of such of your negotiations as you may think more immediately

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diately interesting to the Select Committee; and be assured of our best wishes for your health and success, being with equal esteem and respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And most humble Servants.

Fort William, 21 June, 1765.

4th July, 1765.

At a Select Committee,

P R E S E N T.

W. B. Sumner, Esquire, President,
Harry Verelst, Esquire,
Francis Sykes, Esquire.

Read, approved, and signed, the proceedings of the 21st ult.

The Right Honourable the President having transmitted to us a letter, under date the 23d ult. which he received from Mahomed Reza Cawn, the same was attentively perused by the Committee, who unanimously agree,

That Mahomed Reza Cawn has, in this letter, related facts with great candour and precision, confirming in the strongest manner the several particulars set forth in his former evidence.

That he positively asserts, and with the greatest appearance of truth, that neither the presents from the Nabob, nor from himself, were voluntary, but granted after some altercation and tedious negociations with the Gentlemen of the deputation.

That, "Mr. Johnstone at first desired a very large sum; but after a great debate," and many conferences, Mootyram consented to accept 625,000 rupees from the Nabob, and 475,000 rupees from Mahomed Reza Cawn; of which sums the whole has been paid by the Nabob, and 225,000 by M. R. Cawn, in money and bills.

That over and above 137,500 rupees, which Mr. Johnstone obtained from the Nabob, as a joint member and senior servant on the deputation, the same gentleman stipulated, "That 100,000 rupees for himself, and 50,000 rupees for his brother, should be paid secretly from all the other gentlemen."

That, besides the above sums clandestinely obtained from the Nabob, Mr. Johnstone, as principal agent and manager, thought proper, without the consent or knowledge of his colleagues, likewise to appropriate 50,000 rupees to himself, and 25,000 rupees to his brother, out of the money granted by Mahomed Reza Cawn, over and above his allowed proportion, as a member of the deputation.

And lastly, the Committee agree,

That Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter be entered on the face of their proceedings, as undeniable testimony to all whom it may concern, of the necessity of the impartiality of their proceedings, and the great lenity of their resolution, in submitting final judgment to the Court of Directors, notwithstanding their conduct has been bitterly censured, their powers arraigned, their characters aspersed, and their authority sufficient to enable them to proceed, and justify them in proceeding to the last extremity.

The Select Committee think it necessary on this occasion to assign the reasons which induced them to recommend to the Board to purchase the Admiral Stevens.

That after waiting till the 4th of July, in daily expectation of the Royal George, or some other packet from Europe, they now have the utmost reason to apprehend no vessel will arrive soon enough to be returned with the important advices, which they propose transmitting to the Court of Directors early in September, in order they may receive the Company's further instructions by the ships to be dispatched in March, April, or May following.

That

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That as the season is now so far advanced, as scarce to allow the time requisite for repairing and equipping a ship for the voyage, they think it absolutely necessary to come to a determination, and to enter on immediate preparations.

That they apprehend the Lapwing, being an exceeding bad sailer, might arrive too late in England, to answer the very purpose for which advices from the committee are dispatched, and at best would only answer the end of a packet, whereby the company would incur a very considerable expence;

Whereas, on the other hand, the Admiral Stevens, being an excellent ship, and prime sailer, offered at a very reasonable price, has this additional advantage, that she will carry home a rich and valuable cargo, at a season, when it must prove very acceptable to the company, who will find themselves disappointed of great part of the goods they expected to receive by the Bute, having received no advices from general Carnac since our last meeting.

Agreed, we acquaint him with our surprize at his silence at so critical a juncture; and that lord Clive was on his way to camp, to take upon him the command of the army, and negotiate a peace with Sujah Dowlah, in conjunction with him.

Agreed also, we write to lord Clive, informing him, that a warrant for his holding courts martial will immediately be sent, and enclosing a copy of our letter to the general.

Ordered, that both these letters be entered after the proceedings.

Mr. Marriott having applied for leave that his brother should remain with him at Benaras, agreeably to the resolution of the board last December,

The secretary is directed to acquaint him, that we grant his request.

Mr. Billers also representing how much his private affairs would suffer, should he be deprived of Mr. Hutchinson's assistance, by his compliance with the order for recalling free merchants, and requesting he may be allowed to remain with him at Patna,

The secretary is directed to inform Mr. Billers, that his request is granted, in consideration of the necessity he is under of giving his whole attention to the publick business.

Mr. Thomas Motte setting forth in a letter to the committee, that his fortune must be entirely ruined, should he be obliged to return to Calcutta agreeable to the late order, on account of the balance of rents due to him on the farms held from the company in Burdwan,

The secretary is ordered to acquaint him likewise, that the time necessary for collecting his debts will be allowed.

Mr. Amyatt also represents the complicated state of the late Mr. Ellis's affairs, for which he is administrator, and requests that his agents, Messrs. Tamlin, Jefferson and Helass, may be indulged with a longer time than that specified in the late order.

The secretary had directions to acquaint him, that four months from the 21st ultimo will be allowed them for collecting the affairs of the deceased in their hands.

Having just received a letter from general Carnac, under date the 19th ultimo.

Agreed we immediately acknowledge his letter; and order it, together with the committee's answer to be entered.

This month's proceedings examined by
Edward Barker,
Sub-secretary.

Win. B. Sumner.
H. Verelst.
Francis Sykes.

Mahomed Reza Cawn's Letter to the Right Honourable Lord Clive.

" I have had the honour to receive your letter, wherein you write, That the account
" I gave of the money received by the gentlemen from the nabob and me has been
" laid before the council, that now all the gentlemen say, That the nabob made them
" presents of his own free will; that you are informed by Mr. Senior, in a letter he
" has written you in answer, that the money, viz. 137,500, rupes for Mr. Johnstone,
" 112,500 for Mr. Middleton, 112,500, for Mr. Leycester, and 112,500 for Mr.
" Senior, was distributed by me; and that you, therefore, request I will immediately
" acquaint you whether the distribution of the money was made by the nabob or
" his own free will, or by me, or by the direction of any other person."

Sir, I have already fully represented, and do now again fully represent, on this subject, what is the real state of the case. There is one paper to which his excellency has set his hand and seal for 475,000 rupes, which sum was given by his excellency agreeable to my representations, and my representations were in consequence of Mr. Johnstone's desire, who sent me a message by Mootyram that the gentlemen wanted some money, and that I should procure them some from the nabob. As I perceived that in case of my not representing this matter to the nabob, the gentlemen would have been offended with me, I was therefore obliged to do it. I was for some days treating with Mootyram on this subject.

Mr. Johnstone at first desired a very large sum, but after a great deal of debate, the nabob gave under his hand and seal one note for 475,000 rupees, and other two notes for 100,000 rupees for Mr. Johnstone, and 50,000 for his brother, the whole amounting to 625,000 rupees for Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Senior, Mr. Leycester, and Mr. Johnstone's brother. When this sum was fixed, I shewed the notes to Mr. Johnstone. At that time no distribution of the money had been settled, but it was afterwards settled in his excellency's presence, agreeably to Mr. Johnstone's directions concerning it. I gave all the three notes into his excellency's hand, and likewise acquainted him, that it was Mr. Johnstone's pleasure that the 100,000 rupees for himself, and 50,000 for his brother, should be paid secretly from all the other gentlemen; the note for 475,000 rupees his excellency delivered with his own hand in presence of all the four gentlemen, to Mr. Johnstone, who at first refused it, but at last received it out of his excellency's hand; and said, "What shall the gentlemen do with a bare note?" His excellency delivered the note to me, and told me, Do you pay all this money; I accordingly did so, agreeably to his excellency's orders. With regard to the gentleman's assertion, that the nabob gave the money of his own free will, in such case why did he complain to you, Sir, that I had taken away the money belonging to his house, and distributed it amongst the gentlemen? Do you yourself judge I did nothing but obey the orders of both sides? My representations to his excellency were in consequence of the gentlemen's orders, and his excellency himself also told me, that I must do whatever was their pleasure.

With regard to the notes I gave from myself, the amount thereof is 475,000 rupees, Mootyram came to me, and told me, that I ought to make some present to Mr. Johnstone, and the other gentlemen from myself also. I sent a message in answer suitable to my circumstances, but Mootyram returned and acquainted me, that the gentlemen were not satisfied, but were even offended with me. Agreeably to their pleasure, therefore, I gave notes for 475,000 rupees, one for 400,000 to be equally divided between Messrs. Johnstone, Senior, Middleton, and Leycester, and one which the other gentlemen knew nothing of (for 75,000 rupees) 50,000 for Mr. Johnstone, and 25,000 for his brother. Of the above sum 225,000 rupees have been paid, 175,000 by five bills which you have seen, and 50,000 in ready money to Mr. Senior; and there is a balance due of 250,000 rupees, 100,000 to Mr. Middleton, 50,000 to Mr. Senior, 50,000 to Mr. Johnstone, and 50,000 to Mr. Leycester. I formerly shewed you copies of the nabob's three notes, and now also I transmit you copies enclosed. My two notes Mootyram received from me, and carried to Mr. Johnstone, in whose hands I imagine they now are. You will demand them from him and peruse them. What I formerly represented, and now again represent, deviates not a hair's breadth from the truth. I then acquainted you fully with the particulars, and now I relate the substance to you: this matter I have already written to the committee.

I arrived to-day, being Sunday, at Doudpoor, where I was honoured with your letter; I shall set out to-night for Moorshedabad, and have the honour of waiting on his excellency to-morrow.

A true translation.
George Vansittart;
Persian Translator.

Dated the 23d June 1765.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. &c.

My Lord,

We now forward to you under cover our letter to general Carnac, and to-morrow we shall dispatch the warrant for your lordship to hold courts martial.

The secretary acquaints us, that you approve the extract sent you from the proceedings of the 21st ultimo.

We shall therefore put an end to that tedious business the first meeting of the board, and open our next committee with Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter to your lordship, and a few general remarks upon it, as it cannot with any propriety be entered in the proceedings of the 21st.

You may be assured, my lord, we shall give the most attentive perusal, as you desire, to the proceedings of the court martial, of which your lordship will be able to form a still more accurate judgement when you are in camp, and a witness to many leading circumstances that cannot be expressed on paper.

We remain, with the warmest sentiments of esteem,

My Lord,

Fort William, the 1st July, 1765.

Your Lordship's

Most humble Servants.

To Brigadier General John Carnac, Commander in Chief of the Army.

S I R,

Pursuant to our advices transmitted to you the 20th, Lord Clive left this place the 25th ultimo, proposing to stop a day or two at Moorshedabad, and then to proceed with all possible dispatch to the army, of which you will resign the command to his lordship immediately on his arrival.

We have vested his lordship, in conjunction with you, with full powers to negotiate with Sujah Doulah and the country powers, and you will perceive from the tenor of our instructions, that our great aim is to obtain a lasting and honourable peace, to revive our languishing commerce, to impress the natives with a sense of our justice and moderation, and to reduce these heavy military charges, which have hitherto rendered our extraordinary success, and even the cession of rich provinces, fruitless to the company.

From the contents of your letter, under date the 7th ultimo, it appears to us, that circumstances of the highest importance must daily occur, which it is absolutely necessary should be communicated to the committee. We are sorry therefore to observe your silence at a critical juncture, when you must be sensible that every article of intelligence would enable us to judge more clearly, and determine precisely on many points of which we can now form only general and imperfect ideas. We earnestly recommend to you, therefore, that you will omit no opportunity of writing to the committee until Lord Clive's arrival, and that you will then co-operate with his lordship in pursuing such measures, as shall appear necessary to the company's welfare, and the happiness of the country.

We remain, with esteem,

Fort William, the 1st July, 1765.

S I R,

Your most humble Servants.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have been honoured with your letter of the 30th ultimo, and with a duplicate thereof.

I am thoroughly sensible of, and truly thankful for, the attention you have been pleased to shew me, so different from the behaviour towards me of the late administration. If I have expressed myself with too much warmth on occasion of their ill treatment, I hope you will be kind enough to make allowances for the repeated slights I had received, and that you think they, in some measure, justify my resentment.

As soon as I had dissolved the court martial, I judged it most adviseable to make the best of my way to the king, who chose to halt at Manikpur, and there wait for me. Accordingly I pushed forwards, leaving Major Jennings to bring on the army by easy marches, Sir Robert Fletcher being somewhat indisposed, and being on that account gone by water to Allahabad. I arrived here yesterday, and immediately waited upon his majesty, who expressed much satisfaction at Sujah Doulah's being come in, and confess'd he had no other expedient but by a reconciliation with him of maintaining himself longer than while supported by us. I am to present Sujah Doulah to him to-morrow: I wait with the greatest impatience for your lordship's, &c. Answer to my address of the 22d ultimo, being in hopes it will bring me some intimations whereby I may judge how far you are willing to favour Sujah Doulah, and to serve me, as a foundation to proceed with the greatest Confidence.

Before I cross the Ganges, Daym Char, the adopted son of Akmud Ghan (Bungyo), waited upon me on the part of his father, and both Akmud Chan himself, and Hafez Rahmut, another considerable Rohyllah Chief, signified to me their desire of visiting me; but neither the season nor the business I was upon would admit of the loss of so much time as would necessarily be taken up in receiving their visit.

The Jauts have been much alarmed by our entering the Subah of Agra, and have set all their hands at work in setting that, and the other ports in their possession, in the best posture of defence.

Our troops are so exhausted, and have suffered so much from the excessive heat, as to require being thrown into quarters of refreshment as soon as possible; I propose disposing the greater part of them in the neighbourhood of Jampur, within twenty Kofs of Benaras, which is represented to me as an exceeding healthy situation.

I am with respect, my Lord, and Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant,

John Carnac.

Manikpur,
the 19th June, 1765.

To

To Brigadier General John Carnac, Commander in Chief of the Army.

S I R,

Your letter of the 19th, which we received yesterday, gave us great pleasure, by removing the uneasiness we found on account of your silence, at a time when your correspondence alone could afford any information on many important subjects, which necessarily demand the attention of the select committee.

This occasioned the paragraph in our letter to you the 1st instant, wherein we request that you will write more frequently; and also acquaint you, that lord Clive had left Calcutta the 25th ultimo, to take upon him the command of the army, and jointly with you to conclude a definitive treaty of peace with Sujah Doulah.

Again we exhort you to co-operate heartily with his lordship in this necessary and salutary measure, adhering as nearly as possible to the preliminaries specified in our instructions.

We approve much of your resolution to put the army into quarters of refreshment after the fatigue of a long campaign, and we submit intirely to you the choice of those quarters, being with much esteem,

S I R,

Your most humble Servants.

Fort William, the 4th July, 1765.

7th July, 1765. At a Select Committee, Present,

W. B. Sumner, Esq; President

Harry Verelst, Esq;

Francis Sykes, Esq;

Read, approved, and signed the proceedings of the 4th instant

It appearing from the right honourable the president's letter, under date the 3d instant, that our plan, formed with a view of giving stability to the nabob's government, by dividing the administration equally between Mahomed Reza Cawn, Juggud Seet, and Dulloobram, is in danger of being subverted through the ambition of the latter, and the excessive moderation or timidity of the former.

And it likewise appearing to the committee of the last importance to the company's interest to prevent any breach of the plan of the regulations for conducting the country government, as entered in their proceedings of the 21st ultimo, to check the aspiring views of Dulloobram, and to support and maintain each of the three ministers in the precise share of authority allotted to him, without encrease or diminution of the power specified in the above-mentioned regulations.

Resolved, That as the business of the committee will necessarily be at a stand until Mr. Verelst returns from Burdwan, Mr. Sykes be appointed to reside a few weeks at the Durbar (but without injury or diminution of the weight and influence of the present resident) in order that he may support the present established system of administration, and thereby obviate the bad consequences which may arise to the company from any revolution in the government, at a juncture when the whole attention of the committee is employed on the means to secure the future tranquility of the country, to revive our commerce, to perpetuate our revenues, and to establish the interest of our employers on the most solid and durable foundation.

Resolved, That in consideration of the low state of the treasury, the right honourable the president be requested to exert his influence in obtaining five or six laaks of rupees for the company, to answer immediate exigencies, until the revenues are brought into proper order.

Resolved also, That we acquaint Mr. Middleton, Mr. Sykes intends visiting the Durbar, to conduct some business now under consideration of the committee, and desire that he will aid and assist him, as far as in his power, in whatsoever he may require.

Agreed, That we write to Lord Clive, to acquaint him of Mr. Sykes's appointment, and that his letter to the committee, together with their's to his lordship, and to Mr. Middleton, be entered after the proceedings.

Agreed also, that we draw out instructions for Mr. Sykes, for the regulation of his conduct at the Durbar.

This month's proceedings

examined by

Edward Baber, Sub-secretary.

William B. Sumner.

H. Verelst.

Francis Sykes.

A Letter from the Right Honourable Lord Clive to the Members of the Select Committee.

Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure I can acquaint you, that the more I see of Mahomed Reza Cawn, the stronger is my conviction of his honour and moderation; but at the same time I cannot help observing, that either from timidity or some erroneous principle, he is too ready to submit to encroachments upon that proportion of power in the government which has been allotted him. When we established him and the other two ministers, we intended, their departments being distinct and separate, that they should never interfere with each other's authority, but preserve an equal sway in the management of the nabob's affairs.—Roy Dullub, however, has already attempted to destroy this balance of power, and Mahomed Reza Cawn rather approves than resists it; the appointment of all the officers for collecting the revenues is grasped at by the one, and submitted to by the other. This is certainly subversive of our intentions, as it has a tendency to increase the power of Roy Dullub, and diminish that of Mahomed Reza Cawn; and I am of opinion, that if we do not prevent it, the government which we so deliberately planned for the honour and security of the nabob will e'er long be disturbed by jealousies, discord, and numerous other evils which generally prognosticate a revolution in this country. An early appointment of a proper person to reside at the city, on the part of the company, seems to me to be the best means of preserving tranquility. Mr. Sykes is the gentleman we proposed should fill this employment as soon as it might be thought not improper for him to vacate his seat in the committee. At present to be sure he cannot be spared, except for two or three weeks; and as there will probably be a suspension of important business in the committee till General Carnac and I shall have the honour of communicating to you our negotiations with Sujah Doulah, I would propose that Mr. Sykes should, in the mean time, go to Maxadavad, and remain there about a fortnight; which, I apprehend, would effectually prevent any disunion among the three ministers of state, and over-awe that encroachment of one of them which I have represented, as they will then be thoroughly convinced of our resolution to support the plan we have formed. Mr. Middleton, I think, should be given to understand, that Mr. Sykes's visit at the city will not be to his prejudice; and I make no doubt he will be happy in the honourable and moderate conduct of his successor; nor will Mr. Sykes with the company to be at any additional expence for so short a residence.

If what I have proposed should meet with your approbation, I shall be glad to find it carried into execution as soon as possible.

I have nothing farther to add at present, than my assurances of communicating to you punctually, from time to time, such of my transactions as I may judge worthy your observation, and that I have the honour to be, with great esteem,

Gentlemen,

Mutyjill, the 3d July, 1765.

Your most humble Servant,
Clive.

To Samuel Middleton, Esq; Resident at the Durbar:

S I R,

Having deputed Mr. Sykes to conduct certain affairs at the Durbar, now immediately under the consideration of the committee, you are not to regard his visit as derogating in the smallest degree from the weight and influence it is proper you should maintain as public resident from the board.

You will easily see the impropriety of charging any other than a member of the committee with the management of business that has not yet been disclosed to the board, which alone will sufficiently point out our intentions.

As Mr. Sykes sets out unprovided of every thing necessary to support the dignity of a deputy from the committee, you will please to assist him all in your power with whatever he may require. A company of seapoys for his guard will be absolutely necessary.

We are with great esteem, Sir,

Fort William, the 7th
July, 1765.

Your most humble Servants.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. &c.

My Lord,

Last night we were honoured with your letter of the 3d, and this morning a committee met to deliberate on the important advices you were pleased to communicate.

We concur with your lordship in opinion, that it is of the utmost consequence to the company's interest, to provide, by every means in our power, against any change in
the

the country government as now established, and to support that equal partition of power between Mahomed Reza Cawn, Doolubram, and Juggut Seet, as resolved in our proceedings of the 21st ultimo, every encroachment on the share of authority assigned to Mahomed Reza Cawn must be checked in time, and his timidity and moderation sustained by our influence, in order to demonstrate that we are determined to suffer no violation of our regulations, nor of our agreement, which we regard as equally binding on each of the three ministers.

For this reason we have requested of Mr. Sykes to proceed to the Durbar, and remain there as long as he can possibly be spared from the business of the committee, that he may have an eye over the conduct of Doolubram, and penetrate whether his views extend to the arrogating to himself a greater share of power than we originally intended. This task Mr. Sykes has cheerfully accepted, without other considerations than those of promoting the publick interest, and forwarding the measures of the committee, and that Mr. Middleton may not conceive himself injured by this appointment, we propose to acquaint him by letter, that Mr. Sykes's visit to the Durbar is intended merely to promote certain measures now under deliberation in the committee, which cannot with any propriety be trusted in other hands.

The present state of the treasury requires, that we request of your lordship to exert your influence in obtaining five or six laaks of rupees for the company, to answer immediate exigences, until their revenues are reduced into their proper order; after which we have the greatest prospect of being able to supply every necessity from our own collections and duties.

We are farther to request of your lordship, that you will direct Mr. George Vansittart to translate the late regulations of the government, (the original of which you have with you), and transmit copies of the same to us by the first opportunity, it being necessary it should appear in our proceedings.

We have the honour to be,

My lord,

Your lordship's

most obedient,

and most humble Servants.

