

S E C O N D

R E P O R T

F R O M T H E

C O M M I T T E E

A P P O I N T E D B Y T H E

H O U S E O F C O M M O N S,

ASSEMBLED AT WESTMINSTER IN THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN,

T O E N Q U I R E I N T O

T H E N A T U R E, S T A T E, A N D C O N D I T I O N

O F T H E

E A S T I N D I A C O M P A N Y,

A N D O F T H E

B R I T I S H A F F A I R S I N T H E E A S T I N D I E S.

L O N D O N :

S O L D B Y T. E V A N S A T N o. 54, I N P A T E R - N O S T E R R O W.
M D C C L X X I I I.

JUST PUBLISHED BY T. EVANS.

- I. **T**HE 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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S E C O N D

R E P O R T

FROM THE

C O M M I T T E E,

APPOINTED BY THE

H O U S E O F C O M M O N S, &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,

NOT having been able, for want of time before the recess, to insert in their last report the progress they had made in their enquiries respecting the trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, they have been since employed in arranging the several matters they had collected upon that head, in the manner that appeared to them most conducive to the information of the house.

And your Committee finding that the house is apprised (by the fourth report of the Committee of secrecy, p. 16) of the general state of duties upon salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, according to the evidence of Mahomed Reza Cawn, and other circumstances therein recited, they have only to add upon that subject, that they find an alteration was attempted to be made upon the ancient establishment of duties, by the regulations which were settled between Cossim Ally Cawn and Mr. Vansittart at Mongheer; whereby it was stipulated, that the Company's servants should in time to come pay nine per cent. on the Rowanna price of salt: But this treaty having been rejected by the council, as having been concluded without sufficient authority on the part of Mr. Vansittart; and also as subjecting the English and their servants, upon all disputes, to the jurisdiction of the Nabob's Officers; the old regulations as to duties were continued, and the English, by treaty made with Myr Jaffier, were placed upon a footing with the most favoured among the natives; viz. to pay the duties of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on salt.

And your Committee also observed, from the appendix in the abovementioned report of the Committee of secrecy, No. 44, that the house is in possession of the 21st paragraph of general letter from the court of directors to the governor and council of Bengal, dated the 8th of February 1764; wherein the court of directors order, "that from the receipt of the said letter a final and effectual end be forthwith put to the inland trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, and in all other articles whatsoever produced and consumed in the country; and that all European and other agents or gomastahs, who have been con-
cerned

“ cerned in such trade, be immediately ordered down to Calcutta, and not suffered to return
 “ or be replaced as such by any other person ;” and the above is the first express order which
 your Committee have discovered upon the records of the Company against this trade, though
 your Committee find, from the evidence of Mr. Batson, that the English began to trade
 in salt about the end of the year 1757, and that it soon became general.

And it also appears by the evidence of Mr. Mac Gwire, and by a letter from Governor
 Vanfittart to Mr. Mac Gwire of 30th December 1761, printed in the appendix to the former
 report, No. 9, that they had large concerns in salt on their joint account, which was sold at
 Patna in the year 1761.

Your Committee further find, that the court of directors in their general letter of the
 22d of February 1764, paragraph 35, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, No. 1, gave a
 general and positive order against every kind of monopoly in trade.

And your Committee think proper to remark, that the prohibition of the trade of the
 Company's servants in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, was recommended to the court of di-
 rectors, in a letter from Lord Clive, dated 27th April 1764, and entered on the proceedings
 of the general court, 2d May 1764, extract of which is annexed, No. 2.

The next circumstance your Committee think necessary to lay before the house, is the re-
 solution of the general court of the 18th of May 1764 ; and the paragraph of the general
 letter of the 1st of June 1764, wrote in pursuance of that resolution, and your Committee
 find them conceived in the following terms :

R E S O L U T I O N .

“ It is recommended to the court of directors to re-consider the orders sent to Bengal,
 “ relative to the trade of the Company's servants in the articles of salt, beetle nut, and
 “ tobacco ; and that they do give such directions for regulating the same, agreeable to
 “ the interests of the Company and the Subah, as to them may appear most prudent,
 “ either by settling here at home the restrictions under which this trade ought to be
 “ carried on, or by referring it to the governor and council of Fort William to regulate
 “ this important point in such a manner as may prevent all future disputes betwixt the
 “ Subah and the Company.”

The 57th paragraph of the general letter, dated 1st June 1764 (wrote in pursuance
 of the above resolution.)

“ You are hereby ordered and directed (*viz.* the governor and council) to consult with the
 “ Nabob as to the manner of carrying on the inland trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco,
 “ and other articles produced and consumed in the country, which may be most conducive
 “ to his satisfaction and advantage, the interest of the Company, and likewise of the Com-
 “ pany's servants.”