Fort William,
the 7th July, 1765;

To Francis Sykes, Esquire.

S I R,

Pursuant to our resolutions of the 7th instant, we would recommend to you, that you proceed with all convenient dispatch to the Durbar, and there support, with all the influence of the committee, those regulations which we lately made for the administration of the government.

It appears from lord Clive's letter, that dangerous encroachments are designed by Doolubram on that balance of power, and partition of authority, which we judge necessary to the security of the present establishment: he has already infringed on the agreement with his colleagues, and exceeded the line we drew from the limitation of their several authorities, by claiming to himself the right of nominating the officers of the collections. Mahomed Reza Cawn has yielded his point with such easiness of disposition, and apparent aversion to whatever on occasion disputes, as will serve rather to encourage than to moderate Doolubram's ambition.

You are therefore to keep the most watchful eye over this minister, to check every symptom of his aspiring at a greater share of the administration than we have allotted him, to convince him that we are determined to support the present regulation of the government, and that any tendency in his conduct to deviate from a measure which we consider as essential to the due management of affairs, and the peace and happiness of the country, will necessarily incur our displeasure, and exclude him from the proportion of power he now enjoys.

We have already, in our letter of the 7th to lord Clive, and also in our proceeding of that date, touched upon the low condition of the treasury, requesting that his lordship will exert his influence in obtaining five or six laaks of rupees for the company, to answer such exigencies as may occur before their revenues are reduced to the proposed order. Should therefore our advices to his lordship have arrived too late for him to make the necessary application, we would recommend it to you, that you promote this measure, in the name of the committee, with all your power and interest.

As these are points of the utmost consequence to the company, we must request that you will maintain a constant correspondence with lord Clive, and with us, during your residence at the Durbar, which we apprehend need not, at this juncture, exceed the space of three weeks or a month, when your presence will be necessary at the committee.

We shall desire of Mr. Middleton to aid and assist you all in his power, in whatever you may require;—and that he is to consider your visit to the Durbar, as intended only to conduct certain affairs now under consideration of the committee.

Your

Your own zeal for the publick good, and your prudence, will sufficiently direct you how to act in other particulars without further instructions from us.

We remain, with great esteem,

For William,
the 7th July, 1765.

S I R,
Your most humble Servants,

No. 85:

Bort William, the 7th June 1765.

At a Consultation; PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, President,
William Brightwell Sumner,
Charles Stafford Playdell,
Harry Verelst,
John Johnstone,
Francis Sykes,
Ralph Leycester, and
John Burdett, Esquires.

MR. Leycester, agreeably to his intimation at the last meeting of the board, delivers in the first following minute on the style of the Nabob's letter to the select committee, entered on their proceedings then perused,

The Nabob's address to the select committee is a most extraordinary production, whether the matter or style of it be taken into consideration: It is an appeal to these Gentlemen against the conduct of a committee of the board, from whom, I suppose, he would have had redress, had he been able to support a complaint of this nature; but, so far from that, I believe he has repeatedly expressed his content and satisfaction in many letters to the governor. Whether I consider myself as a member of this board, or as a Gentleman, I can by no means allow myself to be treated with such unbecoming language; nor will the board themselves, I presume, deem it decent to have me termed the Vacqueel of Mahomed Reza Cawn, while I have been acting by commission from the board; and I call on you, Gentlemen, to do me justice, and must request, before I even attempt a refutation of the Nabob's assertions, that you insist on apologies being made for the insult offered this board through me; your silence on such an occasion must be interpreted into approbation.

(Signed)
Ralph Leycester.

The board are, in consequence, unanimously of opinion, that a letter should be wrote to the Nabob by the president, expressing, in the strongest terms, the impropriety of his using such a style in any representation he might have occasion to make touching the conduct of the members of the board, which the president informs them he shall do accordingly.

And Mr. Leycester thereupon enters the following further minutes in vindication of his conduct, on the subjects of the Nabob's complaints.

The honourable motives on which I acted Muxadabad leave not a wish to conceal any part of my transactions; I have, however, one objection to entering on my defence, though that shall not prevent my attempt to vindicate myself to you, Gentlemen; but I think it merits consideration, how far it appears decent and proper to allow the conduct of a committee, and of course the representatives of the whole board, to be thus arraigned for transactions which have not at the time been complained of. As my commission terminated a month and a half before the authority of that board expired which made my appointment, I think an appeal should only have been made to those Gentlemen, for the conformity of my conduct to views which the present board cannot be such ample judges of. And, that the Nabob and I may not go on in endless contradiction of each other, I beg the matter may be put on some certain issue; and that, if the nabob's assertions appear false, the board will determine what measures to pursue, in order to prevent in future such unwarrantable attacks, which every Gentleman must otherwise be for ever exposed to, who shall be prosecuting any views that may be injurious to a first minister or favourite of the nabob. I was aware that if ever Nundcomar was able to influence the nabob, he would urge every thing which malice and villany could invent, out of enmity to me for the share I had in his removal. I am sorry to see the nabob begin his government with a proceeding that must create so much uneasiness and jealousy between him and some members of the council, and which must, in a manner, destroy all confidence and cordiality between them; but as the particular displeasure expressed against me by the nabob

nabob has solely been incurred by a steady pursuit of the company's welfare, it shall not give me much pain; for I am sensible their interest would have been sacrificed, had we attended to each idle and evasive argument with which Nundcomar took care from time to time to supply him. But to reply more particularly to the nabob's charge:

Letters of condolance had been wrote from the Governor on his father's death: and the first half hour of our first interview was employed in compliments of one kind or other. We then acquainted the nabob we had some private business with him, and requested he would order his attendants to retire, and that his brother, being young, might do the same, which he complied with without reluctance. Mahomed Reza Cawn had already been ordered down from Decca by the board; but it might appear as much as possible the nabob's own act, he was also desired to send a like order. He, or rather Nundcomar, were guilty of a shameful imposition on our resident at the Durbar, on whose application, the nabob told him, orders to that effect should be sent, but transmitted orders directly contrary. This was an apparent breach of confidence. Mahomed Reza Cawn had however set out, and the nabob was prevailed on by us to send his Perwannah for that purpose. When he had subscribed to the treaty, he was asked, when he chose to be seated on the Musnud; then, or when Mahomed Reza Cawn arrived? He chose the latter, willing, and I believe altogether, to defer it, in daily hopes of receiving sunnuds from the king, from which authority he rather wished to hold his government. The morning before we went to the Kellah, we acquainted the nabob, that as we had particular business to transact with him, it would be adviseable that he should receive us in a private apartment, and not in the Dewan Connah; and that no mistake might happen in this message, it was committed to writing; nor did I ever see the nabob, except the day he was seated on the Musnud, in any other apartment than that in which he first received us. It is absolutely false, that he was told not to sit in his Dewan Connah till Mahomed Reza Cawn's arrival; that he must live in the place he was; or that he must put a stop to all business. Mahomed Reza Cawn, I think, arrived the third day after our first visit.

We found that people about the nabob had endeavoured to inspire him with a suspicion of our designing to seat Mahomed Reza Cawn on the Musnud; but when we pointed out to him the improbability of such intent, and how needless our present declarations in his favour were, had we any such view, he seemed satisfied, and called on us to pledge our honour to the performance of the treaty, which he read over two or three times. He endeavoured to evade coming to any point, wanted to consult Nundcomar, and to have him to bring the paper of advice of his deceased father. We knew this was only to gain time, and that a delay would only increase every difficulty we had to contend with. We replied we came not to treat with Nundcomar, but with him; that the council and the English were heartily inclined to his interest; and that he should only consider them as his friends and protectors. I do not recollect the use of those words about the paper of advice; but probably he was told it was his best part to act conformably to the council's sentiments, fully expressed in the treaty. After discussing over every article of the treaty three or four times, and taking pains to make him understand it, we pressed his acceptance, and seemingly satisfied his principal objection; still he desired to have Nundcomar's opinion, but when we saw he had been tutored to do nothing without his concurrence, and that he was sure to encourage the nabob to the warmest opposition, we pointed out to him the necessity of his complying with the resolutions of the board, and that we could not acknowledge him as Soubah till he had promised his assent. This was not, I believe, told him in the terms he has used, though it was my firm opinion, and I believe it was the board's, that he ought never to be acknowledged on any terms that should still leave the sole power in the hands of Nundcomar, whose character was even then at least a very doubtful one. He spoke at that time very handsomely of Mahomed Reza Cawn, and only mentioned what he says about the Dacca collections: he at last promised his compliance. Nundcomar and others were called in, and upon their beginning to start objections, they were told, we were not come to receive their opinion, but to negotiate with the nabob. Some one, I forget who, proposed that the treaty with his father should be sent for. Some of us remarked it was unnecessary, as the additional articles had been particularly pointed out; however, the treaty was brought. When it was first called for, we were told, a Faquir had the treaty, who was sitting upon a Mir Jaffier's tomb some miles from the Kellah; but upon finding such evasions would not avail, it was presently produced. No Moonshy was turned out as mentioned by the nabob, though one was checked for offering his sentiments and objections.

He then goes on to say, Mahomed Reza Cawn has taken twenty laaks out of his treasury and distributed it without his knowledge for securing his nabobship: this is a most shameful insinuation, and appears so indirectly levelled at those who supported this measure, that I must take notice of it, though done, I believe, solely with a view to injure

Mahomed

Mahomed Reza Cawn. The opinion, I entertain of Mahomed Reza Cawn's understanding and integrity inclines me to believe this a groundless assertion. If he has done so, I will allow I have mistaken his character; and I can declare, and am ready to declare on oath, that I have never received a single rupee from Mahomed Reza Cawn. The other reflections thrown out on Mahomed Reza Cawn, he will, I hope, be able to clear up to the board's satisfaction; and if we consider the struggle the nabob has made to have that villian Nundcomar still about him, no man will be surpris'd at the attack on Mahomed Reza Cawn, or those who promoted him; and when all circumstances are taken into view, I can only be amazed to find such a seeming degree of credit given to the nabob's assertions, which, I think, must appear to every unprejudiced person the performance of Nundcomar, who has such an influence over the nabob, as to make him believe all those enemies to himself who have been concerned in his removal. Though four gentlemen were appointed on the deputation, and concurred in every measure, Mr. Johnston and I only are named, Mr. Johnston we are told was supposed to be privily at enmity with Nundcomar; and I, who never, but the day I took my leave, saw the nabob, except in the presence of Messrs. Johnston, Senior, and Middleton, am particularly attacked, by reason, I suppose of my repeated refusal of large offers made me by Nundcomar for support, and on account of what immediately followed regarding Nundcomar when I returned to the board; I am fully persuaded that Nundcomar is the sole author of this address from the nabob; and am, I confess, very much provoked to think that that villain shall entertain a momentary hope of gratifying his resentment by urging the nabob to this attack, for from himself I am positive it could not have proceeded. All the difficulties and all the uneasiness we had in executing our commission at the city, proceeded from Nundcomar and his creatures, as we repeatedly informed the board. The nabob of himself made but weak objections, and such seemed removed by the arguments we used, till he was again tutored by Nundcomar, when he would as flatly contradict himself as a man possibly could; he complained to the board very bitterly of our proceedings about Nundcomar, when we were ordered to send him down; relates a long history, which he the day before declared he had never heard of, and alleges that we obliged him to sign such a paper as we thought proper. This was Nundcomar's last struggle, at least it would have been the last, had not he and the nabob been taught to expect an intire change upon the arrival of lord Clive and the committee. As the nabob had confidence enough to exclaim against us to the board in such terms, why failed he to add what he now urges? the paper he says we forced from him regarded only Nundcomar. I am firmly persuaded that the same influence, which has on several occasions led the nabob into the most palpable contradictions, has now urged him to these shameful insinuations, in hopes of assisting Nundcomar by this attack on those who promoted his removal. No confidence can be placed in his word and promise so long as Nundcomar or his creatures have access to him; and I am satisfied if they were removed he would soon reflect on the impropriety of his present conduct, and repent of it.

I admit the nabob was at first much averse to the appointments the board had made; whence arose it? From the insinuations of Nundcomar, as I before said, that we really meant to place Mahomed Reza Cawn on the Musnud; when he was convinced of our real design, and had engaged us to pledge our honours to the performance of the treaty, he appeared more satisfied, and would I believe have remained so, had he not been encouraged to expect the release and reinstatement of Nundcomar on lord Clive's arrival. And if we were necessitated to urge some points in terms we would wish to have avoided, we were drove to it by the opposition we met with from Nundcomar and his adherents. It was our desire and our aim to treat the nabob with a becoming respect; but the struggles of those people to thwart every measure the board had recommended, obliged us now and then to enforce them in more positive terms, and to explain to them the mischiefs they would unavoidably draw upon themselves by such a procedure, and how evidently they were sacrificing the nabob's welfare to their private views. I always esteemed it a contest with the nabob's officers, not with him; the executing the service we were sent on alone engaged us in many disagreeable altercations; and I am persuaded had we been less earnest it would not have been accomplished.

The company have by this treaty an additional income confirmed to them of sixty laaks of rupees per annum, have the whole military force of the province in their own hands, and have obtained the power of interfering more or less in the affairs of government, and nomination of its officers, as circumstances may render necessary for their welfare and success: more they can scarce wish; and in my opinion a less influence could not have been insisted on without a sacrifice of their interest, had Nazem o Dowla been once acknowledged by the board Soubah, on the terms of, or without any additional articles to, his father's treaty, neither justice nor honour could have afterwards warranted our imposing on him any other terms; but when the government was become vacant, which could only be secured to Nazem o Dowla by the power of the company's

force, we had a right to prescribe such condition for that support as seemed most conducive to their welfare, on which the nabob's indeed does now so intimately depend; where no public treaties of promises are infringed, no tie, no regard to Mir Jaffier's family can stand in competition with their interests; and I esteem myself happy in having had a share in confirming to the company such desirable benefits.

R. Leycester.

The president now informs the board, that he summoned their meeting to-day in order to lay before them an extract of the proceedings of a select committee held the 16th instant, in consequence of the resolution record in their last, communicated to the board, which he does accordingly, and the same having been perused is returned to him.

Some debate passing thereupon, on the subject of receiving presents from government and the officers of it;

Mr. Johnston desires the question, whether the acceptance of all presents is improper? may be put severally to the members of the board for their opinions.

The same being put accordingly;

Mr. Burdett is of opinion, That such presents may be received or not, according to the particular circumstances. That the nabob has a right to dispose of his own property; and that the presents on the occasion in question might with great propriety be received.

Mr. Leycester, That where they are not the price of services they may very properly be received.

Mr. Sykes, That presents at all times from the nabob or his officers are very improper, as tending to the prejudices of the company's interests.

Mr. Johnston minutes it as his opinion, That where they are not the price of unworthy services, and no trust is betrayed for the acceptance of them, is no way improper; and in the present case, as being previous to the execution of the deed of covenant, as warrantable as in time past, by any who have received them.

Mr. Verelst is of opinion, That the receiving of presents at a time the board are doing their duty in supporting the government, and in the interest of the company, is highly improper, and the more so in the present instance, since he is informed that the company's orders and covenants were arrived in Calcutta before the tender of them.

Mr. Playdell agrees in the opinion given by Mr. Leycester.

Mr. Sumner is of opinion that the acceptance of presents after the receipt of the company's orders to the contrary, and the covenants, was very improper.

The president's.

That no presents whatever ought to have been accepted after the receipt of the covenants, except in the manner specified therein.

Fort William, the 11th June, 1765.

Mr. Leycester now delivers in the following minute on subject of the last select committee proceedings perused at the board.

When the company's interest were altogether secured, and the orders of the board fully executed, it is very true that I accepted of a present from the nabob; I never made a secret of it, as the custom of this country on such occasions, well known to every body, sanctifies the acceptance; and where presents have not been esteemed the price of improper services, I never heard a reflection cast on those who did receive them. I went up to the city without the thought of any private emolument, presuming the benefit I had to insist on for the company would render me too obnoxious to be considered as others have been on like occasions; many have felt the benefits of such a custom, and when I had done my duty to the company, I thought myself at liberty to accept a present from the nabob, which I am confident can in no shape prove injurious to the company; whilst the settlement of the government was under consideration, I declined every overture that was made; many knew that such were made in Calcutta, and honourably refused. Mr. Spencer, though he afterwards accepted an offer of two lacks from the nabob, refused a previous one of eleven lacks; this offer alone considerably exceeded the whole of what the nabob afterwards gave, and might have been received by Mr. Spencer, could he have been brought to think it consistent with the interest of the company to have deferred for a short time the settlement of the government affairs. The man who came down from the city to make this offer to Mr. Spencer, waited also on me with the same intent; he told me he had particular business, and desired me to allow his coming to me in a more private manner, which I declined, as I knew his errand, and was resolved not to accept any offer he could make. Again, while I was at the city, offers were repeatedly made me from Nundecomar on the part of the nabob, as well as of himself, which I as oft refused; and as I gave no encouragement

ment to such messages no particular sums were named, but it was said they should be such as would fully satisfy me, if I would but endeavour to keep things in the state they were. And it is certain, if we had set quiet in Calcutta immense fortunes might have been made, could we have brought ourselves to accept them on such terms.

All previous offers having been thus refused, it was intimated to Mahomed Reza Cawn, when the business was all settled, that he might hint to the nabob, that our former objections no longer subsisting, we were ready to receive any marks of his favour, as the nabob's previous offers were a proof of his intent to make presents. These intimations did not seem improper; I know of no arguments being used to make Mahomed Reza Cawn think he would have offended us by declining this; and, if I recollect right, he told us the first motion came from the nabob; when the paper was presented by the nabob, we more than once told him we wanted no such offer if it was not entirely with his own inclination, which he repeatedly assured us it was; and I am confident the gifts to us were the real consequence of custom on like occasions.

Mahomed Reza Cawn made the offer he speaks of, but I did not know that the arguments he mentions were made use of to him; when every thing which regarded Mahomed Reza Cawn appeared settled, I thought there could be no impropriety in my acceptance of his offers; but afterwards, when I recollected that his appointment might one day or other become a matter of contest, I resolved not to give the smallest room for any imputation of my being improperly influenced, and therefore declined accepting a bill of fifty thousand rupees which he sent me down; I never took it into my possession, and as a proof that I did not intend it, I subscribed to the covenants while I had so large a sum in my power; and I could produce letters in testimony of my resolution not to receive it; if Mahomed Reza Cawn has not been properly advised of this my resolution, it has not been owing to any mistake of mine. As to Juggut Seat's, I say that before I left Muxadavid it had been intimated that he was desirous of making a present, and that his father had made presents on like occasions with a view to raise the credit of his house. We had treated Juggut Seat with particular respect and civility, but I saw no reason for such offers; I always understood they came first from him, and am totally ignorant of the arguments he mentions having been used to induce him to make them. This I know of Juggut Seat's offer, when I returned to Calcutta, and ten thousand rupees for his house was afterwards received on my account; it has always been my opinion, that in a country not under the most absolute tyranny, every man's property was at his own disposal, and every one was at liberty to accept what was offered without fear or compulsion, the same not being a consideration for improper services: the adopting opposite maxims is contrary to the known practice of those who have gone before us; and though absolute orders, with a penalty annexed, may make the receiving the presents improper and inconvenient; yet they cannot alter the rectitude of the act itself; and I will venture to appeal to the common sentiments of mankind, which I am persuaded will condemn that man as a very absurd one, who, having an opportunity of obtaining a comfortable maintenance for no dishonourable sacrifice, should decline the occasion.

However, I do not see with what candour or propriety any body can enquire into a circumstance of this kind; if Juggut Seat had been oppressed, he knew, or should be told, that his appeal was to the board. It does not appear he of himself made any such complaint; if leading questions were put, they were improper, he would from thence discover that such an intimation of what he gave would be agreeable; and I would be glad to know if he was not called on to commit these circumstances in writing.

I think the committee did only their duty in laying before the board the nabob's address to them, but that the subsequent measures should have been taken in the presence of and with the concurrence of the board. The committee summoning any persons before them to impeach the members of this board, is in my opinion extremely improper.

If any interest of the company has been sacrificed to private views, it is incumbent on every good servant to point out such misconduct; but where presents have not been accepted for any such sacrifice, I am sure it is doing the company no service to be making such minute researches into occurrences of this kind, unless complaints of oppression are first made, and then the enquiry should be as free and open as possible.

It is true that the covenants had arrived before these presents were accepted, which the then governor and council, for reasons they would have assigned to the company, thought proper to defer putting in force. Many instances of a like deviation may be quoted without incurring the displeasure of our honourable masters, as I trust will be the present case.

Since the contests which have prevailed amongst the proprietors at home, the orders from the court of directors have been so fluctuating, that it has really been difficult to collect the sentiments that were to guide our conduct abroad.

It has been intimated that the covenants were rather the effect of party, than the cool sentiments of our masters; and I have heard it was probable, parties would unite in abolishing covenants, that could only injure individuals, and do the company no service. And indeed had these been executed without assurances of the inland trade being put on a proper footing, no man could have honestly got a competence in their service; a strict observance of the order about the inland trade had very materially injured many of our fortunes, and that even at a time when the orders were repeated. We might as well expect the abolishing the covenants; and why, in a second instance, were we to lay ourselves under restrictions unknown to any of our predecessors, at a time when it was possible the very orders for that purpose were revoked. I urge these as arguments which probably might induce the then governor and council not to enforce the covenants, and in opposition to the stress which some members of the board lay on the supposed breach of those orders; had the authority then subsisting thought proper to put them in force, obedience would have been my part; and I believe though the company's orders about the inland trade and taffals, were well known to the servants, that no individual judged them obligatory on himself till the board's orders in consequence were issued.