N. B. The house is in possession of the other paragraphs of the said letter, relative
 to the inland trade, in the abovementioned appendix of the report from the
 Committee of secrecy, No. 24.

Having thus stated the orders of the court of directors, your Committee think proper to
 observe, that the salt society, which afterwards took place, appears to have been originally
 proposed at sea by Lord Clive, during his passage to India ; and the evidence upon which
 your Committee ground this fact is in a letter from Lord Clive to the court of directors,
 dated 1st of February 1766 ; extract of which is in the appendix, No. 3.

And it appears to your Committee, from the evidence of several witnesses here following,
 that in the beginning of June, being a few days after the arrival of Mr. Verelst from Chit-
 tagong, and about the time of the third meeting of the select Committee, a private partner-
 ship was formed, in the names of Lord Clive, Mr. Sumner, Mr. Verelst, and Mr. Sykes, for
 purchasing large quantities of salt, then in the hands of private merchants. Your Committee
 are prevented stating the extent of this transaction so fully as they might otherwise have done,
 by Mr. Verelst declining to answer a question put to him upon that subject ; because as he
 alleged, the court of directors had threatened him with a prosecution upon salt concerns ;
 but your Committee having examined Mr. Verelst to such other circumstances as he thought
 he could answer without prejudice to himself, he informed your Committee that on his re-
 turn from Chittagong to Calcutta, on the 29th of May 1765, finding there was a necessity
 for his giving up his chiefship, and residing at Calcutta, he made some purchases of salt of
 the produce of some former years from several European gentlemen, and some few Arme-
 nian and black merchants : That at the time he was making these purchases on his own ac-
 count,

count, Lord Clive mentioned to him a desire of forming some provision for the gentleman he had brought out with him, and asked the witness's opinion in what manner it could be done; that he told his Lordship he knew of no advantage but what resulted from trade; that he mentioned the purchases he had made, adding he could extend them, if his Lordship thought proper; that the purchases were accordingly extended with his Lordship's assent, Mr. Sumner and Mr. Sykes taking a part of the concern; that this partnership was formed about the beginning of June following, in the names of Lord Clive, Messieurs Sumner, Sykes, and Verelst, each one quarter part; and all the purchases on account of the partnership were made in the month of June; and that Lord Clive advanced his proportion, but was not concerned on his own account; that the witness always considered the concern to be merely on the account of the three gentlemen his Lordship brought out with him; that the witness chose it should stand in his Lordship's name, preferring to have the accounts in the name of one person, rather than three or four; and being asked, Whether those gentlemen received the advantage of it? he said, He himself saw the advantages divided amongst them; that he believes salt purchased before the establishment of the Society of Trade, was not liable to any duty, except the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. to the country government, and that it paid none to the Company: That he has no doubt but the Nabob received his duties on the whole of the said partnership salt; that the greatest quantity was purchased of Messrs. Marriott, Gallopine, Governor Spencer, Messrs. Playdell, the Attornies of Mr. Hastings, Mr. John Johnstone and Mr. Amyatt; that the largest quantity was purchased of Mr. Johnstone. Being asked, With whom Mr. Johnstone made the bargain for the salt he sold on this occasion? he said, That Mr. Johnstone sold it to the witness's Banyan, who offered the witness, Mr. Verelst, as a security for the payment of the money; that he supposed Mr. Johnstone was perfectly satisfied with his bargain, for he gave a receipt in full for principal and interest, and that he never complained of having been oppressed in any degree upon that occasion; that he believes Mr. Johnstone's salt balances at Burdwan were settled entirely to his satisfaction; that Mr. Johnstone, and all other persons concerned in the salt trade, were at liberty to sell their salt to whom they pleased; that there never was any restraint, nor did he ever hear the least murmur about any; that notwithstanding the institution of the Society of Trade, every individual was allowed to dispose of the salt on hand to whom he pleased; that the Society had no power to prevent it, nor did they ever attempt it; that if those persons who sold their salt at that time had kept it longer, the profits to them would have been the same as they were to the partnership. Being asked, Whether any orders of the Court of Directors were in force at the time of forming the above partnership, forbidding their servants to trade in salt? he said, That, to the best of his remembrance, there were, but that he considered them as made with a view to the future, and not extending to the salt already made. And being asked, Whether it was known at the time, to the different partners, that the monopoly in the salt trade, which was afterwards established, would be formed? he answered, That he believed not, for he was far from considering it as a thing determined: And being further asked, If they had had any conversation on the subject, or if the matter had been in contemplation? he said, He could not recollect; that there might have been some cursory remarks made relative to that subject, but it never biased him in the purchases he made. And being asked, Whether he thought the partnership was a breach of the orders of the 8th of February and the 1st of June 1764, which were read to him? he said, That he did not, because he considered the orders of the Company to allude only to new engagements for salt to be made, and not to affect the property of individuals, in respect to any salt they might have on their hands; that he did not consider the servants to be prohibited from extending their purchases to any amount for salt already manufactured. And being further asked, Whether he knew of any orders of the Company which made a distinction between salt already manufactured, or to be afterwards manufactured? he answered, No. Being asked, whether Mr. Tom Lewis was one of the agents for the partnership? he said, No; that he transacted some business for Mr. Sykes in the salt concerns, and that he (Mr. Verelst) acknowledged the book published in his name, in the year 1772, to be his writing, and that it contains a full account of the affairs relating to Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Sumner being examined upon the subject of the abovementioned partnership, informed your Committee, that, some time in the month of June 1765, Mr. Verelst mentioned to him his having made some purchases of old salt upon his own account, and at the same time proposed his taking a share therein, together with Lord Clive and Mr. Sykes, which the witness agreed to; that each of them had a quarter part, and that Mr. Verelst undertook the management of the concern, and the keeping of the accounts; that the witness sold his quarter to Mr. Verelst, about the middle of September, for a certain profit; that he had at this time advanced his whole share of the money required for the purchase, amounting to 12,500l.—that the amount of the agreement was to be paid him on the 12th of April—that the net amount of the profits, deducting for deficiencies in contract and calculating interest of money, at the rate of 10 per Cent. (which is the common interest of the country) from the time he advanced it, amounted to 4,435l. which is precisely 36 per Cent. net profit, upon the 12,500l. for nine months; that Mr. Verelst having had the charge of the