When the nabob complained of the proceedings of the deputation of this board, it was very proper his letter to the committee should be laid before the board; and the nabob should at the same time have been informed, that the power of censuring the members of this board rested only with the president and council, from whom we might expect all possible protection and redress.

Mahomed Reza Cawn should have been examined in presence of the board only, on the nabob's charge of his having distributed, unknown to him, twenty laaks for the purchase of his present employ.

Beyond the charge that there was made, nothing should have been sought for or enquired into. Mahomed Reza Cawn had been led to the mention of circumstances he would wish to have concealed, and as well as I can recollect or know, has been mistaken in part of his detail. Where charges are made, justice to the accused and accuser demands an examination; but it should not be the business of any person to be seeking occasions of this kind.

On the whole, if I have received presents, I have sacrificed no interests of the company's in order to obtain them; the presents that were made me, I conceived to be willingly and voluntarily made; if it has been otherwise, the first injury has been done me in not making it known to me. My declining to receive the fifty thousand rupees sent by Mahomed Reza Cawn, from a determination not to give the least room to suppose me in properly influenced, and my refusal of repeated offers made through Nundcomar, are very strong presumptive proofs, that I would not benefit my fortune by any means that I thought could possibly be deemed improper.

R. Leycester.

Fort William, the 17th June, 1765.

Mr. Leycester delivers in the following further minute on the proceedings of the select committee of the 7th and 8th instant.

The proceedings of the select committee of the 7th, wherein the evidence of one Mootyram is recited, would seem to imply a supposed collusion in my refusal of Mahomed Reza Cawn's bill for Rs. 50,000, which obliges me to remark further, that I firmly believe the man was never authorized to deliver the message mentioned, but to return the bill unconditionally into the hands of Mahomed Reza Cawn. Nothing ever passed between me and Mootyram, Bussuntroy, or any of his people, on the subject of this bill; but I did imagine it had been received back by Mahomed Reza Cawn.

No such conversation as mentioned in Mahomed Reza Cawn's narrative, No. 1, ever passed in my presence. I have already declared myself ignorant of the arguments related in Mahomed Reza Cawn's narrative, No. 2, having been used to induce him to make presents. I always believed his offer came first from himself; but as much stress seems laid on the bill's having been tendered by Mootyram the day before this narrative was laid before the board, I must observe that I know not of such bills having been issued by Mahomed Reza Cawn till the fifth May; that on the 9th I signed the covenants, and on the 15th I wrote to a gentleman at Cossimbuzar, that if the whole of the nabob's offer had not been paid, none was to have been received after that day, a proof that I would not have been guilty of a breach of them; and it is evident I had not received the bill in question. On the 22d, I wrote to the same gentleman in the following words:

You know the objections I made at Muxadabah to receive a present from the quarter you mention; they appear as strong as ever; for though it would not in the least bias
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my conduct, I would not put it in any body's power to suppose a view to it could have had influence in the choice of Mahomed Reza Cawn, whose abilities and character were my sole inducement for wishing to have so large a share of the government under him. The draft you mention was sent down; but I decline the acceptance of it, though I have yet been silent to Mahomed Reza Cawn, lest he should apprehend, from my refusal at this time; a resolution to forsake him, as is a common notion in this country: I have not a thought, however, to accept it.

The bill had never been put into my hands, nor in the hands of any of my people. The person who acquainted me that Moutyram had such, was desired to direct him to return them; and, as I never heard more of them, I did believe Mahomed Reza Cawn had possession of them, till his narrative was laid before the board.

I must particularly remark on the minute entered on close of the committee proceedings of the by desire of Mahomed Reza Cawn, That I never heard him mention a syllable about a present from himself; that I never knew he asked if the present he proposed was to be a general affair, or if the other gentlemen of council were to have a share; or that he was answered, This must be for us; let them look to themselves. He says the deputies made this reply; I declare, I never knew of such question, or such reply.

I had heard the nabob intended presents; but I knew not the sum allotted me till Mahomed Reza Cawn presented the paper, by order of the nabob, who, I conceived, had himself assigned that particular sum.

There is no one circumstance collected through the whole of their inquiries, which I know of, that I would not have communicated, had I been properly called on; and though the disagreeable terms; in which it has been endeavoured to disclose the secret of these presents, of which no secret was made, has obliged me to insist particularly on my declining to accept Mahomed Reza Cawn's bill, yet, considering the manner and time it was offered to me, I should not have thought the acceptance any ways dishonourable.

As nothing passed personally between me and the Seats, so as to make me quite positive that the present he made was with his own inclinations, though I never before had a doubt of it; and as the messages said to be delivered by Mootyram implies some unwillingness on his part; I acquaint the board, that my intention was, to order back to the Seat's house what was thence received on my account, and am ready to make oath, that I was totally ignorant of the message said to be delivered to the Seats on this subject.

The declarations I have already made, touching this matter, and my declining to accept Mahomed Reza Cawn's bill for 50,000 rupees, which I might, if I had chose, been this moment in possession of, will, I shall presume, sufficiently evince the rectitude of my intentions through the whole of this transaction.

R. Leycester.

Messrs. Playdell and Gray also enter the following minutes on the whole of the proceedings on the same subject.

Observing my name inserted, with other gentlemen, in a paper laid before the board the 7th instant, containing a list of several sums of money the nabob complains have been distributed by Mahomed Reza Cawn without his knowledge amongst different gentlemen, as I am entirely ignorant of such unjust measures having been taken, and cannot suppose it to be true, I desire to vindicate my own character, and clear myself of such an allegation, by declaring I knew nothing of the matter until informed by a gentleman of the board, that it was the nabob's intentions to make the council a present; and, as I understood this was entirely the free will of the nabob, I, on that account, received what was sent me, I knowing it to be on no other footing whatever.

Cs. Sd. Playdell.

Mr. Gray's name being inserted in the paper laid before the board by the president, on the 7th instant, relative to presents from the nabob, he solemnly declares, that no request or solicitation was made on his part to obtain any present or gratification whatever; nor was he informed that a present was intended, till it was actually tendered. He further assures the board, he would not have accepted of it, had he not been fully satisfied it flowed from the nabob's free inclination. He knew not of, and never should have consented to have used persuasion, far less threats, to obtain presents from any person, and he has all along entertained too good an opinion of the members of this board, to suppose any of them capable of such an underhand proceeding. However, if allegations of this nature are laid to the charge of any, they cannot affect those gentlemen who, being in Calcutta, could have no opportunity of using improper means to acquire presents; and that they did not, appears very evidently from what Mahomed Reza Cawn observes in the latter part of his declaration to the select committee.

It can never be thought, that for this gratification, he gave up a single advantage he could have acquired for the honourable company. He was a member of that board who procured an additional yearly revenue of eighty laaks of rupees to the possessions they held before; making, with these, in all, at least one million eight hundred thousand pounds sterl. per annum. Had the gentlemen of council been disposed to spare the nabob in his assignments, he would have given them much larger sums, and no complaints would have made their appearance.

Certain, therefore, that what he received was the effect of the nabob's free will, he perceived no impropriety in benefiting by his Excellency's bounty, on an occasion where former precedents have warranted the acceptance, and where his conscience could not tax him with the smallest breach of the trust reposed in him by his employers. It is true, the covenants had come to hand some time before Mr. Gray's arrival from Maulda; but they had not been executed by any of the board, all of whom concurred in deeming them the greatest severity the honourable company could impose on their servants, and agreed to write home a remonstrance to our employers, setting forth the particular hardship, not doubting but, on a due representation, they would repeal them: This they were encouraged to hope from several instances of orders detrimental to the company's servants having been reversed on a proper application. However, the attention of the board being deeply engaged on the transactions subsequent to the late nabob's death, the taking the covenants into consideration was postponed, and never resumed till Lord Clive's arrival. Mr. Gray considered the covenants as meant to be a check upon fraud, or rendering the government services with a view of some pecuniary gratification, without considering the company's advantage. But, in laying this restriction on those they might suspect base enough to betray their trust for a bribe, they have also cut off from their honest and faithful servants of the present standing, the advantages which were enjoyed without restriction by those of former times; a particular of severity with which Mr. Gray cannot believe the honourable company meant to stigmatize or to distress the present set of servants; for our employers must entertain a reproachful opinion of us, if they believe the restraint of conscience, heretofore considered a sufficient tye on the conduct of our predecessors in the service, is not enough to bind our hands from doing them injustice; and to cut off from their servants every source of benefit which their service affords, is surely distressing them in the severest degree. The salt and inland trade was some time ago very beneficial; but the company believing it was a principal occasion of, although he is convinced it was in fact only a pretext for, the war with Mir Cossim, seemed determined to reduce it and deprive us of that source. The foreign Marine trade was once a fund of advantage to the company's servants, but that was before Suraja Dowla's war, when commerce flourished both in Bengal and in the Marts abroad; since that time, the internal commotions in which these countries, wherein the principal part of our trade used to be carried on, as well as Bengal itself, have been involved, have rendered that branch so very precarious, that voyages miscarry as often as succeed; and the company's servants, especially those stationed at subordinate factories, labour under particular inconvenience in this trade; for through want of time and opportunity to apply to it properly, and to inform themselves of every requisite for carrying it on, the free merchants have the greatest advantage over them. The latter are at liberty to proceed on their voyages, and can themselves dispose of, or purchase, goods to the best account at the foreign markets, thereby saving many charges, as well as devoting that care and attention to their own concerns which can scarcely be expected from agents, whom we are under the necessity of employing: Very different was the situation of the gentlemen of the service in that period he has mentioned, from the present; secure in their persons and properties, and enjoying a profound tranquility, they saw the profits of their trade coming in regularly to them; but ever since Mr. Gray has had the honour to serve the company, there has been almost a constant series of warfare in Bengal; he has been witness to two revolutions, wherein the greatest part of his most intimate friends have fallen the unfortunate victims of Moorish barbarity; at both times, his life in such imminent danger, that he can attribute his escape from the unhappy fate that attended his fellow-servants, to the interposition of Providence alone; his property seized by the rapacious relentless enemy; his circumstances brought to the lowest brink of ruin, not only by the loss of his own fortune; but also by the accumulation of a heavy debt taken up in the course of his trade, for which he was answerable, without the means left to discharge it; his health destroyed by the fatigues and hardships he underwent, and himself reduced to the utmost distress and misery, as well from affliction from the sufferings of those held most dear to him, as from the consideration of his own misfortunes; the very idea of what he has endured, shocks his recollection, and the precariousness of his situation, and the vicissitudes to which he has been subjected, have painted forth independance to him in too desirable colours to admit of his self-denial, when he can obtain it without the least deviation from that integrity and fidelity to the interest

of his employers, which he has ever made the rule of his conduct; nor could it have been expected, that whilst his hands were not tied up by those covenants to which his will did not consent, and which, though ordered, he did not conceive to be so positively enjoined as totally to exclude all expostulation, and even without any penalty in case of refusal; from whence it might be inferred, the company would not insist on their execution, if their servants were from reasonable motives averse from them. Under these circumstances, Mr. Gray says, it could not be expected, that he would reject a present offered to his hands from a government that could very well afford it; he considered it as some compensation for his sufferings, as well as for the deficiency in his losses not made up by the public restitution; for, although it is true, that after our enemies were drove out of the provinces, restitution was allowed for the damages we had sustained, yet it was on a footing that still left the sufferers considerable losers; the goods plundered or destroyed were rated at the prime cost and charges, and a very unequal advance for risk, with an allowance of ten per cent. on the whole for interest. This valuation of the goods was very short of the price they would have sold at, and the allowance was less than a third part of the real interest; for it is now above three years that we have laid out of our money, and but one year's interest is given. He means not here to blame those gentlemen who stipulated the terms of this restitution, for he thinks the whole of our losses was more than the nabob could then bear to discharge; but he states the case fairly betwixt the government and himself; and if what he has lost by them be compared to what is set down to his account, in the end he would have to receive a balance.

On the whole, Mr. Gray, deprived, as he believed, of the only trade by which he could raise any benefit, and unprovided for by the honourable company with an allowance adequate to his necessary expences, accepted of the present offered him, on conviction it was intirely consistent both with his duty and the honour. He hopes that what he has urged will prove satisfactory to his employers, and procure him their consent and approbation.

George Gray.

Mr. Burdett likewise enters the following minute:

As Mr. Playdell and Mr. Gray have thought it necessary to clear up their characters from the imputation of having extorted presents from the nabob, I likewise beg leave to inform the board that I looked upon the 50,000 rupees sent me as a voluntary gift from the nabob, and in such light only I received it; the manner in which it was paid will I presume sufficiently exculpate me from that heavy charge of extortion. I cannot look upon myself as culpable in receiving presents before the covenants were signed; so far from it, I must ingenuously confess, that had ten times the sum been offered in the same manner I received the first, and my covenants not signed, I should without the least scruple have received it, well satisfied that I was doing no more than those who came before me; nor should I then have acknowledged the power of any committee to arraign my conduct, unless they shewed me a special power for that purpose from those only whom I esteem my masters.

John Burdett.

Mr. Johnston having agreeably to his application received the copies of the whole proceedings, sends in his answer to them in the following minute:

The select committee have been pleased to lay before the board several narratives of Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggutseet, touching presents that have been made to sundry gentlemen by the nabob, and which in their proceedings they call evidence of the greatest consequence.

As no complaint was made, either before or now to the board, by either Mahomed Reza Cawn, Juggutseet, or the nabob, against the gentlemen therein mentioned, that any unfair means or compulsion had been used towards obtaining these presents, nor any redress sued for, I am at a loss to know whose suit I am to reply to, or to whom as judges I am accountable. The nabob's addresses and letters to the select committee, accusing Mahomed Reza Cawn of having given away without his knowledge twenty laaks of money and goods to different people to secure him in his nabobship; this was laid before the board, and it rested with Mahomed Reza Cawn to disprove this, and to shew he had issued no money against the nabob's inclination, but with his consent and order under his hand and seal.

The committee however, assuming as it would appear the office of inquisitors, call upon Mahomed Reza Cawn to declare before them on oath, not only to the matter laid against him, but whatever else he knew, or they pleased to ask, touching his own concerns: from him overawed by the opinion of their supreme power, on which his post and honours depends, and that nothing of consequence now rests with the council, they extort what they call evidence of the greatest consequence.

Juggutseet in like manner, without having made any complaint of oppression, compulsion, or any injury being done his business, is now called upon for his evidence on his observation of messages being delivered; they being sent as represented is false, and

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can never be proved. The committee would ground a charge of which they would become the judges, and are themselves the complainants.

To support these evidences thus procured, Mooteram, who is mentioned as the person entrusted by the gentlemen, is arrested at Calcutta by a party of seapoys, confined close prisoner in his house under a serjeant's guard, with all the terrors attending a man already convicted and condemned of capital offences; thence he is brought next day with his military guards attending him, and ignorant of our laws and rights, obliged, contrary to all law, to swear that he will answer all the questions they shall please to put to him, whether to get him to betray the confidence they imagine may have been reposed in him, or that tend to condemn himself.

Buffuntroy, his duan, supposed also entrusted by Mooteram, is in like manner seized by seapoys, and under this terror and confusion hurried before his accusers and judges, and obliged to give evidence on oath to all questions put to him to betray the secrets of of his master, or make against himself.

Had Mooteram been accused of any capital crime, or of having done any thing contrary to law, if subject to be tried by the laws of our country, under the English flag, and by Englishmen acting with a lawful authority as his judges, we presume in an open and public manner, he ought to have had his indictment, and been allowed counsel, a liberty never denied to any under the protection of the English government, and who has like him a house and family within their land, instead of being shut up, and denied communication with any but with his menial servants; counsel was allowed Ramchurn, and I believe to others tried before the honourable board, and Nundcomar was promised an open and fair trial.

Mooteram, though he is in the present employ of the nabob, has his house and family in the company's district, and under the company's protection, in whose service he has been for many years. He is not impeached by the nabob, nor any charge laid against him in particular that appears; but if he were, a fair trial, had the nabob submitted him to the committee as his judges, was what he had a right to expect, and that he should not be thus compelled by force, imprisonment, and fear of his life and honour, to give evidence that might make against himself, or in order to be brought as a proof against any subject of Britain, and enjoying the rights and protection of her laws and liberties. I do therefore for myself object to and deny such evidence, and enter my solemn protest against every matter or evidence that has been and shall be obtained from either Mahomed Reza Cawn, Juggutseet, Mooteram, Buffunt Roy, or any other person where such undue influence, unlawful means, and violence has been or shall be used to get them to declare or to answer on oath to all queries that should be put to them while under restraint, imprisonment, and fear; and that I will answer to no charge or imputation found on such. I think it proper however to declare, and am ready to take my oath, that I never did authorize Mooteram or any other person to ask presents of Juggutseet in improper or unlawful terms, or by any threats or insinuations that his business should otherwise meet the smallest impediment or obstruction from us; and that no compulsion or violence was with my knowledge ever made use of or intended, to induce him to give any presents.

If the nabob, Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggutseet had ever complained of themselves, and could prove that I had by force or threats extorted, or by unfair means obtained presents from them; or if it could be shewn wherein I neglected or sacrificed the company's interest, and the business I was intrusted with on this occasion, with a view to such consideration; or that I did not support it to the utmost of my power, or had done or promised any dishonourable service; I should then have thought it incumbent on me, and readily would have put myself on my defence and justified my conduct agreeably to the laws of my country, and the constitution of the company. But when I see the honour and credit of the council trampled upon, inasmuch that not one man belonging to the country government of distinction, since the committee were formed, and dared to receive or pay visits from or to the members of the council, from a notion that has been propagated that they have now no authority, and are made dependants on the committee; when the select committee usurp authority they have no right to; where I see force and violence take the place of law and liberty; where military guards and imprisonment appear, and to overawe and extort evidence; I must beg leave to decline for the present to plead my cause before a tribunal and judges whose laws and rights we know not the bounds of, and whose powers the president has declared is what their own will shall think fit to assign, or in words to the same purport.

It seems the aim of the committee to render the proceedings of the late president and council if possible obnoxious, instead of striving to promote the cordiality so much to be wished. To what causes must we attribute this temper of the committee; one would almost think they were piqued to find the interest of the company so well secured before their arrival; only they must know that their coming at all was doubtful, and the gentlemen who had felt the defects of the former treaty, were full as well qualified to remedy them in the new one, and have no doubt their masters will approve their services. I had heard that the governor has expressed much

Chagrin that the affair of his Jaghire has been settled according to his agreement with the company without his interposition, though a better opportunity could not have occurred to get it done. Mr. Spencer, than whose merit none stands in a fairer light with the company was, if I may so call him, the darling of that party which in England opposed Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the committee; any attack of him or his measures is an attack upon the party who espoused him; and though I would not assert that any such sentiments influence any member of the board, yet I cannot help being surpris'd at the uncommon neglect and disregard shewn to Mr. Spencer by Lord Clive, though he joined with the board in thanks to Mr. Spencer for the zeal he had shewn for the company's welfare. I cannot help in this place noticing the late treatment of Nundcomar; the board, before the change in our administration, had such strong reason to suspect Nundcomar of ill designs against our government, and ill advising the nabob, that it was thought of the utmost importance to have so dangerous a person immediately removed from him; he was accordingly sent down and confined in Calcutta, and witnesses were summoned from Patna and other places to support that charge; notwithstanding this resolution of the board, he was immediately allowed access to the nabob on his arrival at Calcutta, without any reasons being assigned to the board for a conduct so directly opposite to their sentiments, and I think they should be strong ones to justify so extr-ordinary a deviation. The witnesses too have been returned without any trial or examination that we yet know of; and now again I find it has been deemed expedient to forbid Nundcomar access to the nabob. These inconsistencies I shall wish to see accounted for, more particularly as I think the sentiments of a former administration on such a subject merited more consideration and respect; and I must further remark, that though the gentlemen of the committee, from their long absence from India, could not possibly be at first proper judges of the company's affairs and interests; they have never on any occasion consulted with, or asked the sentiments of the board. With regard to presents in general; we have the approved example of the president Lord Clive himself for our guide, who though this nabob's father's princely bounty on his coming to the government, had made his fortune easy, and the company's welfare his only motive for staying in India, yet acknowledges his having made use of the influence of Juggersee to apply for a Jagheer, which, though amounting to 30,000l. per annum, was not thought improper by him to accept of, even in the circumstances of distress he then represents the old nabob to have been in, his life twice saved from his troops mutinying for their arrears, only by the awe of our arms, and large balances then due to the company, which were not at all paid till after the revolution 1769.

The committee have been at great pains to lay open to the public what sums have been paid to the gentlemen of the deputation and council on this occasion. We think it will appear strange however, that what they have received alone should be scrutinized into with such fervent zeal, while the sums that were bestowed on others now and heretofore not also specified; these by the same methods that the committee have proceeded may doubtless be obtained. The arresting and confining under guards those entrusted and employed on the occasion; they appeal to the world if Ramchurn Roy, who his lordship certified served him entirely to his satisfaction; if Coja Petrusc, Nubkeilen Munshy, Nundcomar, or any other of those able conveyancers, were to be seized, and confined close prisoners, and made to answer whether they willed or not on oath to every question that a future committee or governor and council should put to them, as to the sums their masters have received; or if the books of the nabob's treasury, from the time that the Meer Jassier got the government, down to this day, were to be referred to as proof, as they have been now by Mahomed Reza Cawn, whether those gentlemen who have hitherto raised immense fortunes by the nabob's bounty and treasure, would think themselves well used by such violence and force used on those that were entrusted by them, or by a retrospect and scrutiny into their proceedings, where no complaint has been offered by the people who were alone concerned to make it against them, or whether we should have much cause to be ashamed by such a contrast.

We should be glad to know what gentlemen in the military or civil, from colonel Clive down to this day, that have had the opportunity, and have not received presents while in their power, and no duty stood in opposition to it; we do not infer they were improperly biased by it, or that there was any thing in the receiving of those customary acknowledgments dishonourable, the custom of the country, and the example of men of the best characters sanctify it; but I beg leave to compare in some respects our proceeding and that of some who now so rigorously, and with so much malevolence call our conduct in question. At the same time the rupture with Serajah Dowla, and the setting up Meer Jassier Aly Kawn was meditating, I succeeded to Mr. Spencer in the station of Persian translator for carrying on the correspondence with the country government, under Lord Clive: Mr. Lushington was appointed to assist under me; I continued in this office for some months, and wrote the very last letter that was sent to Suraja Dowla, informing of our setting out to meet him.

During this period Mr. Scrafton returned from the city with the secret negotiations concerted with Meer Jassier Aly Kawn; it was thought to contain matters too delicate

for me to be entrusted with, but my assistant was called in, and he, with the rest of the committee took their oaths of secrecy. I appeal to those gentlemen if it was not then that the terms of the treaty with Meer Jaffier Aly Kawn was adjusted, and that the sums agreed for the secret committee, as well as for the other accounts, were settled before the army was ordered to move.

The day the troops embarked I was told by Colonel Clive to return and do my duty in the artillery; I did, and I believe was the only person that had acted under the colonel during that negociation that was afterwards omitted in the nabob's private bounty when the affair was crowned with success. Mr. Scrafton, who supplanted me, from being not worth a shilling, got a fortune; Mr. Lushington, my assistant, had 30,000 rupees, with numbers of others of the colonel's friends, who as well as himself became easy in their fortunes from the bounty of that very nabob, who it was reported could not find money in the treasury, to pay the sums publicly stipulated for the company, restitution, navy, and army, to be paid on his being put in possession, but the half deferred to be paid within a term of three years, and by assignments at last on the revenues of the provinces. This affected the army and navy in the discount they were necessitated on this pretext to allow the company for advancing their shares in ready money; the restitution sufferers lost the interest and advantage they would have had of their money if then paid, besides running the risque of never receiving part of it at all; and the company depended on the success of the war for three years to secure their balance.

After we had executed the service we were sent upon in behalf of the company, without any promise or prospect of reward, while the nabob was under no incumbrances, was not behind in the Kissbundies for the army or restitution; Laaks lying in his treasury in Calcutta; let the world judge whether we might receive presents, or his lordship and friends sums infinitely larger, eight years ago, and the Jagheer afterwards, with the greatest propriety.

The gentlemen who made the treaty with Meer Cossim, claim some merit in having then rejected his offer, which was not to have been discharged till the debts Jaffier Aly Kawn left still owing to the company, and the arrears to the troops were paid, yet I never heard any of these gentlemen pretend they would not receive it afterwards, nor can some of them, I believe, say they did not.

I think then, I may apply the noble lord's own observation, that I believe it would have appeared absurd, after so many years services, after having risked my life so often, and, let me add, after the reverses I have lately experienced, had I refused this only honourable opportunity that ever was likely to offer of becoming independant, and to have trusted to the future kind offices of lord Clive.

At the same time the nabob conferred these favours on us, there was a demand on him for the money of the Jagheer, which the nabob had received since the company stopped the payment of it to Lord Clive. In regard to this, some observations have occurred to me, which I have not yet heard solved. The copies of the Dewannee Sunnud of the nabob Meer Mahomed Seadue Kawn, which was given to the deputies from the secretary's office, takes notice, that, in consequence of the nabob Jaffier Aly Kawn having signed on the Furd Sual, the Furd Hucekeet and Mutchulca had also been signed to. Now these five papers are all connected and annexed to one another, the Sunnud, Decannie Zaemmien, Furd Sual, Furd Hucekeet, and Mutchulca. The Furd Sual represents, that Sabut Jung, Colonel Clive, having been honoured with the rank of 6,000 and 5,000 horse, and having now a formidable force ready for the king's service, the expence of which he could not defray for want of a Jagheer, hopes the nabob's pleasure may be signified, whether on condition of giving a Mutchulca for procuring the King's Sunnud, and adjusting the doul or terms until these should arrive, he should receive the sum of 222,958. 10, the rents of that Jagheer of the Nazim.

The Mutchulca of the Vacqueal of Sabut Jung expresses fully the terms on which this assignment on the Athais o Calcutta, &c. was, as it is, to be received as a Wudah referring to the rents of the Jagheer of the Nazim, and as an Elmaum referring to the Calso Lands, on condition of answering for all that should be collected therefrom, unless he obtained the King's Sunneed, and delivered it into the Dervannee Duffore, within six months, and adjusted the Doul of the Jagheer. Now, though there appears a translation of the nabob's Purwannah to the president and council, for paying the rents of the Jagheer to Lord Clive, 1758, yet I cannot say that I have any where met with the translates of any of the above papers except the Sunneed Dewannee, though they seem of a nature to set his lordship's claim to that Jagheer in a very different light to what it must have appeared when the Mutchulca or obligation and Furd Sual were not considered, and when the King's Sunneed and Dual, or terms of the Jagheer, are therein expressed as being absolutely requisite to be procured to make it valid, and which I never have yet heard were obtained.

Though

Though I had the satisfaction to find my conduct in the trusts committed to my charge approved of, in repeated letters from the board here, and my services recommended home in terms very favourable to our honourable masters, who have likewise expressed their pleasure for my attention to their interests, yet, from every circumstance and proceeding, there seems a predetermination in the committee to injure my character and ruin my fortune, I cannot, considering the rank of credit I have hitherto supported as a member of the council, resolve to submit to further indignities, or to act in a station now become of so little consequence in the eyes and opinion of every body. The committee, instead of aiming to extenuate the supposed offence, that is done in courts of justice where the greatest criminals are arraigned, have evidently strove to aggravate every circumstance that they would endeavour to charge upon me, even in regard to the bills, which I asserted, and do maintain, were ordered to be given back to Mahomed Reza Cawn, after we had signed the covenants unconditionally, though, had we chose, we might have received their amounts long before. The obvious question was never put to Mootyram, whether he had ever informed me, that Mahomed Reza Cawn had refused to receive them? and whether, on the contrary, he had not informed me repeatedly that they were given back?

The very night before Mootyram's arrest, and his being confined, he brought me a message from Mahomed Reza Cawn, desiring I would lend him 50,000 rupees to pay in on account his Dacca rents for Lord Clive's Jagheer money, and the answer I returned was, Why did he not use the money of the bills that were given back? Though the examination of those they would make witnesses was in a language in which none of the gentlemen of the committee are at all perfect, and that it must have been of the greatest consequence to be certain that all the questions and answers were strictly and fully rendered, and that whatever was offered or said by the prisoners, in the terror and confusion they were in, should be taken down in their own words, especially as expressions in this language so often admit of interpretations that may be rendered for or against; yet Mootyram and Bussuntroy, were confronted with Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggutseet were first called upon to compose their narrative. I must observe too with how little candour the select committee have related their proceedings. In that of the 7th they mention, that Bussuntroy was ordered to be seized and brought before them; and in their proceedings of the 8th, in regard to Mootyram, who was expected to be so principal an evidence, they say he is only ordered to be sent for; no notice is taken that he had been seized the day before by a serjeant party of seapoys, and was kept prisoner, with three centries over him, without liberty of seeing any but his menial servants, as if they purposely evaded the avowal of such unwarrantable acts. He still continues to this day in the same close confinement, as also Bussuntroy, under military guard; and under these circumstances, Lord Clive proposed in council he might be called and examined, as if such treatment was not sufficient to deter any black man from retracting, however much inclined, whatever he might have said before, false or contradictory, where he could not but expect that retracting would draw on him still more disgrace and unhappy consequences. The sufferings of Mootyram point out too plainly what others have to expect from such arbitrary power, and seem well calculated to excite every accusation that can possibly be scraped together from such selfish disappointed men, against the gentlemen who have had the administration, and managed the affairs of the company with so much credit and success.

I cannot avoid taking notice of another instance, to shew how much it has been the aim of the president to render me cheap and of no consequence in the eyes of the very country people. When I presided as chief, even the interest of the company required that respect should be kept up. The board having long since established a chief and council for the management of collections, and conducting the business of the Burdwan district, and all orders have hitherto been issued to them from the public department, and all accounts, statements, remittances, &c. made by them to the board, and never any orders have been, since the establishment of the chief and council, sent from the president or the board to the Rajah, but whatever concerned the business has been constantly addressed from the board to them only. This branch of the company's business, which has little connection with the business of the committee as investments at the subordinate, or the lands of Calcutta, Chittagong, or Midnapote, they have taken under their jurisdiction, and without once deigning to make the least enquiry of me in any one point, though here present, or even consulting the board, or examining a paper or public account. A letter is wrote from the president to the Rajah, demanding 7,90,000, as the balance due from him, requiring it to be paid in seven days, otherwise should stand to the consequences, for he would hear no excuse. The balance, according to a statement which I gave Mr Sumner, to the end of march last, supposing the revenue 1763 to be stated at 34 laaks, to which the Rajah never agreed, and this year at 32 laaks, it appears, that, from the beginning of our possessions to the end of March there is due only about 3 laaks in the receipts of so large a sum as 142,85,284 rupees. The accounts of the several years will shew clear enough under whose management the business has been best kept up, and most rents collected. The

Rajah has not the power remaining with him of recovering the balances due from the farmers, but through the gentlemen superintending the collections, and I believe the balances outstanding may amount to 14 or 16 laaks, the cash account will shew the receipts and disbursements of whatever money has been collected. Notwithstanding these circumstances, and that the Rajah receives at the rate of about 22,000 rupee, per month from the cash, he has not sent the balance due out of his own private allowance, but represented these circumstances. My Lord Clive, without consulting the board, or saying a word to the chief, ordered him down at the very time he ought have been there present to make Punia, which is not made yet. By the same rule, he may extend his authority, and send for every Zemindar at Midnapore or Chittagong, and to all that are the company's debtors at every subordinate factory. Since the Rajah arrived in Calcutta, which is about fifteen days, he has not even dared to visit me, apprehending that guards might be put upon him, after the example of Mootiram. With what credit could I now pretend to return to that factory again, where I must be considered of so little consequence, that even those placed under me dare not come near me for fear of his Lordship's displeasure.

I observe, Mahomed Reza Cawn has thought proper to include Mr. Cartier amongst those he has named partaking in the presents from the nabob. It is true, I did mention to Mahomed Reza Cawn my wishes that the nabob might shew the marks of his favour to Mr. Cartier, a gentleman every way so worthy of it, and meriting so well of his family; but this, in justice to that gentleman, I must declare, was without his knowledge. Mahomed Reza Cawn said he would take some opportunity of hinting it to the nabob, but he never informed me what he had done in the affair.

I shall at all times be ready to give every satisfaction, in every part of my transactions, whether pecuniary or otherwise, to every candid enquirer, as, it is well known, I have done on former occasions. But as, from the tenor of the proceedings of the select committee, I cannot but consider them as my avowed enemies, I am resolved no longer to continue in the service, while they have the lead, and usurp the whole power into their own hands, and do accordingly now resign the company's employ, expressing my warmest wishes for the constant success of the affairs, and with most grateful thanks for their favour, during the fifteen years I have devoted myself to their service, not doubting that I shall be able to satisfy them and the unprejudiced, as to the propriety and rectitude of my actions, and of my steady and inviolate regard for their interest on every occasion.

John Johnstone.

17th June, 1765.

This minute having been perused, the members of the committee desire the board will meet to-morrow, that Mootiram may be examined in council on the evidences he gave before them.

Ordered,

That the secretary do acquaint Mr. Johnstone, that he is permitted to resign the service.

Fort William, the 18th June, 1765.

At a Consultation: PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Robert, Lord Clive, President,
William Brightwell Sumner, Charles Stafford Playdel,
Harry Verell, Francis Sykes, Ralph Leicester,
John Burdett, George Gray, Esquires.

The board being met agreeable to the desire of the select committee, then minuted, that Mootyram might be examined in their presence, on the evidence he gave to the committee, touching the pecuniary distributions lately made at the city, he was accordingly called before them, and his examination taken through the interpreter in the different courts, who was particularly sworn on this occasion, as was Mootyram also again.

On reading to him separately the several parts of his evidence to the committee, he literally confirmed the whole of it, except in the following particulars.

To the first question, What did you say to Mahomed Reza Cawn, about stopping the business of the Seets, unless they complied with the demand? he answered to the same purport as to the committee, but made use only of the term Cootch Boolega Ny, for what is rendered by the committee meeting with no protection or countenance; whereupon the committee observed, that he indifferently and repeatedly made use of both the expressions Cootch Sycur riga Ny, and Boolega Ny.

In his answer to the subsequent question, he now differed, saying, that Juggutseet made no offer of rings or jewels, but told them only, that as far as twenty or five and twenty thousand rupees he would comply; that Ithnael Aly Cawn then said, that would not do; and Juggutseet replied, that he would then speak to Mahomed Reza Cawn himself; and that when he went to him, he proposed the sum of 50,000 rupees.

To the question, Was it of your own accord, or was you ordered to tell Mahomed Reza Cawn, that if Seets complied with the demand, their business should be protected, otherwise it would have no countenance or encouragement? he confirmed his answer to the committee, using only the same expression already remarked.

The examination having been concluded.

Mr. Leycester desired the following question might be put to Mootyram :

If when Mr. Johnston related to him the reasons why he thought the Seets might make presents, whether he ordered him to mention them to Mahomed Reza Cawn, and to desire Mahomed Reza Cawn would urge them to the Seets? which being put to him accordingly, he replied, That Mr. Johnston did tell him to express himself to Mahomed Reza Cawn in the same terms which Mr. Johnston did to him.

Mr. Leycester, in addition to the several minutes already entered in vindication of his conduct, on the subject of this inquiry, and agreeably to the intimation in the close of the last, desired further to take the following oath, which was accordingly administered to him by the president; viz.

I swear that I am totally ignorant of the messages said to be delivered by Mootyram to the Seets. So help me God.

(Signed)

Ralph Leycester.
Clive, Wm. B. Sumner,
H. Verelst, Francis Sykes,
Ralph Leycester, J. Burdett,
George Gray.

No. 86.

To the Honourable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. **T**HE accompanying proceedings of the select committee will explain our motive^s for purchasing the Admiral Stephens to convey to your hands these dispatches which, we hope, will be deemed of sufficient importance to merit any extraordinary expence thereby incurred; an expence which, we flatter ourselves, will be fully defrayed by the valuable cargo she carries home at this early season.

2. By the general letter of this date you will be informed by the president and council of every material concern that has been transacted before the board. At the same time, we beg leave to refer to the letters dispatched by the Vansittart and Bute, whereof duplicates are now inclosed; for a detail of the military operations, political occurrences, and especially the very important transactions previous to our arrival, and subsequent to the death of Meer Jaffer; an event that furnished the most glorious opportunity of establishing your influence and power, on so solid a basis as must soon have rendered the English East India company the most potent commercial body that ever flourished at any period of time.

3. It is from a due sense of the regard we owe and profess to your interest, and to our own honour, that we think it indispensably necessary to lay open to your view a series of transactions too notoriously known to be suppressed, and too affecting to your interest, to the national character, and to the existence of the company in Bengal, to escape unnoticed and uncensured; transactions which seem to demonstrate that every spring of this government was smeared with corruption, that principles of rapacity and oppression, universally prevailed, and that every spark of sentiment and public spirit was lost and extinguished in the unbounded lust of unmerited wealth.

4. To illustrate these positions, we must exhibit to your view a most displeasing variety of complaints, inquiries, evidences, accusations, and vindications, the particulars of which are entered in our proceedings and the appendix, assuring you that we undertake this task with peculiar reluctance from the personal regard we entertain for some of the gentlemen whose characters will appear to be deeply affected.

5. At Fort St. George, we received the first advices of the demise of Meer Jaffer, and of Shujah Dowla's defeat. It was there firmly imagined that no definitive measures would be taken, either in respect to a peace, or filling the vacancy in the Nizamut, before our arrival, as the Lapwing arrived in the month of January with our general letter, and the appointment of a committee, with express powers to that purpose, for the successful exertion of which the happiest occasion now offered. However, a contrary resolution prevailed in the council. The opportunity of acquiring immense fortunes, was too inviting to be neglected, and the temptation too powerful to be resisted. A treaty was hastily drawn up by the board, or rather transcribed, with few unimportant additions, from that concluded with Meer Jaffer, and a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Johnston, Senior, Middleron, and Leycester, appointed to raise the natural son of the deceased nabob to the Subahdarry, in prejudice of the claim of the grandson; and for this measure such reasons are assigned as ought to have dictated a diametrically opposite resolution. Miran's son was a minor, which circumstance alone would have naturally brought the whole administration into our hands, at a juncture when it became indispensably neces-

fary we should realize that shadow of power and influence, which, having no solid foundation, was exposed to the danger of being annihilated by the first stroke of adverse fortune; but this inconsistency was not regarded; nor was it material to the views for precipitating the treaty, which was pressed on the young nabob, at the first interview, in so earnest and indelicate a manner as highly disgusted him, and chagrined his ministers; while not a single rupee was stipulated for the company, whose interests were sacrificed that their servants might revel in the spoils of a treasury, before impoverished, but now totally exhausted.

6. This scene of corruption was first disclosed at a visit the nabob paid to Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the committee, a few days after our arrival. He then delivered to his lordship a letter filled with bitter complaints of the insults and indignities he had been exposed to, and the embezzlement of near 20 lacks of rupees issued from his treasury, for purposes unknown, during the late negotiations. So public a complaint could not be disregarded, and it soon produced an enquiry. We referred the letter to the board, in expectation of obtaining a satisfactory account of the application of this money, and were answered only by a warm remonstrance entered by Mr. Leycester against that very nabob, in whose elevation he boasts of having been a principal agent.

7. Mahomed Reza Cawn, the Naib Subah, was then called upon to account for this large disbursement from the treasury; and he soon delivered to the committee the very extraordinary narrative entered in our proceedings the 6th of June, wherein he specifies the several names, the sums, by whom paid, and to whom, whether in bills, cash, or obligations. So precise, so accurate an account as this of money issued for secret and venal services, was never, we believe, before this period exhibited to the honourable court of directors; at least never vouched by such undeniable testimony and authentic documents; by Juggut Seet, who himself was obliged to contribute largely to the sums demanded; by Mooteram, who was employed by Mr. Johnstone in all these pecuniary transactions; by the nabob and Mahomed Reza Cawn, who were the heaviest sufferers; and lastly, by the confession of the gentlemen themselves, whose names are specified in the distribution list.

8. Juggut Seet expressly declares in his narrative, that the sum which he agreed to pay the deputation, amounting to 125,000 rupees, was extorted by menaces; and since the close of our enquiry, and the opinions we delivered in the proceedings of the 21st of June, it fully appears that the presents from the nabob and Mahomed Reza Cawn, exceeding the immense sum of 17 lacks, were not the voluntary offerings of gratitude, but contributions levied in the weakness of the government, and violently exacted from the dependant state and timid disposition of the minister. The charge is indeed denied on the one hand, as well as affirmed on the other; your honourable board must therefore determine how far the circumstance of extortion may aggravate the crime of disobedience to your positive orders; the exposing the government in a manner to sale, and receiving the infamous wages of corruption from opposite parties and concurring interests. We speak with boldness, because we speak from conviction founded upon indubitable facts, that besides the above sums specified in the distribution account, to the amount of 228,125 pounds sterling, there was likewise to the value of several lacks of rupees procured from Nundcomar and Roydullub, each of whom aspired at and obtained a promise of that very employment it was predetermined to bestow on Mahomed Reza Cawn. The particulars of this extraordinary bargain came too late to our hands to be inserted in the proceedings; nor do we think it material, since to insist on farther proofs than are already fully and clearly exhibited, in order to convince you that our enquiry was necessary, and our decision moderate, would, we apprehend, serve rather to exhaust your patience, than confirm your belief.

9. These particulars being submitted to your consideration, it may be necessary to offer a few remarks on those arguments urged by the gentlemen in their several minutes, either in their own justification, or with a view that our proceedings should appear arbitrary and oppressive. Messrs. Johnstone, Senior, Leycester, Burdett, and Gray, vindicate the receiving presents by arguments which in our opinion renders their conduct still more culpable. They urge, that as the covenants were not then executed they could not be obligatory. In answer, we will beg leave to ask those gentlemen, whether the company's orders were not then received? Whether the intention and spirit of those orders were not clearly and perfectly understood? Whether the covenants themselves were not transmitted from England ready to be filled up and executed? Whether a single motion for fulfilling the company's instructions appears on the face of the consultations? Whether it was not incumbent on them as the superior power, to set this example of respect and deference to the orders of their constituents? And whether they conceive the company would have sustained any detriment by this act of their obedience? How then came the orders to be totally neglected, at a juncture, especially, when the letter and spirit of those obligations clearly manifested that particular regard should be had to their execution?

10. The same gentlemen arraign the conduct, and even deny the powers, of the select committee. Mr. Leycester in particular affirms, that candor and decency required the truth of a charge brought against any of the members of the board should be determined by the board. You, gentlemen, will be able to judge of the force of this argument, and of the propriety of the
measure

measure proposed, when we acquaint you, that of a board then sitting at the presidency, consisting of the president and eight members, five of those members were themselves accused, who, by having a majority of voices, would of consequence become the judges of their own conduct. We will not enter into a discussion of the precise powers intrusted to the committee; but we may venture to affirm, that unless the spirit of their instructions be executed to the correction of abuses, the detection of corruption, and the punishment of disobedience, the ends proposed, of “restoring peace and tranquility,” will be frustrated, and their appointment rendered ridiculous and absurd.