the concern and keeping the accounts, and the witness having sold his share to him, he can give no particular account as to the precise quantity purchased, or the ultimate disposition thereof; but that he judged the quantity of salt purchased was about 460,000 maunds.—Being asked, What proportion he thought this bore to the ready made salt in the country? he said, He could only judge from the quantity produced the two following years, which, to the best of his recollection, was 2,800,000 maunds per annum, on an average.—Being asked, Whether a profit of 36 per Cent. in the space of nine months (after deducting ten per Cent. on the money advanced) was an unusual or extraordinary profit upon that trade in the hands of an European? he said, That upon any other article he should have considered it as an high profit, but upon the article of salt by no means so: And being asked, Whether this concern in salt was more advantageous than the concern held under the Society of Trade? he said, The ultimate conclusion of the Society's concern he was ignorant of; but with respect to the share he held himself, he sold his share in the first year's trade of the Society, after holding it about 14 months, for a profit of 54½ per Cent. exclusive of interest upon a capital of 20,000l. That his second year's concern sold for a profit of 41l. per Cent. also, exclusive of interest upon a capital of 14,500l. The first year's concern was sold the 28th of October 1766, to Hufra Maul and Co. black merchants, they running all risks of loss and bad debts; and the second concern was sold to Mr. Chevalier, the 8th of November 1766, two months after the establishment of the second year, he likewise running all risks. And being further asked, Whether the Proprietors, upon advancing their respective shares, received interest upon their monies, besides their profits in the trade? he answered, Yes. Being asked, Whether in his apprehension the partnership was contrary to the Company's orders? he said, He did not consider it so; if he had, he should not have entered into it; that he considered the Company's orders of the 8th February and 1st June 1764, as confined to new contracts and engagements, and no way relating to the old salt then upon hand, which every person was at liberty to dispose of as he thought proper. And being asked, Whether, at the time of the commencement of the partnership, it was determined to lay a duty of 35 per Cent. on future salt; and whether any other circumstance, that must necessarily raise the price of salt, was in contemplation at that time? he said, That no certain duty was at that time determined, nor was it determined whether the Nabob or Company were to share in the salt trade as proprietors, or to receive a certain fixed duty—that the Company had committed the regulations to the Select Committee, in a letter, under date the 1st June 1764, which letter arrived in Bengal on the 24th January 1765, and lay open to the whole settlement—that from that letter it appeared that the Company expected to be considered in the advantages of the salt trade, and that the Nabob was to be fully satisfied on his part—that every body must have known that these two objects could not have been accomplished but by an advance of duty, which must be considerably more than the then established rate of duty, and consequently that the price of salt must considerably rise in Calcutta. Being asked, Whether he imagined the partnership salt was disposed of and consumed, before the salt of the Society could come into circulation? he said, He apprehended it might have been disposed of, but could not say whether it was or not: And being asked, Whether Lord Clive entered into this concern on his own account, or on account of the three gentlemen mentioned by Mr. Verelst? he said, That Lord Clive's name stood in the partnership; but that the witness always understood it was upon the account of those three gentlemen, and that the profits were to be divided amongst them.