11. Mr. Johnstone is pleased to assert that no proofs can be produced of menaces being used to obtain a sum of money from Juggut Sect. To this we reply by a reference to the evidence of his own agent Mooteram, where it is declared upon oath that he delivered by Mr. Johnstone’s express orders the very messages recited in his examination, messages of such tendency as certainly would bear hard on Mr. Johnstone’s character. As to what he further adds of our obtaining this evidence by military force and terrors, we are sorry to see a gentleman reduced to the necessity of resting his defence on the subterfuge of so pitiful an evasion. Mr. Johnstone certainly knows, at least he ought to know, as the proceedings were immediately sent to him, that Mootyram was seized in the commission of a clandestine illegal act, of interesting consequence to the public in general, and to Mr. Johnstone and the gentlemen of the deputation in particular; Mootyram was actually detected in an attempt to suppress bills to the amount of 175,000 rupees, which had been wrongfully obtained from Mahomed Reza Cawn; and to screen from discovery a circumstance which it highly imported the committee to know, and which Mr. Johnstone should have made known were he solicitous to exculpate himself from a charge that deeply affected his reputation, and of such irreproachable conduct as he would endeavour to persuade the world. But that not the least shadow of a doubt might remain of the candour and equity of the measures we pursued, we readily consented that the same Mootyram might be re-examined in the presence of the council, where he confirmed without contradiction or evasion every material circumstance set forth in his first evidence. The remainder of Mr. Johnstone’s minute you will perceive doth not affect the committee as a body; it consists intirely of personal invective, loose and virulent declamation, the genuine effect of enraged disappointment and detection; yet should any thing further be required in answer, we beg leave to refer you to the replies made by lord Clive and the members of the committee, which we flatter ourselves will appear full and explicit.

12. One circumstance more occurs in the course of those gentlemen’s minutes that merits our observation: It is declared by Mr. Leycester upon oath that he did not receive the present intended him by Mahomed Reza Cawn, and that his letters will demonstrate his intention was to have refused it. This is a fact, of the truth of which we entertain not the least doubt; but it proves nothing more than Mr. Leycester would not receive a sum of money after the covenants had been enforced by the committee, and an enquiry set on foot concerning the distribution of that very money, a part of which was now privately tendered back to Mahomed Reza Cawn. He will not deny that he knew of the intended present when he was at Cosimbuzar; the letters of Messrs. Senior and Middleton prove that he did. He will not deny that bills to the amount of 50,000 rupees were made out in his name; their being now offered back to Mahomed Reza Cawn, and Mootyram’s being detected in the fact, evince it. The whole therefore of this solemn asseveration amounts only to an evasion in respect to time and circumstances, which no way affect the nature of the act itself.

13. Having now explained the origin and progress of this disagreeable enquiry, we beg leave to touch upon a few circumstances in justification of the lenity of our opinions delivered, and resolutions entered in the committee proceedings of the 21st of June. And here we must observe, that notwithstanding we believed a reformation of abuses to be actually our duty, yet we could not think the same duty necessarily extended to the punishment of transgression; we owed a regard to the persons and characters of some of the gentlemen concerned, who must suffer extremely by a dispensation or dismissal; the great object of our wishes were, that your service might in future be conducted with integrity, diligence, and oeconomy, without a retrospect to the past, where it could be avoided. The subject indeed of the present enquiry was so recent, it was of so interesting a nature to the public, and recommended to us, or rather was forced upon us, with such peculiar circumstances, as rendered our proceeding to a scrutiny necessary to our own reputation; but the severity of judgement, and a decision which would have left so great a void in your council, was not equally necessary either to your interest or to your honour. Such an event might have impressed the minds of the natives with strange ideas of the fluctuating situation of our councils; and it would unavoidably have admitted a number of your junior servants to the supreme direction of this vast machine of government, at an age little exceeding that period fixed by the laws of their country for entrusting them with the management of their own private fortunes. We must further observe, that many of the most aggravating
circumstances

circumstances had not then reached our knowledge; at the same time we were under the necessity of coming to some determination; Shuja Dowlah impatiently expected lord Clive in camp to conclude the proposed treaty, and the regulations of the government lately established; and other matters then transacting, absolutely required Mr. Syke's attendance at the Durbar; some of the extraordinary facts above related we obtained since their departure: and had they come sooner, they would have served only to perplex and embarrass us the more. In a word, to obviate future evils, we considered as our immediate duty: The punishment of past misconduct we chose rather to refer to your honourable board, that malice itself should have no foundation for asserting, that we had assumed and exerted a power not fully and expressly authorized by the court of directors. We think it necessary to declare, in justice to Mr. Cartier, whose character stands irreproachable in the list of your servants, that he never knew of or consented to the receiving any the smallest present, either from the nabob or from Mahomed Reza Cawn.

14. Although we will not take upon us to declare, that we entirely approve of the covenants in the form in which they have been transmitted; yet we are persuaded, from the instances just related; that some restraint is necessary, to prevent the abuse of the customary indulgence to receive presents. This indulgence has certainly been extended to the most shameful oppression and flagrant corruption, and is otherwise attended with manifold inconveniences to the service. We therefore determined immediately to enforce your instructions relative to those obligations, and to bind down by laws all such as are not to be checked by a sense of honour and justice. You will accordingly observe, that carrying those orders into strict execution throughout every department, civil and military, was amongst the earliest transactions of your select committee.

15. We also took an early opportunity of considering the tendency of your repeated instructions for recalling free merchants, and other Europeans, who, without the least claim to your protection from indentures, were nevertheless permitted to reside up the country, and in all the different parts of the nabob's dominions. Sorry we are to observe, that this indulgence has frequently given birth to grievous acts of insult and oppression, at places remote from the presidency and subordinate factories; and that carrying your orders into execution became daily more necessary. By this measure, however, the business of your servants will suffer considerably from their being now obliged to employ black Gomastahs on many affairs that demand the vigour and activity of Europeans. Hence likewise will many persons of real merit be deprived the means of subsistence; yet, in consideration that private interest must give way to public benefit, and that it is our duty to obey where your immediate interests do not absolutely require a deviation from your orders, we determined to call all the Europeans residing up the country, under protection of the English name, by the 21st of October next, and have, for that purpose, circulated advertisements and orders to the different subordinates.

16. Regulating the country government was the next object of our attention. We found the nabob highly dissatisfied with the plenary powers vested in Mahomed Reza Cawn; who, by virtue of the treaty, acted in quality of prime minister, and enjoyed uncontrouled authority. This unlimited sway, lodged in the hands of a single person, appeared dangerous to the present establishment, which we thought it becoming the company's honour to maintain, as having been solemnly ratified by the governor and council. To amend the very obvious defects in the treaty, without oversetting the principles on which it was founded, was consistent with equity, while it met with the nabob's own approbation; and the most effectual means of doing this seemed to us to consist in an equal partition of ministerial influence. As Mahomed's Reza Cawn's short administration was irreproachable, we determined to continue him in a share of the authority; at the same time that we associated with him men of weight and character, so that each became a check on the conduct of the others. Accordingly we fixed on Juggut Sect and Roydullub, for the reasons assigned in the proceedings; and we now have the pleasure to acquaint you, that the business of the government goes on with unanimity, vigour, and dispatch.

17. By the last dispatches you were advised, that Shuja Dowlah was making fresh and formidable preparations to penetrate a second time in the nabob's dominions. He had found means to engage Mulhah, a considerable Marattah chief, in his alliance; and if the judicious and vigorous measures pursued by general Carnac had not prevented a junction of the numerous forces destined for this invasion, a ruinous war must have been supported through the course of another campaign. The enemy's situation rendered their design for some time uncertain, and obliged the general to great circumspection in his movements, lest he should leave the frontiers exposed. Having however, at length, received undoubted advice they had taken the Korah Road, he suspected their intention was to fall upon Sir Robert Fletcher, who commanded a separate corps in that district. Accordingly he made some forced marches

to effect a junction, which he happily accomplished, and the united army moved in ' pursuit of the enemy. On the 3d of May the general came up, attacked, and entirely defeated them; in consequence of which Shuja Dowlah separated from his allies, while the Marattahs retired with precipitation towards the Jumma. In fact, this blow appears to have been decisive; for Shuja Dowlah never again attempted to join the Marattahs, who, observing the general drop the pursuit in order to watch the vizier, made a second effort to re-enter Korah, in which they were disappointed. Persuaded, that to stop the incursions it would be necessary to drive them beyond the Jumma, the general crossed the river the 22^d, dislodged them from their post on the opposite side, and obliged them to retire to the hills. Here he quitted his pursuit, and returned to his stations at Jajeman, to receive Shuja Dowlah, who had intimated a desire of submitting to whatever condition we should think fit to prescribe. His letter to the general expresses his feelings; and the reception he met with in our camp was such as policy dictated should be given to a vanquished enemy of Shuja Dowlah's rank and character.

18. A peace with the Vizier became the next immediate object of our deliberations; in adjusting which, we endeavoured to extend our views beyond the present advantages that might possibly be obtained. We regarded Shujah Dowlah's personal character, and high reputation over the whole empire, the situation of his country which we had conquered, and the great ritque and expence of maintaining this conquest, if we closed with the plan adopted by the late governor and council of giving it up to Nudjuff Cawn, who had neither weight of reputation nor of force sufficient to keep possession, nor to form a secure barrier to the nabob's dominions. The words of our instructions to Lord Clive, when he left the presidency to adjust the conditions of a peace, express the sentiments which we still entertain on this subject: " Experience having shewn that an influence

" maintained by force of arms is destructive of that commercial spirit which we ought
" to promote, ruinous to the company and oppressive to the country; we earnestly re-
" commend to your Lordship, that you will exert your utmost endeavours to conciliate
" the affections of the country powers, to remove any jealousy they may entertain of
" our unbounded ambition, and to convince them we aim not at conquest and dominion,
" but security in carrying on a free trade equally beneficial to them and to us."

" With this view policy requires, that our demands be moderate and equitable, and
" that we avoid every appearance of an inclination to enlarge our territorial possessions.
" The sacrifice of conquests which we must hold on a very precarious tenure, and at an
" expence more than equivalent to their revenues, is of little consequence to us; yet
" will such restitution impress them with a high opinion of our generosity and justice."

" For these reasons we think Shuja Dowlah should be reinstated in the full possession

" of all his dominions, with such limitations only as he must see are evidently calcu-
" lated for our mutual benefit. We would decline insisting upon any terms that must
" prove irksome to his high spirit, and imply a suspicion of his sincerity; retaining pos-
" session of any of his strong holds, may possibly be deemed a necessary pledge of his
" fidelity: For our parts we would rather consider it as the resource of future con-
" tention, and an unnecessary burthen to the company, unless it be one day proposed
" to resume the thoughts of extending their dominions: A measure very opposite to the
" sentiments in which we left the court of directors."

19. Agreeable to these instructions, his Lordship and General Carnac concluded a treaty of peace with Shuja Dowlah, that will, if any thing can, secure his friendship and fidelity, and render the public tranquility permanent. They found him averse to the establishment of factories in his dominions, which he considered as laying the foundation of a future rupture, and the only thing that could possibly disturb our army; he very justly observed that our encroachments in Bengal, the great abuse of the company's servants, and extraordinary extension of the privileges originally granted to the English, had been productive of much confusion and bloodshed in Bengal, and he feared might produce similar consequences in his country. Accordingly Lord Clive and General Carnac judged it advisable to omit the word FACTORIES in the treaty; but without relinquishing the right, should it be found expedient after mature deliberation to enforce it. To speak our own sentiments freely, we can foresee no benefit that can arise to the company from maintaing settlements at so vast a distance from the presidency, whatever advantages may arise to their servants. At least the prospect is so remote, while the expences are so certain, the risk so evident, and the disputes it will occasion so probable, that we are at present of opinion the factory lately established at Benaras ought immediately to be withdrawn; we mean as soon as the agreement between the company and Bulwant Sing is expired. The limits of the nabob's dominions are sufficient to answer all our purposes. These we think ought to constitute the boundaries, not only of all your territorial possessions and influence in these parts, but of your commerce also, since by the grasping at more you endanger the safety of those immense revenues, and that well-founded power, which you now enjoy, without the hope of obtaining an adequate advantage.

20. With respect to the articles of the treaty, you will observe that a sufficient provision is secured for the support of the King's honour and dignity, without danger of his becoming a future incumbrance; and that 26 lacks yearly are granted to him on the revenues of Bengal: a revenue far more considerable than he ever before enjoyed.—In gratitude for this instance of our attention to his interest, his Majesty has been pleased to bestow on the company the most important grants ever yet obtained by any European state from the Mogul court. Besides confirming to the company all their former possessions, and securing

curing to them the reversion in perpetuity of Lord Clive's Jagheer, he has conferred on them the Dewanny of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, and ratified in the strongest terms the agreement we proposed concluding with the nabob, if the King's consent could be procured:—Subjects which it will be necessary to explain in a separate paragraph:—Another article stipulates that Shuja Dowlah shall pay the company fifty lacks of rupees by way of indemnification for the charges incurred by the war. This indemnification we know is inadequate; but his circumstances would not afford more without oppressing the country, and thereby laying the foundation of future contention and trouble, and accordingly you will perceive that no money is granted for any other consideration whatever:—As to surrendering Cossin Ally, Sombrec, and the deserters, compliance with such a demand is now utterly out of his power. The former, we hear, has sought shelter in the Rohillah country, and the latter resides under the protection of the Jauts, screened both from Shuja Dowlah and from us; so that making this an essential preliminary would be highly unreasonable and absurd. However, it is stipulated that they never meet with encouragement or assistance from Shuja Dowlah, or be ever again admitted into his country. Upon the whole we have paid such regard to Shuja Dowlah's character and interest, and to what justice as well as policy requires, without any the smallest sacrifice of your honour or interest, that we entertain the most flattering hope, this treaty of peace will be lasting, and our frontiers on that quarter perfectly secure against future invasions.

21. The time now approaches when we may be able to determine with some degree of certainty, whether our remaining as merchants subjected to the jurisdiction, encroachments, and insults of the country government, or the supporting your privileges and possessions by the sword, are likely to prove most beneficial to the company. Whatever may be the consequence, certain it is, that after having once begun and proceeded to such lengths, we have been forced to go on from step to step, until your whole possessions were put to the risk by every revolution affected, and every battle fought. To apply a remedy to these evils by giving stability and permanency to your government, is now and has been, the constant object of the serious attention of your select committee.

22. The perpetual struggles for superiority between the nabobs and your agents, together with the recent proofs before us of notorious and avowed corruption, have rendered us unanimously of opinion, after the most mature deliberation, that no other method could be suggested of laying the axe to the root of all these evils, than that of obtaining the dewanny of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, for the company: By establishing the power of the great Mogul, we have likewise establishing his rights, and his Majesty from principles of gratitude equity, and policy, has thought proper to bestow this important employment on the company, the nature of which is, the collecting all the revenues, and after defraying the expences of the army, and allowing a sufficient fund for the support of the Nizamut, to remit the remainder to Delhi, or wherever the king shall reside or direct. But as the king has been graciously pleased to bestow on the company for ever such surplus as shall arise from the revenues, upon certain stipulations and agreements expressed in the Sunnud, we have settled with the nabob, with his own free will and consent, that the sum of 53 lacks shall be annually paid to him for the support of his dignity and contingent expences, exclusive of the charge of maintaining an army which is to be defrayed out of the revenues ceded to the company by this royal grant of the Dewanny. And indeed the nabob has abundant reason to be well satisfied with the conditions of his agreement, whereby a fund is secured to him without trouble or danger, adequate to all the purposes of such grandeur and happiness, as a man of his sentiments has any conception of enjoying:—More would serve only to disturb his quiet, endanger his government, and sap the foundation of that solid structure of power and wealth, which at length has happily reared and completed by the company after a vast expence of blood and treasure.

23. By this acquisition of the Dewanny, your possessions and influence are rendered permanent and secure, since no future nabob will either have power or riches sufficient to attempt your overthrow, by means either of force or corruption. All revolutions must henceforward be at an end, as there will be no fund for secret services, for donations or for restitutions. The nabob cannot answer the expectations of the venal and mercenary, nor will the company comply with demands injurious to themselves, out of their own revenues.---The experience of years has convinced us, that a division of power is impossible without generating discontent, and hazarding the whole.—All must belong either to the company or to the nabob, and we leave you to judge which alternative is the most desirable, and the most expedient in the present circumstances of affairs. As to ourselves we know of no system we could adopt, that could less affect the nabob's dignity, and at the same time secure the company against the fatal effects of future revolutions, than this of the Dewanny. The power is now lodged where it can only be lodged with safety to us; so that we may pronounce with some degree of confidence, that the worst that will happen in future to the company, will proceed from temporary ravages only; which can never become so general as to prevent your revenues from yielding a sufficient fund to defray your civil and military charges, and furnish your investments.

24. But to secure those valuable possessions, a constant regard must be paid to your military establishments. By the regimental returns which we inclose in the packet, and which are very exact, you will see, at one view, the deplorable condition of our infantry; to compleat which, agreeable to your directions, and to the proposals made by lord Clive, not less than nine hundred men will suffice. We therefore most earnestly request that you will, next year, send out twelve or fourteen hundred men for this establishment, giving such peremptory orders as must be obeyed, that none of this number be detained, upon any consideration, upon the coast of Co-

romandel,

romandel. Our numbers once compleated, we shall require, for the security of your immense possessions in this country not more than six hundred recruits to be sent out annually, in the following manner, viz. five hundred infantry, sixty artillery, twenty cavalry, and twenty serjeants for the seapoys. To this number must be added, thirty volunteers and officers; and it would be of the utmost benefit to our plan, that you send out, every year, six or seven gentlemen from the academy at Woolwich for artillery officers; this being a service that suffers extremely, for want of persons properly instructed to conduct it; since no officer, who knows the benefit of the infantry service here, will chuse to quit it for any advantage the artillery will afford.

25. Already we feel the good effects of regimenting your troops; discipline, subordination, œconomy, begin to take place. Had General Carnac's merit been much greater, if possible, than it is, he could not effect this of himself, unassisted as he was by field officers, and thwarted, as he always has been, by the late governors and councils. We have already issued our orders for striking off half the double Batta, and shall, in a very few days, put your forces entirely upon a footing with the troops on the coast of Coromandel, which will be reducing your military expences as low as they can well bear, consistently with your interest and the good of the service.

26. Before we quit this subject, we must request, in the strongest manner, that you will supply us, for the first year, with 10,000 stands of small arms, and afterwards with 4000 annually, which will in future answer all our demands, if proper care be taken in the purchase. Of late years, the bad quality of your small arms, in general, has exposed your possessions to the greatest risk and danger. The locks are ill finished, and the metal so badly tempered as not to stand the heat of the sun, in this climate. We are therefore persuaded it would prove in the end, much to your advantage, if you purchased all the small arms of the same persons who furnish the government, and pay at the rates of 27 instead of 18 shillings per firelock; since experience demonstrates they will continue serviceable for double the time without being liable to the inconveniencies above represented. The iron-founder, whom you sent out in the Kent, died on his passage to this place; but as the casting of shot and shells in this country is an object of great importance, we strongly recommend that you will supply the loss as soon as possible, by sending three or four persons well versed in that business, that our whole design may not be frustrated by such an accident in future. It also merits your serious consideration to provide, by every possible means, against the illicit importation of small arms to your settlements in India, and particularly in Bengal. Of late years this has become a profitable branch of trade with the European captains, as well as that of furnishing the natives with ammunition; and they elude the searches of your officers, by sending round small vessels to meet them at sea in certain latitudes, or to Teneriff and Saint Jago, or elsewhere, out of the reach of your enquiries. However, as their continuing such practices any longer may prove fatal in their consequences to all your possessions in this country, we earnestly exhort, that you will immediately apply the most effectual remedy you can suggest, either by way of prevention, or by the vigorous and exemplary punishment of the offenders. At the same time you may depend we will take every step in our power to detect the least breach of your orders on this head, and obstruct the sale of all kinds of fire arms.

27. Having observed the reluctance that appeared in bidding for your farms, at the last sale of your lands in the Burdwan province, the great annual deficiency in the collections, and the numberless complaints made of grievous exactions and oppressions, we determined, upon Mr. Johnstone's resigning your service to appoint Mr. Verelst, in quality of supervisor of those revenues, in order to form the best judgment possible of the cause of this yearly deficiency of the real value of the lands, the best method of improving and letting them; and also to procure the necessary materials for a plan to conduct the collections, in future, in such manner as shall appear most conducive to your interest and likely to promote the happiness of the people. It is with pleasure we acquaint you, that we have the greatest reason to be satisfied with Mr. Verelst's attention to the several objects recommended, and the diligence he has exerted during his short residence in that country; of which you may form some judgment from his memorial to the committee, annexed to our proceedings of the 14th of September.

28. It was in consequence of this memorial that we formed our resolution of that date, to withdraw the factory, and also to recal the member of the board resident at Midnapore, the collections and business of which may as conveniently be transacted by a junior servant, at a much less expence. Many are the inconveniencies, besides the extraordinary charges incurred, that result from such appointments, which we consider as necessary only at those subordinates where your principal investments are made. We are convinced, by very late experience, that the most flagrant oppressions may be wantonly committed in those employments, by members of the board, which would not be tolerated in junior servants, and that the dread and awe annexed to their station, as councillors, has too frequently screened them from complaints, which would be lodged, without fear or scruple, against inferior servants.