Your Committee then examined Francis Sykes, Esquire, a Member of the House; who being asked, Whether he remembered any partnership between himself, Lord Clive, Mr. Sumner, and Mr. Verelst? said, That a quantity of salt was purchased by them, the time he could not recollect, but he believed it might be about two months after their arrival; that the said salt was bought of many black people, and many English gentlemen; Mr. John Johnstone, Mr. Hastings's Attornies, and others; that they bought it on their own private accounts, and that it was salt manufactured the year before their arrival. Being asked, Why they dealt themselves in salt, before they had proceeded to regulate the trade? he said, He did not know that they did, previous to their entering on the subject, or to the intencion being publicly known; that this partnership salt was not sold to the Society, but to the country people; that the gentlemen concerned were drawn upon for money agreeably to their shares; that the witness's proportion was about a lack of rupees; that the advantages of the said partnership, to those who continued their concern, reckoning loss or interest and balances, might be 30 per Cent. he said, That he did not recollect who made the proposal to Lord Clive relating to this partnership, but that his Lordship was not concerned in it from the beginning; that it was begun by Mr. Verelst; that the witness afterwards accepted a concern; and that some time after Lord Clive and Mr. Sumner did the same. And being asked, Whether Lord Clive entered into this partnership upon his own account, or for the benefit of other persons? he said, He remembered very well that at the time Lord Clive took the concern, he declared he would not benefit himself six-pence by it; that he intended the profits which might arise from it for Mr. Strachey, Mr. Maskelyne, and Mr. Ingham the surgeon, the three gentlemen who had accompanied him to India.

And your Committee observing, that the first orders of the select Committee at Bengal for the recall of the free merchants, as stated in their former report, happened about three weeks before the time when the partnership was formed; they examined Francis Sykes, Esquire, to that point, who being asked, What orders of the government and council, for recalling free merchants residing up the country, were alluded to in the minute of the select Committee of the 11th May 1765 (which minute was read) and is in the Appendix of the former report of your Committee, No. 84? he said, he did not recollect, but did imagine there were grounds for orders of that kind. And being further asked, if there were any complaints from free merchants, made to the select Committee? he said, there was a general complaint of the misconduct of free merchants residing in the interior part of the country, with respect to the country government; but at this distance of time he could not point out any one. And being asked, whether he thought a month a sufficient time for any man up the country to adjust his affairs for his departure? he answered, No — but he understood a much longer time was allowed to the free merchants; that the time limited first by the select Committee, for the recall of the free merchants, extended to all of them, except upon representation of their particular situation, that their affairs could not be settled within the time specified; in which cases, upon their representations, some deviations were permitted.

And your Committee thinking this a proper occasion to lay before the house the other circumstances alluded to in their former report, relative to the recall of free merchants, they have inserted in their Appendix, No. 4 to 31, several extracts from the Company's records, beginning the 22d February 1763, which is the earliest period your Committee have thought it necessary to refer to, in order to shew the different representations that were made, and the different regulations and orders that ensued, upon this subject, and likewise the remission of such orders and regulations in particular instances.

And your Committee find, that the letter of the 8th of February 1764, referred to in a former part of this report, arrived in Bengal the 13th of July 1764; that consultations were had on the said letter, on the 21st of the said month; and further, that the Governor and Council, on the 17th of October following, in consequence of the orders contained in the said letter, and likewise in consequence of representations from the Nabob, resolved, that the inland trade should in general be prohibited, with such exceptions, and qualifications as will appear in an extract from the consultations in the secret department of that date, and annexed in the Appendix, No. 32.

And your Committee find, that the general letter from the court of Directors, of the 1st of June 1764, arrived in Bengal on the 24th of January 1765; and that on the 25th the Governor and Council agreed to defer proceeding upon the orders therein contained, relating to the inland trade, as Lord Clive and the other gentlemen might be soon expected to arrive.

And it appears to your Committee, that on the 10th of August 1765, Mr. Sumner and Mr. Verelst, constituting a select Committee, took into consideration the subject of the inland trade, in the articles of salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, and resolved on a plan for conducting the same; and for the full information of the house upon that plan, your Committee have inserted in their appendix the necessary extracts from the proceedings of the select Committee of that date, No. 33.