29. But there are other manifold inconveniencies, of still more pernicious effect to the service, that result from those appointments: Hence it was found necessary to enlarge the council from twelve to sixteen members, that there might be a sufficient number to conduct the business of the presidency, and also to manage your affairs at the out settlements, either in quality

of chiefs or residents. What is the consequence, but such perpetual changes and revolutions at the board as render it impossible for any of the members to acquire a competent knowledge of your interests, and of the particular duty of their own station. This increase in the number of the board is also productive of a further inconvenience, of the deepest concern to your interest, in the present situation of your affairs. To keep up to the letter of your instructions, we must fill the vacancies in council from the next in succession, without regard to the qualifications they possess for the discharge of so important a trust; and thus commit into the hands of rash, inexperienced and ignorant young men, the conduct of a system of government which demands the discretion, judgment, and steadiness of more advanced years and longer services. Circumstances are now widely different from what they were a few years since, when you confined your whole attention to commerce, and were happy in being able to complete your investments without insult or exaction from the country government. You are now become the sovereigns of a rich and potent kingdom; your success is beheld with jealousy by the other European nations who maintain settlements in India, and your interests are so extended, so complicated, and so connected with those of the several surrounding powers, as to form a nice and difficult system of politics.

30. These weighty considerations determined us to avoid filling the vacancies lately occasioned in council by the death of Mr. Billers, and resignation of Messrs. Johnstone and Burdet. We carefully examined your orders, respecting the appointment of a board. We compared the different paragraphs of your letter, the more clearly to ascertain the spirit of your instructions; and are unanimous in our opinion your reasons for encreasing the number of the board were founded on a supposition that this measure would conduce to the benefit of the Company. Experience convinces us of the contrary; and we shall be wanting in duty to our constituents, if, from a servile regard to the letter, we neglected the evident sense and meaning of your instructions by admitting to the government of your affairs, a number of persons who have certainly no other claim to this distinction than that of standing next in succession. It is with the utmost regret we think it incumbent on us to declare that in the whole list of your junior merchants there are not more than three or four gentlemen whom we could possibly recommend to higher stations at present. In this number, justice requires we should mention Mr. Campbell, secretary to this committee, whose abilities and indefatigable diligence, of which we had the most convincing proof in the course of our proceedings, entitle him to this instance of our regard, and to your particular notice; and, as the same qualifications will distinguish him in any station of your service, it is our joint request that you will please to remove the restriction on his rising, as a covenant servant, and suffer him to take rank according to the date of his appointment. At all times it has been found expedient to deviate occasionally from this general rule of preferring seniority. It now becomes your indispensable duty to admit no claim but that of merit, if you would preserve the valuable possessions you enjoy, and realize the very near prospect you have of establishing your affairs on so firm and solid a basis as nothing but misconduct can overthrow. So much rests with the board, that in your judicious, impartial selection of the members, it depends, whether you hold a foot of land, and enjoy a privilege, in Bengal, or whether you continue in possession of the most ample revenues, and extensive influence ever established by any European mercantile body. We therefore most earnestly exhort you, that no consideration of favour and prejudice be suffered to bias you in the important business of composing your council, and that no other distinction be admitted, except what is due to ability, to integrity and faithful essential services. Were we to speak our sentiments further, we would confess it to be our firm opinion, founded on the experience now before us, that the business of this government can never so effectually be conducted, as by a select, unanimous committee. By dividing the power into many hands, you weaken the authority, promote dissention, and deprive your measures of that secrecy, steadiness, vigour, and dispatch, necessary to their success. The same means by which you obtained the great advantages you now enjoy, must be continued and constantly exerted to secure and perpetuate them: And, indeed, we can think of no other form of government so well adapted, so perfectly congenial to your particular present circumstances in Bengal.

31. It will not be necessary, we apprehend, to dwell upon a refutation of the flimsy, but specious arguments advanced by Mr. Lycester for immediately filling up the vacancies at the board, and pursuing the literal sense of your instructions, where you enlarge the board to sixteen: We have already shewn, and Mr. Lycester, does not deny it, that the business of Burdwan and Midnapoor may be conducted to greater advantage by junior servants than by members of council. We have also shewn, that enlarging the council, beyond the number required for the business of the presidency and subordinates has proved injurious to the Company. He knows it is our determination that seven or eight members should constantly reside at the presidency, while all proper attention shall be given to your investments and collections; and this we certainly judge to be the spirit of your orders. But if that gentleman means that no act can be valid that is executed by a less number of agents than you have expressly appointed, he renders void every deed, covenant, contract and obligation, entered into by the council, since the first establishment of this settlement. He even renders null and of no effect the treaty with the present Nabob, in which he himself had a principal share, and which we believe is not
signed

signed by more than half the Company's agents. In a word, we foresee so many inconveniencies consequent on a literal compliance with your instructions, that our duty obliges us to suspend, and we think our powers authorize us in suspending, at least, if not revoking, thoir orders, until your further pleasure be known.

32. By consulting our proceedings of the 10th of August and 18th September, you will be able to judge of the progress we have made in carrying your orders into execution, relative to the trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco. This subject we considered with all the attention possible, and regard to your interest and the good of the service. We found, that to remove the inconveniencies of a free trade, prevent the oppressions daily committed, save this valuable article of commerce from ruin, and diffuse the benefits resulting indiscriminately among all your servants intitled to dutstucks, it was necessary to vest the whole in an exclusive company composed of the three first classes of your covenanted servants, the field-officers, chaplains, and head-surgeons. In admitting the field-officers, and stating the proportions allotted to each class, we had particular regard to the present situation of your council and field-officers, who are now excluded many emoluments they before enjoyed. It is our opinion, that Gentlemen who have risen to their stations with credit and reputation are certainly entitled to something more than a subsistence; they even have a right to expect such advantages in your service as may enable them to return in a few years with independence to their native country. With respect to the Company, we are unanimously of opinion, it is more for their interest to be considered as superiours than proprietors; and as the said royal grant of the dewanny renders the 11th article unnecessary, we are thereby enabled to subject the trade to a duty which will produce a clear annual revenue of 120,000 pounds sterling. Whatever surplus of their revenues the Company may find themselves possessed of, after discharging all the demands on this presidency, we may imagine may be employed much more to their benefit, in supporting and extending the China trade, and assisting the wants of the other presidencies. However, should it either appear, that we have mistaken the Company's real interest, or that the profits of the trade will admit of encreased duties, it is our resolution to give all possible satisfaction on these points to our honourable masters, and to lay before you a fair, full, and candid representation of the amount of the costs, charges, and sales of the first year.

33. We think it incumbent on us to observe, that the management of this important business was committed to Mr. Sumner. If the plan therefore should prove so fortunate as to meet your approbation, the merit is chiefly due to that Gentleman, who spared no pains to acquire a thorough insight into the subject, at the same time that he discharged the duties of the presidency during Lord Clive's absence much to our satisfaction. Mr. Sumner would have cheerfully accepted the post of resident at the Durbar, now grown an employment of consequence since the grant of the dewanny; but we judged it to be more becoming his station, more agreeable to your intention, and more for the benefit of the service, that he should remain at the presidency, to take charge of the government in case of Lord Clive's absence. We therefore determined to appoint Mr. Sykes to the Durbar, as he has already sufficiently manifested his capacity and diligence in that employment.

34. When these dispatches are finished, we resolve to apply ourselves heartily to the reformation of the abuses which have crept into almost all your public offices, and every department civil and military. The task is arduous, but not impracticable; and we are assured it becomes highly necessary to the service. The same unanimity that has enabled the Committee to dispatch so great a variety of important affairs since their establishment, shall, we hope, be firmly continued and vigorously exerted, until we have accomplished every end proposed at our appointment, until we have stemmed the torrent of luxury and corruption, and established a spirit of industry, economy, and integrity, throughout every class of your servants.

35. We beg leave to conclude with assuring you, that it is the highest ambition of this Committee, to merit the confidence reposed in them, by promoting, with their utmost diligence and abilities, the honour and interest of the East India Company, which have ever been the object of their most fervent wishes.

We have the honour to be with respect, Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble Servants,

Fort William, the 30th
September 1765.

Clive.
Wm. B. Sumner.
John Carnac.
H. Verelst.
Fras. Sykes.

Supplement.

36. In justice to the memory of the late Nabob Meer Jaffier, we think it incumbent on us to acquaint you, that the horrible massacres wherewith he is charged by Mr. Holwell, in his "address to the proprietors of East-India Stock," (p. 46) are cruel aspersions on the character of that prince, which have not the least foundation in truth. The several persons there affirmed, and who have been generally thought to have been murdered by his order, are all now living, except two, who were put to death by Meeran, without the Nabob's consent or knowledge; and it is with additional satisfaction we can assure you, that they were lately released from confinement by the present Subah; which fully evinces the entire confidence he reposes in the Company's protection, against all attacks on his government.

37. We are further to acquaint you, that, not satisfied with paying all due attention to the confirmation and security of your possessions in Bengal, Lord Clive has also obtained from the king Sunnuds for the five Northern provinces, and the strongest ratification, under his majesty's hand and seal, of all your former grants in the Carnatic.

38. Mr. Sykes has exerted his utmost diligence in procuring an exact estimate of the amount of the revenues of the Nabob's dominions, of which you are now not only the collectors but the proprietors; and we were in hopes of transmitting an accurate account of the same by the Admiral Stevens; but the books of the Sircar are so much behind, so many balances are outstanding, and such negligence appears in the collection of the revenues for some years past, owing, in some measure, to the constant disturbances in the country, which prevented any regular collections from being made, that he has not been able yet to succeed to his entire satisfaction; and we therefore think it better to postpone the subject till our next dispatches, when we can write with precision and certainty. At present, we can only affirm, that the acquisition of the dewanny, and the agreement with the Nabob, will necessary turn out a prodigious encrease of your revenues, at the same time they must give stability to your power and influence.

39. You will observe, in our general letter from the public department, what has passed in council on the subject of the donation to the navy, which is, indeed, no more than a transcript of our consultations. We here think it necessary to remark, that we cannot, in the present circumstances of your affairs, and consistently with our late engagements with the Nabob, either take upon us to pay so large a demand out of your revenues, or insist on the Nabob's paying it out of his limited stipend; more especially as it appears that the donation to the navy was never voluntary, but obtained from Meer Jaffier by dint of solicitations, and other means which never had his entire approbation.

40. It is with some regret we acquaint you, that we apprehend it will be necessary to resume our late enquiry into the conduct of the Gentlemen of the deputation, having just received information from Nundcomar of further sums paid to them out of the Nabob's treasury, during their residence at Muxadabad. Mr. Johnstone makes a principal and conspicuous figure in this account also, having obtained a very large sum besides what is specified in the distribution-list, or the narratives of Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet, which, with the sums received by the other Gentlemen, fully accounts for the Nabob's assertions, in his letter addressed to the Committee. The necessity we are under of dispatching the ship, in order to receive the earliest notice of your sentiments on our proceedings, and your further instructions, prevents our entering immediately upon the enquiry; of which, however, you may be assured, we shall transmit a faithful and particular account in our next advices.

We have the honour to be, with respect, honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble Servants,

Fort William, the 1st
October, 1765.

Clive.
Wm. B. Sumner.
John Carnac.
H. Verelst.
Fras. Sykes.

No. 87.

Copy of a letter from Lord Clive to Wm. B. Sumner, Esquire, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee, dated Great Ganges, 11th July, 1765.

To Wm. B. Sumner, Esq; &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

Gentlemen,

WE have often lamented that the Gentlemen of council, by precipitating the late treaty, had lost the most glorious opportunity that could ever happen of settling matters upon that solid and advantageous footing for the Company, which no temporary invasion could endanger. The true and only security for our commerce and territorial possessions in this country, is, in a manner, to always have it in our power to overawe the very Nabob we are bound by treaty to support; a maxim contrary to this has of late been too much adopted; and from that fundamental error, as I must call it, has sprung the innumerable evils, or at least deficiencies, in our government, which, I have now the pleasure to inform you, are in a fair way of being perfectly removed.

The Nabob, upon my representation of the great expence of such an army as will be necessary to support him in his government, the large sums due for restitution, and to the navy, together with the annual tribute which he will be under a necessity of paying to the king, hath consented, and I have agreed, provided it should obtain your approbation, and be duly ratified and confirmed by the king's Firman, That all the revenues of the country shall be appropriated to these purposes, fifty lacks of rupees per annum for himself excepted. Out of this sum is to be defrayed all his expences, of every nature and denomination. Mahomed Reza Cawn, however, being of a disposition extremely timorous, is desirous of having the payment of the cavalry and Seapoys pass through his hands, though included in the said fifty lacks. This, I think will be complied with.

I am of opinion also, that certain stipends (out of the abovementioned sum) should be fixed for the Begum, for the Chuta Nabob, and for the rest of the Nabob's brothers and nephews, (Merum's son included) or else we must be subject to frequent complaints from these quarters; for I am persuaded, that the dependants and parasites of the present Nabob will always keep him in distress, be his income what it may.

Although the sum proposed to be stipulated for the Nabob, considering the present great expences and demands, may appear large, yet by what I can learn, his expence exceeds the sum to be allowed; and, although it is certain that neither his education nor abilities will enable him to appear to any advantage at the head of these great and rich provinces; yet, I think, we are bound in honour to support the dignity of his station, so far as is consistent with the true interest of the Company.

The particulars of this matter may be further adjusted in my presence by Mr. Sykes (to whom I have communicated my ideas) if the plan be approved by the Select Committee; and the whole may be finally concluded to our satisfaction, upon the Company's being appointed the king's Duan; who will be empowered by the nature of their office, as well as by the Nabob's consent, to settle every point.

Mr. Sykes, I imagine, will find no difficulty in procuring the five or six lacks of rupees from the treasury to answer the immediate exigencies of the Company, agreeable to the representation made to me in your letter of the 7th instant, which did not come to my hands till late in the evening before I left Mutajyl.

In conformity to your request in your said letter, I inclose Mr. Vansittart's translation of the late regulations, the original of which I had the honour to transmit to you on the 9th instant. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,

Gentlemen, your most obedient humble Servant.

Great Ganges, the 11th
July, 1765.

CLIVE.

No. 88.

To Wm. B. Sumner, Esq; &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

Gentlemen,

WE had yesterday a conference with Sujah Dowlah, wherein we informed him of the full powers with which we are invested by the Select Committee, and our resolution, in consequence thereof, to establish a solid peace, upon terms honourable and advantageous to the country princes, as well as to the Company. We then opened to him such part of

our plan as related to himself; in particular, we told him that the whole of his country, except Illahabad and its dependencies, should be restored. His expressions of joy and gratitude upon this occasion were many and warm; such an instance of generosity in a victorious enemy exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and, we doubt not, will be the best foundation of that union and amity, in this part of Indostan, which we so earnestly wish to secure. He consents to pay fifty laaks to the Company, for indemnification, in the following manner; ten laaks in money, and ten in jewels, on the conclusion of the treaty; five laaks on his being put in possession of his country; and the remaining twenty-five laaks in the course of twelve months. These terms are, we think, moderate and equitable, both for him and the Company.

We have been informed, that the king is desirous of possessing Illahabad, which together with its dependencies, produces ten laaks per annum; and also the province of Corah, which produces about eighteen. The former, we are of opinion, may with great propriety be ceded to him, as a royal revenue; but the latter, we rather wish, should be in the possession of Sujah Dowlah; we shall not, however, make a point of refusing it to his Majesty, if he should be very solicitous to obtain it, unless we judge it incompatible with the rest of our plan.

We shall not be able to give you any further information, till we have had a conference with his Majesty, which, we hope, will be in a few days, at Illahabad. We are with great respect,

Gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble Servants,

Benares, 3d August,
1765.

CLIVE,
JOHN CARNAC.

No. 89.

To Wm. B. Sumner, Esq; &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

Gentlemen,

Y^Esterday we paid a visit to the King upon business. His Majesty presented Lord Clive with his demands in the Persian language, a translation of which is inclosed. He insisted very strenuously that his revenues should be made agreeable to the engagements entered into by the late Nabob Meer Jaffier and Cossim Ally Cawn, viz. twenty-six laaks of rupees in money, and five and a half laaks in Jaggiers. This last article we could not consent to; and the King, with some difficulty, was persuaded to give it up, on our representing the great expence of supporting an army for the defence of the provinces, and the large demand of the young Nabob for the maintenance of his forces.

His Majesty then demanded the payment of all arrears due to him from the late Nabob Meer Jaffier, Cossim Ally, and the present Nabob Nizam ul Dowla, amounting in the whole to thirty-two laaks; in answer to which, we pleaded the absolute impossibility of paying one rupee, from the poverty of the treasury, occasioned by the long and expensive war we had been engaged in, partly on his Majesty's account, and the great balance still due from the Nabob for restitution to the sufferers. He expressed some warmth and displeasure at our obstinacy on this point; however, after some debates, he at last acquiesced.

The next demand was, that the countries of Illahabad and Corah (Bulwantsing's Zamindary excepted) should be ceded to him as a royal demesne for the support of his dignity. This we very readily consented to, as Sujah Dowla made not the least objection, well knowing that after our departure he could easily settle this matter with the King to the satisfaction of both parties. His Majesty engages, however, to allow Najif Cawn an handsome annual allowance, for which the King's revenues of Bengal are to be security.

We then presented the King with two Arzies, desiring he would grant to Nizam a Dowla the Nizamud of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, and to the Company the Dewannee of the same provinces; to both which his Majesty has signed his fiat, and the proper instruments for both are now drawing out.

As the king has been prevailed upon to assign to Sujah Dowla five laaks of rupees on his Bengal revenues, there will be no farther delay on account of the first payment of indemnification, which is to be twelve laaks in money, and eight in jewels.

The treaty therefore between Sujah Dowla on the one part, and Nizam a Dowla and the Company on the other, is now drawing out, and we make no doubt of sending you in a few days the agreeable news of every thing being finally settled; and shall follow it ourselves with all possible expedition. We are, Gentlemen,

Illahabad,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

August 12, 1765

CLIVE.
JOHN CARNAC.

No. 90.

Treaty between the Nabob Shujah ul Dowla, the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla, and the English Company, executed at Allahabad, August 16th, 1765.

(Sealed and approved by the King.)

WHEREAS the Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, Baron Clive of Plassey, Knight companion of the most Honourable order of the Bath, Major General and commander of the forces, president of the council, and governor of Fort William, and of all the settlements belonging to the united Company of merchants of England trading to the East Indies, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá; and John Carnac, Esquire, Brigadier General, Colonel in the service of the said Company, and commanding officer of their forces upon the Bengal establishment; are invested with full and ample powers on the behalf of his excellency the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla, Subahdar of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá, and likewise on behalf of the united Company of merchants of England trading to the East Indies, to negotiate, settle, and finally to conclude a firm and lasting peace with his highness the Nabob Shujah ul Dowla, Vizier of the Empire: be it known to all those to whom it shall or may in any manner belong, that the above-named plenipotentiaries have agreed upon the following articles with his Highness.

1. A perpetual and universal peace, sincere friendship, and firm union, shall be established between his highness Shujah ul Dowla and his heirs on the one part, and his excellency Nudjum ul Dowla and the English East India Company on the other; so that the said contracting powers shall give the greatest attention to maintain between themselves, their dominions, and their subjects, this reciprocal friendship, without permitting on either side any kind of hostilities to be committed from henceforth, for any cause, or under any pretence whatsoever; and every thing shall be carefully avoided which might hereafter prejudice the union now happily established.

2. In case the dominions of his highness Shujah ul Dowla shall at any time hereafter be attacked, his excellency Nudjum ul Dowla and the English Company shall assist him with a part or the whole of their forces, according to the exigency of his affairs, and so far as may be consistent with their own security; and if the dominions of his excellency Nudjum ul Dowla, or the English Company, shall be attacked, his highness shall in like manner assist them with a part or the whole of his forces: in the case of the English Company's forces being employed in his highness's service, the extraordinary expence of the same is to be defrayed by him.

3. His Highness solemnly engages never to entertain or receive Cossim Ally Khan, the late Subahdar of Bengal, &c. Sombroo the assassin of the English, nor any of the European deserters, within his dominions, nor to give the least countenance support, or protection to them; he likewise solemnly engages to deliver up to the English whatever Europeans may in future desert from them into his country.

4. The king Shah Aalum shall remain in full possession of Korah, and such part of the province of Allahabad as he now possesses which are ceded to his Majesty as a royal demerit for the support of his dignity and expences.

5. His highness Shujah ul Dowla engages in the most solemn manner to continue Bulwanting in the Zemindarrees of Benâres, Ghazepore, and all those districts he possessed at the time he came over to the late Nabob Jaffer Ally Khan and the English, on condition of his paying the same revenue as heretofore.

6. In consideration of the great expence incurred by the English Company in carrying on the late war, his Highness agrees to pay them (fifty) 50 lacks of rupees, in the following manner, viz. (twelve) 12 lacks in money, and a deposit in jewels to the amount of (eight) 8 lacks, upon the signing of this treaty; (five) 5 lacks by monthly payments, so as that the whole may be discharged in (thirteen) 13 months from the date hereof.

7. It being firmly resolved to restore to his Highness the county of Benâres, and the other districts now rented by Bulwanting, notwithstanding the grant of the same from the King to the English Company; it is therefore agreed that they shall be ceded to his Highness in manner following, viz. They shall remain in the hands of the English Company, with their revenues, till the expiration of the agreement between Bulwanting and the Company, being on the 27th November next; after which his Highness shall enter into possession, the fort of Chunar excepted, which is not to be evacuated until the 6th article of this treaty be fully complied with.

8. His highness shall allow the English Company to carry on a trade duty free throughout the whole of his dominions.

9. All the relations and subjects of his Highness, who in any manner assisted the English during the course of the late war, shall be forgiven, and no ways molested for the same.

10. As soon as this treaty is executed, the English forces shall be withdrawn from the dominions of his Highness, except such as may be necessary for the garrison of Chunar, or for
the

the defence and protection of the King in the city of Illahabad, if his Majesty should require a force for that purpose.

11. His highness the Nabob Shujah ul Dowla, his excellency the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla, and the English Company, promise to observe sincerely and strictly all the articles contained and settled in the present treaty; and they will not suffer the same to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their respective subjects; and the said contracting powers generally and reciprocally guarantee to each other all the stipulations of the present treaty.

Signed, sealed, and solemnly sworn to, according to their respective faiths, by the contracting parties, at Illahabad, this 16th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1765, in the presence of us,

Edmund Maskelyne,
Archibald Swinton,
George Vanfittart.
Fort William, September 30th, 1765.
(A true Copy.)
Alex. Campbell, S. S. C.

Clive L. S.
John Carnac (L. S.)
Shujah ul Dowla's Seal
(L. S.)
and ratification.
Mirza Cossin Khan,
Rajah Seetabroy,
Meer Musfhala.

Articles of agreement between the King Shah Aalum and the Company, relating to the tribute to be paid to him from the revenues of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, dated August 19th 1765.

The Nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah agrees to pay to his Majesty out of the revenues of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, the sum of 26 lacks of rupees a year, without any deduction for Batta on bills of exchange, by regular monthly payments, amounting to rupees 216,666, 10, 9. per annum, the first payment to commence from the 1st September of the present year; and the English Company, in consideration of his Majesty's having been graciously pleased to grant them the Dewannee of Bengal, &c. do engage themselves to be security for the regular payment of the same. It shall be paid month by month from the factory of Patna to Rajah Shitabroy, or whomsoever his Majesty may think proper to nominate, that it may be forwarded by him to the court; but in case the territories of the aforesaid Nabob should be invaded by any foreign enemy, a deduction is then to be made out of the stipulated revenues, proportionable to the damage that may be sustained.

In consideration of Nudjuf Khan's having joined the English forces, and acted in his Majesty's service in the late war, his Majesty will be graciously pleased to allow him the sum of two lacks of rupees a year, to be paid by equal monthly payments; the first payment to commence from the 1st of September of the present year; and in default thereof the English Company, who are guarantees for the same, will make it good out of the revenue allotted to his Majesty from the territories of Bengal. If the territories of Bengal should at any time be invaded, and on that account a deduction be made out of the royal revenue, in such case a proportionable deduction shall also be made out of Nudjuf Khan's allowance.

Dated the 19th of August 1765.
Fort William, 30th September 1765.
(A true Copy)
Alexander Campbell, S. S. C.

No. 91.

Firmaun from the King Shah Aalum, granting the Dewannee of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, to the Company. Dated August, 12th, 1765.

AT this happy time, our royal firmaun, indispensably requiring obedience, is issued: that whereas, in consideration of the attachment and services of the high and mighty, the noblest of exalted nobles, the chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company, we have granted them the Dewannee of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, from the beginning of the Fushul Rubby of the Bengal year 1171, as a free gift and ultungau, without the association of any other person, and with an exemption from the payment of the customs of the Dewannee, which used to be paid to the court; it is requisite that the said Company engage to be security for the sum of twenty-six lacks of rupees a year, for our royal revenue, which sum has been appointed from the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla Bahadar, and regularly remit the same to the royal Sircar: and in this case, as the said Company are obliged to keep up a large army for the protection of the provinces of Bengal, &c. we have granted to them whatsoever may remain out of the revenues of the said provinces, after remitting the sum of twenty-six lacks of rupees to the royal Sircar

Sircar, and providing for the expences of the Nizamut: it is requisite that our royal descendants the Viziers the bestowers of dignity, the Omrahs high in rank, the great officers, the Muttasuddies of the Dewannee, the managers of the business of the Sultanut, the Jagheerdars and Croories, as well the future as the present, using their constant endeavours for the establishment of this our royal command, leave the said office in possession of the said Company, from generation to generation, for ever and ever; looking upon them to be insured from dismissal or removal, they must on no account whatsoever give them any interruption, and they must regard them as excused and exempted from the payment of all the customs of the dewannee, and royal demands. Knowing our orders on the subject to be most strict and positive, let them not deviate therefrom.

Written the 24th of Sophar of the 6th year of the Jaloos (the 12th Aug. 1765.)

Contents of the Zimman.

Agreeably to the paper which has received our sign manual, our royal commands are issued: That, in consideration of the attachment and services of the high and mighty, the noblest of exalted nobles, the chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company, we have granted them the Dewannee of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, from the beginning of the Fullul Rubby of the Bengal year 1772, as a free gift and Ultungau, without the association of any other person, and with an exemption from the customs of the Dewannee, which used to be paid to the court on condition of their being security for the sum of twenty-six lacks of rupees a year for our royal revenue; which sum has been appointed from the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla Bahadar; and after remitting the royal revenue, and providing for the expences of the Nizamut, whatsoever may remain we have granted to the said Company.

The Dewannee of the province of Bengal.

The Dewannee of the province of Bahar.

The Dewannee of the province of Orixa.

No. 92.

Fort William, the 7th September, 1765.

Firmaun in confirmation of Lord Clive's Jagheer.

WHEREAS a Sunnud has been presented to us under the seal of the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla Bahadre, to the following purport; viz. "The sum of 2,22,958 sicca rupees and odd, agreeably to the Dewannee Sunnud, and the Sunnud of the high and mighty Shujaul-Moolk Kiffam-ul-Dowla Meer Mahomed Jaffier Cawn Bahadre, has been appointed from the Pergunna of Calcutta, &c. in the Sircar of Sautgaum, &c. in the province of Bengal (the paradise of the earth) the Zemindarry of the English Company, as an unconditional Jagheer to the high and mighty Zubdut-ul-Moolk Nusseer-ul-Dowlah Lorü Clive Bahadre; now likewise the said Pergunnahs are confirmed as an unconditional Jagheer to the high and mighty aforesaid, from the 16th of May of the 1764th year of the christian style (answering to the 14th of Zecada of the 1177 of the Hegyra) to the expiration of ten years, they shall appertain as an unconditional Jagheer to the high and mighty aforesaid; and after the expiration of this term, they shall revert as an unconditional Jagheer and perpetual gift to the Company; and if the high and mighty aforesaid should die within the said term, they shall revert to the Company immediately upon his death. And whereas the said Sunnud has met with our approbation, at this happy time therefore our royal firmaun, indispensably requiring obedience, is issued, that in consideration of the fidelity of the English Company, and the high and mighty aforesaid, the said Jagheer stand confirmed agreeably to the aforesaid Sunnud. It is requisite that the present and future Muttasuddies, the Chowdries, Canongoes, Muccudims, Ryetts, Muzzaries, and all other inhabitants of the Pergunna of Calcutta, &c. in the Sircar of Sautgaum, &c. regard the high and mighty aforesaid, during the forementioned term, and after him the Company aforesaid as unconditional Jagheerdars, and regularly pay them the revenues of the said Pergunnas."

Written the 24th of Soffar of the 6th year
of the Jaloos (the 12th of August 1765.)

Contents of the Zimmun.

Agreeably to the paper which has received our sign manual, our royal commands are issued: that whereas the sum of 2,22,958. sicca rupees, and odd, has been appointed from the Purgunnahs of Calcutta, &c. in the Sircar of Saugam, &c. the Zemindarry of the English Company, as an unconditional Jagheer to the high and mighty Zubdul-ul-Moolk Nusseer-ul-Dowla Lord Clive Bahadre, agreeably to the Dewannee Sunnud, and Sunnud of the Nazim of the province; in consideration therefore, of the attachment of the High and Mighty aforesaid, we have been graciously pleased to confirm to him the said Purgunnahs for the space of ten years, commencing from the 16th of May of the 1764th year of the Christian style, or 14th of Zecada, of the 1177th year of the Hegyra; and in consideration of the attachment of the English Company, we have granted the said Purgunnahs to them, after the expiration of the aforesaid term, as an unconditional Jagheer and perpetual gift; and if the High and Mighty aforesaid should die within this term, the said Purgunnahs are to revert immediately to the English Company.

A true translation.
 GEORGE VANSITTART,
 Persian Translator.

No. 93.

Firmaun from the King Shab Aalam, confirming to the Company the Chuclahs of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, and the twenty-four Purgunnahs of Calcutta, &c. before ceded to them by the Nabobs Meer Cossim Ally Khan, and Meer Jaffier Ally Khan. Dated August 12th 1765.

AT this happy time, our royal Firmaun, indispensably requiring obedience, is issued, That the Chuclahs of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, &c. and also the twenty-four Purgunnahs of Calcutta, &c. (the Zemindarry of the High and Mighty, the noblest of exalted Nobles, the Chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants, and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company) which were granted to the said Company in the time of Meer Mahomed Cossim, and Meer Mahomed Jaffier Khan deceased; We, in consideration of the attachment of the said Company have been graciously pleased to confirm to them, from the beginning of the Fussul Rubby of the Bengal year 1172, as a free gift and Ultungau, without the association of any other person. It is requisite that our royal descendants, the Viziers the bestowers of dignity, the Omrahs high in rank, the great officers, the Muttasuddies of the Dewannee, the managers of the business of the Saltanut, the Jagheerdars and Croories, as well the future as the present, using their constant endeavours for the establishment of this our royal command, leave the said districts and Purgunnahs in possession of the said Company, from generation to generation, for ever and ever. Looking upon them to be insured from dismission or removal, they must on no account whatsoever give them any interruption; and they must regard them as excused and exempted from the payment of all manner of customs and demands. Knowing our orders on this subject to be most strict and positive, let them not deviate therefrom.

Written the 24th of Sophar, of the 6th year of the Jaloos, (the 12th of August, 1765.)

Contents of the Zimmun

Agreeably to the paper which has received our sign manual, our royal commands are issued, that the Chuclahs of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, &c. and also the twenty-four Purgunnahs of Calcutta, &c. (the Zemindarry of the English Company) which were granted to the said Company in the time of Meer Mahomed Cossim and Meer Mahomed Jaffier Khan, deceased, be confirmed to the said Company, as a free gift and Ultungau, without the association of any other person.

Chuclah of Burdwan.
 Chuclah of Midnapore.
 Chuclah of Chittagong.

The twenty-four Purgunnahs of Calcutta, &c. (the Zemindarry of the English Company.)

Fort William, September 30th 1765.

(A true copy.)

Alex. Campbell, S. S. C.

No. 94.

Fort William, the 7th of September 1765.

Firmaun confirming the Company's possessions in the Carnatic

AT this happy time, our Royal Firmaun, indispensably requiring obedience, is issued, that whatsoever in the Sircar of the Carnatic was granted by former Kings, or has lately been given in the neighbourhood of Madras, &c. by the Nabob Seraje-ul-Dowla, to the High and Mighty, the noblest of exalted Nobles, the chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company; We, in consideration of the attachment and services of the said Company, have been graciously pleased to confirm to them as a free gift and Ultungau, without the association of any other person. It is requisite that our royal descendants, the Viziers the bestowers of dignity, the Omrahs high in rank, the great Officers, the Muttasuddies of the Dewannee, the managers of the business of the Sultanut, the Jagheerdars, and Croories, as well the future as the present, using their constant endeavours for the establishment of this our royal command, leave the said Sircar in possession of the said Company, from generation to generation, for ever and ever. Looking upon them to be insured from dismissal or removal, they must on no account whatsoever, give them any interruption, and they must regard them as excused and exempted from the payment of all manner of customs and demands. Knowing our orders on this subject to be most strict, let them not deviate therefrom.

Written the 24th of Soffar, of the 6th year of the Jaloos,
(the 12th of August, 1765.)

Contents of the Zimmun.

Agreeably to the paper which has received, our sign manual, whatsoever in the Sircar of the Carnatic was granted by former Kings, or has lately been given, in the neighbourhood of Madras, &c. by the Nabob Seraje-ul-Dowla, to the High and Mighty, the Noblest of exalted Nobles, the Chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company; We, in consideration of the attachment and services of the said Company, have been graciously pleased to confirm to them, from the beginning of the Fussul Rubby Tucaacovy-al of the Bengal year 1172, as a free gift and Ultungau, without the association of any other Person.

A true translation.

George Vansittart,
Persian Translator.

No. 95.

Firmaun for Seccacool, &c. being for the five Northern Provinces.

WHEREAS Salabud Jung, Subadar of the Daccan, having given the Sircar of Seccacool, &c. to the French Company, and this not being approved of by the Court, nor the royal Firmaun granted, the English Company, who are our sincere well-wishers, sent a large force and drove them out. At this happy time our royal Firmaun, indispensably requiring obedience is issued; that in consideration of the fidelity of the high and mighty, the noblest of exalted Nobles, the chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company, we have granted them the said Sircars, agreeably to the Zimmun, as a free gift and Ultungau, without the association of any other person, from the beginning of the Fussul Rubby of the Bengal year 1172. It is requisite that our royal descendants, the Viziers, the bestowers of dignity, the Omrahs high in rank, the great officers, the Muttasuddies of the Dewannee, the managers of the business of the Sultanut, the Jagheerdars and Croories, as well the future as the present, using their constant endeavours for the establishment of this our royal command, leave the said districts in possession of the said Company, from generation to generation, for ever and ever. Looking upon them to be insured from dismissal or removal, they must on no account whatsoever give them any interruption; and they must regard them as excused and exempted from the payment of all manner of customs and demands. Knowing our orders on this subject to be most strict and positive, let them not deviate therefrom.—Written the 24th of Soffar of the 6th year of the Jaloos (the 12th August 1765.)

Contents of the Zimmun.

Whereas Salabud Jung, Subadar of the Daccan having given the Sircars of Seecacool, &c. to the French Company, and this not being approved of by the Court, nor the Firman granted, the English Company, who are our sincere well-wishers, sent a large force and drove them out, agreeably to the Arzee of the 24th of Soffar of the 6th year, which has received our sign manual; our royal commands are issued, That we have granted to the high and mighty, the noblest of exalted Nobles, the chief of illustrious warriors, our faithful servants and sincere well-wishers, worthy of our royal favours, the English Company in consideration of their fidelity, the said Sircars as a free gift and Ultumgau, without the association of any other person.

Sircar Seecacool.
Sircar Rejemundry.
Sircar Eloor.
Sircar Mustapha-Nuggur.
Sircar Moorlazy-Nuggur or Cuttoor.

A true translation.
GEORGE VANSITTART,
Persian translator.

No. 96.

Agreement between the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla and the Company, relating to the allowance to be paid him for the support of the Nizamut of Bengal, dated Septtember the 30th, 1765.

THE King having been graciously pleased to grant to the English Company the Dewannee of Bengal, Bahar and Orixia, with the revenues thereof, as a free gift, for ever, on certain conditions; whereof one is, That there shall be a sufficient allowance out of the said revenues for supporting the expences of the Nizamut: be it known to all whom it may concern, That I do agree to accept of the annual sum of Sicca ruppees 5,386,131. 9, as an adequate allowance for the support of the Nizamut; which is to be regularly paid as follows; viz. The sum of Sicca ruppees 1,778,854. 1, for all my household expences, servants, &c. and the remaining sum of ruppees 3,607,277. 8, for the maintenance of such horse, Seapoys, Peons, Bercundaffes, &c. as may be thought necessary for my Sewaury, and the support of my dignity only, should such an expence hereafter be found necessary to be kept up, but on no account ever to exceed that amount; and having a perfect reliance on Maeen ul Dowla, I desire he may have the disbursing of the above sum of ruppees 3607,277. 8, for the purposes beforementioned. This agreement, by the blessing of God, I hope will be inviolably observed, as long as the English Company's factories continue in Bengal.

Fort William, the 30th
September, 1765.

(A true copy.)
Alexander Campbell, S. S. C.

No: 97.

A STATEMENT of charges which were allowed for the collections of the BAHAR PROVINCE, in Bengal year 1172, or English year 1765, viz.

W A G E S.

Amlah Sapaw, or wages to Aflwars, Burgundaffes, &c. from 1st of Jumadil Owel to the end of Rubby Sanny Shon 6 is twelve months.

Aflwars	874169	3	10	
Burgundaffes	198799	11	15	
Khalburdars	49000	—	—	
Cubdars, Kissnutgars, Sutaburdars, &c. Servants	236648	10	—	
Juzzouburdars, or musqueteers	24510	—	—	
Tellingah Scapoys	7364	—	—	
				1390492 10 5

Sirrista Dewanny ba Esm Nabob Ackramut Dowla Bahadre, &c. Bamurjenia Tuffil Allahyadah, or wages of the aforefaid Nabob and his people. Particulars of this shall be hereafter wrote, as soon as they can be obtained from the Patna Congos

163443 11 10

Mutfurcaut, or wages to people of distinction that have been serviceable in the government; viz.

Nabob Ackedutmund Cawn, at 220 Rs. per month for 12 Months, is	2400	—	—	
Shaik Mahmud Punnah	1745	12	—	
Fuzz Ally Cawn	11550	—	—	
Mirza Mahmud Hussen	1634	—	—	
Himmat Cawn, son to Mussall Cawn	2990	—	—	
Nabob Abdul Ally Cawn	12000	—	—	
Share Ally Cawn	3600	—	—	
Abdool Cader Cawn	360	—	—	
Murrallydur, &c. Hircarrahs	10676	15	—	
Meer Cullen, Perfume maker	275	—	—	
				47231 11 —

Meer Mahmud Jummaul, &c. Tynaut Hoozor Jonab Ally or Meer Mahmud Jummaul, &c. who is the presence of Nabob Najemud Doula in Muxadavad, but receives his and his people's wages from Subah Bar; viz.

Meer Mahmud Jummaul	366697	12	10	
Mirza Mahmud Ruffy	44100	—	—	
Connuck Sing Chowdry and Beldars	31594	3	—	
				442392 15 10

Crutch Khonsummany, or charges of Nabob's elephants, camels, horses, bullocks, &c.

65000 — —

Ze-affut Ingrez Sau-ha, bon Husbul Crutch, or invitations and entertainments of English gentlemen, charges already made

45373 2 5

Rupces of forts 2153934 2 10

HUCKECUT BUNDABUST, SUBA BAHAN, or Statement of Revenues to be received from the Bahar province in Bengal year 1172, or English 1765, the collection to conclude in Affin year 1173 or English September 1766, viz.

Bomurjem Affrad Bundabust, or the amount agreeable to the account particulars settled by Mahinud Raza Cawn, Rajah Doolubram and Juggut Scat _____ 4745501 15 10

Goonjoyse Mahalat, or profit on Mahalls, &c. _____ 51000 — —

Joyguires, &c. to be received, particulars of these shall be wrote as soon as procured, viz.

Nahob Najem ul Dowlah _____ 902960 8 15

Joyguier daran, or Joyguires allowed to different persons, none of whom are now existing, and which sums have been appropriated to any improper use _____ } 195870 11 5
 _____ } 67908 12 10
 _____ } 26928 7 5

290707 15 —

1193668 7 15

Babut Yaft, Subadavry ou Dewanny, or the Amount whatever to be received by the Nabob of that province for himself, and the Padshahs Dewan, as their real profits _____

500000 — —

Deduct allowed Rajah Doolubram, and Mahmud Reza Cawn, as Duffore or custom _____

171000 — —

329000 — —

Deduct Crutch Bemurjem Affrad Allahiddah, or charges allowed to the Nabob, &c. for collecting in the revenues, even other contingent charges attending the same, as now settled, viz.

63,19,170 7 5

Affwars _____ 210000

Burgundaffes _____ 80000

Nabob's own servants, as Chubdars } 120000
 Sutarburdars, &c _____ }

Calburdars or musqueteers _____ 12000

422000 — —

Sirrestah Dewanny, or wages of Nabob, &c. viz. Nabob Ahatramut Dowlah, and his family, A. Rs. 15000 per Mensen _____

180000

Maharaza Deruznarrain 7500 A. Rs. per Mensen _____

90000

270000 — —

Muddut Crutch or wages allowed yearly to people of distinction, that have been serviceable in the government, viz.

Nabob Abdul aly Cawn _____ 12000

Nabob Eckydutmund Cawn _____ 2400

Ally Cooly Cawn _____ 12600

Share Aly Cawn _____ 2400

Himmat Cawn _____ 2400

Fyz Ally Cawn's children _____ 13800

Meerlydhur, &c. excepting Hircarrahs _____ 7800

Golaum Caddaur Cawn _____ 360

Meer Cullen, perfume maker _____ 360

Iimael Ally Cawn _____ 1800

Shaik Abdul Hussen _____ 600

Mofoyt Sing _____ 2400

58920 — —

750920 — —

Rupces 5568250 7 5

SUBAH BAHAR PROVINCE.

D	Cr.
To Amount which is to be paid Annually to different Persons in Consequence of their having Sunnunds, as per Account :	By Jumina Bemurgem Bundbust, or Amount of to be received agreeable to the Statement - 47455 ⁰¹ 15 10
Joyguiers - 477141 1 15	By Babut Goonjoys, or Profit on Pergunnahs and Mahalls, the particulars shall be hereafter wrote as soon as procured - - - 51000 0 0
Altummuggah 297300 15 5	
Muddutmoth - 50604 1 15	
825046 2 15	4796501 15 10
To Amount allowed to Mahmud Reza Cawn and Doolubram as Duffore - - 171000 0 0	By Amount of particular Accounts of what the Subah, &c. received Yearly for charges formerly to the Year 1173, are now brought to account, viz.
To Muddut Crutch, or Charges as now settled for the collections of this Year by Mahmud Reza Cawn, &c. cannot be reduced - - - - - 750920 0 0	J O Y G U I R E S, viz.
1746966 2 15	Nabob Najim ul Dowla 902960 8 15
	Joyguier-darom, or Joyguires, as allowed to different Persons 673011 12 15
	1575972 5 10
	Altummuggah or Charity - - - 365202 12 0
	Muddulmoth - - - 77539 9 0
	2018714 10 10
To Balance to be received this Year - - - - - 5568250 7 5	By Yast Subadarray on Dewanny, as per Account - - - - - 500000 0 0
Rupees 7315216 10 10	Rupees 7315216 10 10

No. 98.

Fort William, the 7th September 1765.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. &c.

My Lord,

IT is with the utmost satisfaction we have the honour to congratulate your lordship on your safe return to the presidency, and to express our earnest approbation of the prudent and effectual measures you have pursued to stop the effusion of human blood, to lay the foundation of future tranquility to these unhappy provinces, which have long been the scene of desolation, to ease the Company from the insupportable weight of a ruinous war, and to bring to a prosperous issue the several important objects recommended to your attention by this committee.

The obtaining so extraordinary an acquisition of revenue and influence to the Company, by means the most likely to conciliate the affections of the country powers, and secure their repose and happiness, are services of such evident and essential consequences, as cannot fail to increase your lordship's high reputation with the public, and justify your constituents in vesting this committee with plenary powers, to pursue whatever measures should appear to us conducive to the public good.

Firmly

Firmly persuaded that it is necessary to the security of the valuable possessions they now enjoy, and to the very existence of the Company in Bengal, as well as conformable to the spirit of our appointment, that we continue to exert our authority, in order to effect that general reformation so necessary in itself and agreeable to the wishes of the honourable court of directors; we beg leave to repeat to your lordship, that the same confidence and unanimity which have hitherto subsisted among the several members of this committee, shall be continued in the prosecution of this arduous but salutary undertaking.

Fort William,
the 7th September 1765.

We remain, with sentiments of the greatest esteem,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, and most humble servants.

No. 99.

Fort William, the 7th September 1765.

To Brigadier General John Carnac.

Sir,

WE embrace with pleasure the opportunity which your return to the settlement affords us of offering you our thanks for the faithful services done the public, particularly for your steady perseverance in reducing Sujah Dowla to the necessity of submission; and the farther attention you have shewn to the interest of the Company, and honour of this committee, by co-operating so cordially with Lord Clive, in attaining the several important objects recommended in our instructions.

Justly sensible of the regard you have ever paid to the interest of your constituents, we assure ourselves that you will continue to exert the same zeal, as a member of the select committee, and join heartily with us in assisting his lordship to bring to a happy conclusion the many and essential points that still remain to be adjusted, if we would secure the important advantages already obtained, give stability to the regulations we have established, and permanence to the treaties we have executed.

We beg leave to assure you that we are, with great esteem,

Sir, your most obedient humble servants.

No. 100.

Lord Clive's Letter to the Court of Directors, the 28th November, 1765.

Gentlemen,

1. I embrace the opportunity of a ship being under dispatch for Buffora, to make known to you such occurrences as have happened here since the sailing of the Admiral Stevens on the 19th of the last month, in hopes that it may arrive in time for us to receive your commands by some of the latter ships of the year 1766.

2. The resignation of Messrs. Senior, Burdett, and Grey, and suspension of Mr. Leycester, has reduced us in committee to the necessity of desiring the gentlemen of Madrats to spare us Messrs. Russell, Aldersey, Kelsall, and Floyer, who we propose shall give us their assistance in council until your pleasure be known.

3. To enter into particulars would take up too much time, and might be imprudent in a dispatch of this nature: I shall therefore only repeat what I have already had the honour of representing to you, that luxury, extravagance, and corruption, together with an independent way of thinking and acting, have arisen to such a height in this settlement, that the most vigorous measures are absolutely necessary; and if you, Gentlemen, do not strengthen my hands by approving the steps we have taken, particularly by confirming the Madrats gentlemen in the posts of which we have appointed them, and by entrusting me with sufficient powers, I am convinced that the service I may have rendered the Company, by my re-acceptance of this government will be in many respects of a very short duration since every thing will infallibly revert to the old channel as soon as my back is turned: The measures hitherto proposed and pursued for the attainment of that reformation which must take place, have been strenuously supported by Messrs. Carnac, Verelst, and Sykes. General Carnac intends resigning the service and accompanying me to Europe. Messrs. Verelst and Sykes are highly desirous of every encouragement that can be offered, to prevail upon them to continue in this country: Not one of the gentlemen next to the councilmen, even so low as Mr. Bolts, (Mr. Rumbold excepted) is worthy a seat at the board; many of them are deficient in abilities and all in principle;

and

and as to the gentlemen of lower standing, they are not only too young, but too strongly tainted with the corruption of late times, to be so soon intrusted with power. The only measure therefore that can insure stability to the plan of government and reformation which I have been labouring to establish is, the appointment of the Madras gentlemen, and the limiting (I do not mean curtailing) the advantages of future governors; together with a power lodged somewhere to nominate the members who shall compose the select-committee after my departure.

I can now, with the greatest pleasure inform you that the state of the treasury is such, and the revenues of the country since the acquisition of the Dewannee have flowed in so fast, that we shall not through necessity, draw upon you for a rupee, although we have determined to send £. 300,000 this year to China: The returns for coral and small bills drawn upon you for necessaries may amount to five or six lacks.

The refusing to grant bills will undoubtedly throw large sums into the hands of foreigners, particularly of the Dutch, as immoderate riches have been lately acquired: But I do not think we can be justified in wantonly drawing upon our employers to the amount of several hundred thousand pounds, while we have more cash than sufficient to answer every purpose for the Company. However, as the acquisition of fortunes will not be so rapid in future, some method may be fixed on, for the remitting of money by your servants, without so much benefit to our rivals.

In the course of the ensuing year, we shall certainly pay off upwards of thirty lacks of the Company's bond debt.

By this conveyance I shall only further add, that it is my resolution to adhere firmly to the true interest of the Company in these parts, notwithstanding the odium I undergo, in the pursuit of impartial and disinterested measures.

Permit me, gentlemen, to hope, that whilst I am framing and carrying into execution such regulations, in every department abroad, as I am convinced are most essentially and immediately requisite, you will not be insensible to the danger of their being soon relaxed, and perhaps totally neglected, unless supported by the strictest orders from home.

If what I have done be approved, and, by the authority of the court of directors, rendered incapable of being subverted by my successors, I shall return from the laborious accomplishment of your wishes and expectations with the fullest satisfaction.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,

Calcutta, 28th November 1765

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,
CLIVE.

No. 101.

Company's letter to Bengal, 19th February 1766.

21. NO success in carrying on the war against Sujah Dowla, to give his country to the King can justify the measure. Sujah Dowla's letter of the 3d January, offering to withdraw his protection from Cossim Ally, to enter into friendship with you, and join your army in pursuing him, was the opportunity that ought to have been embraced for putting an end to the war; that passed, your fatal engagements with the King were left to operate with their utmost force; all sight of the Company's interest was from that moment lost, and one error has plunged you into many more. The reply you make to the above offer of Sujah Dowla, when you demand he shall put them to death, we cannot suppose seriously meant; for if the law of hospitality forbid his delivering them up, surely it forbid his murdering them.

22. In consultation the 28th January, mention is made of some subsequent letters from Sujah Dowla to Major Fletcher, which are but slightly mentioned therein, and appear no where entered in your correspondence; the only observation made on them is, that you were too far engaged with the King to recede. In the last letter, we in general terms condemned this treaty with the King, and flattered ourselves you would have seen the folly thereof, or Meer Jaffier's death, or the arrival of Lord Clive, would have prevented the execution of it; but being disappointed in our expectations, we now shall give you our sentiments at large. The dispossessing Sujah Dowla of his country, is, we apprehend, breaking down the strongest barrier we could have had, against the Afghans, Morattas, and all the invaders of the empire, who were checked from penetrating into the eastern provinces, by a power so respectable as his was throughout Indostan. The raising the King on his ruins, renders this danger still more striking; because all the northern powers are his natural enemies, being attached to the Vizier Gar-o-din Cawn; and you own yourselves, in the reply to Mr. Gray's Minutes, in consultation 20th February

1765, that though the title to the crown is contested, all parties seem to unite in opposing the claim of him you acknowledge King; and it is to be feared they will come down upon him before his strength is confirmed; and thus you may have drawn the wars that have so long distracted the northern countries, to your own frontiers.

23. We have no opinion the King can possibly maintain himself without your utmost assistance, nor do we imagine Sujah Dowla is so reduced as not to make head again; and the result will be, we shall have a war to maintain six hundred miles from our own settlement, from the success of which no possible advantage can be derived, and one defeat may be the total loss of the province.

24. In your engagements with the King, we remark the stipulation for the charges of the war was unsettled, and we have much reason to apprehend the whole expence will be left on the Bengal government.

25. We now come to consider the measures you took on the death of Jaffier Ally Cawn. — We could have wished the succession had been left undetermined until Lord Clive's arrival; but if it was absolutely necessary to come to a sudden determination, and that some one must be immediately acknowledged Soubah, it was consistent with the faith we owed the father, to adopt the succession he designed; and the inexperience of the young Soubah considered, you did right to appoint him a regent; but in the choice of Mahinud Reza Cawn we think you passed too slightly over the charge urged against him, of being so very deficient in accounting for the revenues of the province, of which he had been governor.

26. The appointing of independant duans appears highly improper to us; for it is intruding on the powers of the regent, weakening his government, and tending to anarchy; nor can we conceive that any Englishman is master enough of the forms of government, to undertake the dividing their departments, without introducing confusion.

27. With respect to the treaty with Nazem-o-Dowla, it is proper here to insert at length the 5th article, which runs in these words, "I do ratify and confirm to the English the privilege granted them by their Phirmaund, and several Husbulhookums, of carrying on their trade by means of their own duffuck, free from all duties, taxes, or impositions, in all parts of the country, excepting in the article of salt, on which a duty of 2½ per cent. is to be levied on the Rowana or Houghly market price." This fifth article is totally repugnant to our orders, contained in our general letter, by the Kent and Lapwing, dated the 1st June 1764; in which we not only expressed our abhorrence of an article in the treaty with Meer Jaffier, literally corresponding with the present 5th article, but in positive terms directed you, in concert with the Nabob, to form an equitable plan for carrying on the inland trade, and transmit the same to us, accompanied by such explanations and remarks as might enable us to give our sentiments and directions thereupon. We must remind you too, that in our said general letter we expressly directed, That our orders in our letter of the 8th February preceding, which were to put a final and effectual end to the inland trade in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, and in all other articles produced and consumed in the country, should remain in force until an equitable and satisfactory plan could be formed and adopted. As therefore there is not the least latitude given you for concluding any treaty whatsoever respecting this inland trade, we must and do consider what you have done as an express breach and violation of our orders, and as a determined resolution to sacrifice the interest of the Company, and the peace of the country, to lucrative and selfish views.

28. This unaccountable behaviour puts an end to all confidence in those who made this treaty, and forces us to resolve on measures for the support of our authority, and the preservation of the Company; we do therefore pronounce, that every servant concerned in that trade stands guilty of a breach of his covenants with us, and of our orders; and in consequence of this resolution we positively direct, that if that treaty is now subsisting, you make a formal renunciation, by some solemn act to be entered on your records, of all right under the said treaty, or otherwise, to trade in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco; and you transmit this renunciation of that part of the treaty in form to the Nabob in the Persian language. Whatever government may be established, or whatever unforeseen circumstances may arise, it is our resolution to prohibit, and we do absolutely forbid this trade of salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, and of all articles that are not for export and import, according to the spirit of the Phirmaund, which does not in the least give any latitude whatsoever for carrying on such an inland trade; and moreover, we shall deem every European concerned therein, directly or indirectly, guilty of a breach of his covenants, and direct that he be forthwith sent to England, that we may proceed against him accordingly; and every native who shall avail himself of our protection to carry this trade on, without paying all the duties due to the government, equally with the rest of the Nabob's subjects, shall forfeit that protection, and be banished the settlement. And we direct that these resolutions be signified publicly throughout the settlement.

29. With respect to the 11th article of the treaty, which settles the restitution for private losses, we gave you our sentiments on that subject very fully in our letter of the 24th December; in which we remain confirmed, and our orders relative thereto stand in full force. We also continue in the same sentiments upon the donation to the Navy, which we see is again taken up in the instructions to the resident at the Durbar.

30. We repeat, that we have lost all confidence in those servants, which nothing can restore but a strict obedience to our orders, and a more scrupulous attention to the Company's true interest; in the mean time, and until their conduct shall have reinstated them in our good opinion, we must, and do rely solely on our president Lord Clive, and the select Committee, whom we do hereby invest with all requisite powers for securing to the Company all sums paid on account of restitution, till our orders are known. We further expect that they shall give us a clear investigation of the motives that influenced the governor and council to engage in a treaty with the King, so repugnant to our true interest — That they shall examine into the reasons of the Burdwan lands being let so low as thirty-two lacks, when, by the accounts transmitted to us, the collections exceeded fifty lacks.—We also rely on the Committee to put a stop to the shameful demand made on the Nabob for the Navy, and supported by the council, to their great dishonour. And if any further corrupt or oppressive practices come to their knowledge, that they suspend those who shall appear guilty of them, and give us the fullest information thereof. And lastly, we cannot avoid taking notice, that the late president and council neither acknowledged the receipt of the covenants relative to the receiving presents from the country government, nor have they taken the least notice of them. We hope there is no further meaning in this neglect than the deferring it till Lord Clive's arrival; yet when we consider the total disregard of our most solemn orders on the most important subjects, we know not where their disobedience will stop.

31. We have received two letters from Mr. Spencer, the first dated the 5th of February 1705, the last the 14th March: copies of which we inclose for your information; as they both urge his own merit in so strong a manner, we find ourselves obliged to give our sentiments on his conduct in Bengal.

32. He came down to that settlement with the general good opinion of the world, and with our approbation of his conduct during his services at Bombay, with this peculiar advantage, that he was free from all the embarrassments and the party spirit that prevailed in Bengal, and had the plain path of the Company's interest before him —We shall therefore recapitulate the censure we have past on that part of the administration of our affairs in which he was concerned, and which we take for granted he approved, as no dissent is entered by him.

33. First, The very same letter that carried his appointment to the government, carried our most positive orders to put a total and effectual stop to the trade of salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco which we expressed to be the source of the war, and incompatible with the peace of the country, and the interest of the Company. Yet in the consultation 17th October, wherein that order is taken into consideration, he signs a resolution to carry on that trade of salt and beetle-nut, paying the Nabob on salt $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in direct breach of our orders; and in the treaty with the new Nabob, he stipulates for that right by an express article of the treaty.

34. Although the treaty with Meer Jaffier Ally Cawn was entered into before Mr. Spencer's arrival, yet he gave his sanction to every part of it, particularly that which stipulated restitution for losses, which we make no doubt he knew to be mostly sustained in an illicit trade; and, preferring the interest of the servants to the honour of the Company, countenanced the aggravating circumstances which accompanied that shameful prostitution of our authority, in rising the demand, till by slinging in outstanding debts, it was carried to the exorbitant sum of fifty-three lacks; and Mr. Spencer, though no way interested therein, joined in the ungenerous proceedings, by which Meer Jaffier's consent was extorted for the payment of these demands; and in the treaty with the new Nabob makes it an act of his own, by carefully stipulating for it therein; and to our great astonishment we see his name to consultation 15th November 1764, wherein he engages the authority of the Company to obtain the sum of twelve lacks and a half for the Navy, though, as far as appears to us, the demanding this sum was a private act of his predecessor, unknown to him, but so strongly adopted, that we see he never loses sight of it, but makes the recovery of it part of the instructions to the resident at the Durbar, on the accession of the new Subah.

35. In the administration of our revenues, he has so overlooked the accounts of the province of Burdwan, that though it appears in them the Rajah collects fifty-one lacks of rupees, yet he has approved the agreement with the Rajah for thirty-two lacks, which is even lower than the preceding year; nor has he taken any notice of the sum of eighty-thousand rupees, applied to the use of our servants, under the head of charges of residency.

36. In this letter of the 14th, March, he urges the general flourishing state of the Company's affairs as a matter of merit to himself; in which we totally differ from him, as he will learn from our sentiments in our letter of the 24th December, and the present, of which you will transmit him copies, as far as relates to the administration of our affairs during his being of our council in Bengal.

37. In the Packet by the Bute you transmitted to us a copy of the treaty with the Nabob Najim-o-Dowla, which is attested by your secretary, Mr. Majendy, to be a true copy, whereas it has neither date, or the names of our council, who signed the treaty, nor the Nabob's

Nabob's name, to it, which might have been very well added, as it appears by your consultations of the 6th March last, that you then received it properly executed by the Nabob. You are to inform Mr. Majendie of his inattention, and let him know he must be more careful for the future.

No. 102.

Letter from Lord Clive, General Carnac, and Mr. Sykes, to the Governor and Council of Fort William, dated 30th April, 1766.

To William Brightwell Sumner, Esq; and the Gentlemen of the Council at Fort William

Gentlemen,

YESTERDAY we held the Purneah, agreeably to the custom of the country, and to those ideas which we entertain of the Company's honour and interest. His Excellency the Nabob sat in quality of Nazim, and the Right Honourable the president took his place, as collector of the revenues for his Majesty.

We thought it by no means adviseable to deviate, upon slight occasions, from the established forms and customs of this anniversary, and therefore accepted, for ourselves, and for you, the usual present of a dress and elephant to each, which shall be forwarded by the first opportunity. This expence hath formerly been charged to the government, it must therefore, now, of course, be brought to the Company's account; but as the amount is inconsiderable, it was scarce worth while to introduce any innovation that might tend to lessen their dignity in the eyes of the people.

The Zemindars, and other public officers have consented to pay to the amount of rupees 5,20,000, as first fruits of the ensuing collections; of this sum four lacks are now already received, and the remainder, we have reason to expect will be paid, in a few days, into the treasury.

All possible dispatch will be used in closing the balances of the present year, so as to complete, for the province of Bengal, a collection of 140 lacks:—A revenue that must far exceed expectation, when it is considered that six months were elapsed before we took charge of the collections, and that the more weighty and considerable balances were actually incurred before we received the investiture of the Dewanny.

We propose transmitting to your board, an explicit account of the particulars of the present collection, and also of the statement for the ensuing year, as soon as the same can be prepared, and the whole business duly completed; and we flatter ourselves that nothing hath been done, nothing undone, which had not the public interest for its immediate object, and which, for that reason, will not meet with your approbation.

As to the increase of the revenue by the new statement, although it cannot yet be ascertained, yet there is great reason to believe it will not fall short of ten lacks of rupees; which additional sum may be collected without rigour or oppression.

Before we conclude, we beg leave to mention, that Mr. Campbell attended here, by our direction, as mint master, to explain and conduct a scheme proposed by the Select committee, for establishing a gold currency, the result of which we hope to transmit in a few days to the board.

Mootajil, 30th April 1766.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servants.

CLIVE,
JOHN CARNAC,
FRA. SYKES.

No. 103.

Extract from the Trial of Ramchurn, 1761.

PARTICULARS of the sums on which Roydulub received his Commission.

In Three Payments.

To the Company	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46,83,595	11	7
Army and Navy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23,41,797	8	3
Inhabitants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,06,368	0	6
									<u>106,31,761</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Deduct Army and Navy, on which no commission was drawn	—								23,41,797	8	3
									<u>82,89,963</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>
										5	
									4,14,498	1	5
Committee 1,150,000—5 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57,500	0	0
A Present from Col. Clive, being 5 per Cent. upon 25 Lacks									1,25,000	0	0
									<u>5,96,998</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

An Account of Money agreeable to the Receipts of Rajah Dolevaram.

Received Account Commission; viz.

5 Sun Siccas	—	—	—	—	—	7400
Muxadavad Sonauts	—	—	—	—	—	94991
Dacca Sonauts	—	—	—	—	—	10513
Patna Sonauts	—	—	—	—	—	148770
Arcot Good	—	—	—	—	—	41330
Patna Lefs Rupees	—	—	—	—	—	54903
Arcots Lefs	—	—	—	—	—	85144½
Sonauts of Sorts Lefs	—	—	—	—	—	153178
						<u>Rupees 596,229½</u>

N. B. The above sums are given to Rajah Dolevaram by Coja Petruse, the bags containing, some 1000, and some two thousand; the said bags were sealed with a Mohur of Nabob Surozut Dowlah; and regularly the above sums were received by Dolevaram; but those bags that were less to the Amount of 767½ Rupees, which was likewise received by him.

- I. **THE PRESENT STATE** of the **ENGLISH EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S AFFAIRS**, comprehending the Accounts delivered by the Court of Directors to the Treasury, which were laid before the **COMMITTEE of SECRECY**, appointed by the **HOUSE of COMMONS**, assembled at Westminster, in the Sixth Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of **GREAT-BRITAIN**, to enquire into **EAST-INDIA AFFAIRS**; drawn up by Mr. HOOLE, Auditor of India Accounts, and Others; together with the Plans proposed by the different Directors for the Re-establishment of the Company's Affairs, and several other Accounts equally Important and Interesting; drawn up for the Use of the Directors, &c. To these Accounts is prefixed, an Address to the Public. Price 3s. 6d. Royal Paper 5s.
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