And your Committee find, by an extract from the consultation hereunto annexed, No. 34. that, on the 12th of August, Mr. Sumner, the presiding member, laid before the Council the above mentioned plan, as a ground work for carrying on the trade in future: That a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Sumner, Verelst, Leycester, and Gray, were then appointed for conducting the said plan; and that the chiefs of the several subordinate factories were ordered to pay due regard to such instructions as they might receive from time to time from the said Committee; and extracts of the circular letter sent to the subordinate factories are inserted in the Appendix, No. 35.

And your Committee further find, from the consultation of the 18th of September 1765, that a letter from the Committee of trade, dated the 11th of September, was laid before the Council; requesting that a deed might be granted from Lord Clive and the Council to the said Committee of trade, for securing to the Society the free and sole purchase of the articles of salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, from the 1st of September 1765, to the 31st of August 1766; and it appears to your Committee, that such a deed was afterwards executed, the particular evidence respecting which is inserted in the subsequent part of this report.

And your Committee find, that on the 18th of September 1765, the select Committee resumed the consideration of the plan for carrying on the inland trade, which they completed on that day; that the said proceedings were laid before the Council, on the 25th of September, and transmitted to the Committee of trade, with instructions to proceed agreeably thereto; and a copy of the proceedings of the select Committee of the 18th of September, together with an abstract from the consultation of the 25th of September, are inserted in the Appendix, No. 36 and 37.

And it appears, that the select Committee, in the 32d and 33d paragraphs of their letter of the 30th of September, 1765, and Lord Clive, in the 17th and 18th paragraphs of his letter the same date (copies of which letters are in the Appendix of your Committee's former report)

gave to the Company a general information of their proceedings relative to this plan, and their reasons for instituting the same.

And your Committee find, that in consequence of an application from the Committee of trade, copy of which is annexed, No. 38, the select Committee, on the 29th of October 1765, consented to the appointment of European Agents to conduct the business of the Society in different parts of the country; and copies of their proceedings of that date, and their letter to the Committee of trade, of the 1st of November, are annexed, No. 39 and 40.

And it appears, by a letter from the Committee of trade to the select Committee, dated the 1st of November 1765, copy whereof is annexed, No. 41, that 9 persons were then appointed Agents to the Society; and that on the 5th of November, the select Committee, in their answer to the Committee of trade, copy whereof is annexed, No. 42, made several restrictions respecting the said Agents.

And it appears, by a letter from the Committee of trade to the select Committee, dated the 8th of January 1766, that they proposed the Agents of the Society should be permitted, notwithstanding the original regulations before referred to in the Appendix, under which they were employed to dispose of the salt then on hand belonging to private traders; to which the select Committee on the 9th of January consented; and copies of the said letter of the proceedings of the select Committee thereupon, and their answer thereto, are annexed, No. 43, 44, and 45.—And it appears, by the letter of the select Committee of the 31st of January 1766, paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11—copy of which letter is annexed No. 46—that they informed the court of Directors of the deviation they had made from their general order for recalling free merchants.

And your Committee have annexed in the Appendix, No. 47, 48, 49 and 50, extracts of such letters from the court of Directors, upon the subject of the inland trade, as were received in Bengal after the general letter of the 1st of June 1764, and before the establishment of the second plan for conducting the salt trade; which was proposed by Lord Clive to the select Committee on the 3d of September 1766.

Your Committee do not find any further remarkable transactions respecting this trade, which are not already before the house, till the 15th of August 1766, when certain merchants were brought before the select Committee, and required to refund the surplus profit upon their sales, being 41,535 rupees, as an excess of the price they took beyond what the select Committee thought they had a right to take; copies of the proceedings of the select Committee of that date are annexed in the Appendix, No. 51.

And the plan which was proposed by Lord Clive, for carrying on the salt society a second year, notwithstanding the orders from the court of Directors of the 19th of February 1766, together with his Lordship's reasons for such proposal, are entered in the select Committee proceedings of the 3d September 1766, and copy thereof is annexed in the Appendix, No. 52.

And it appears by the consultations of the 8th of September, extract of which is annexed in Appendix, No. 53, that the abovementioned proceedings were laid before the Council, the new regulations approved, and a Committee of trade were appointed to carry the plan of the salt trade into execution.

And your Committee find, that Lord Clive, in the 1st and 2d paragraphs of his letter to the court of Directors, dated 6th September 1766, and the select Committee, in the 25th paragraph of their letter of the 8th of the same month, and also in the 4th and 5th paragraphs of the letter of the 5th of December 1766; copies of which are annexed, No. 54, 55 and 56, communicated to the court of Directors the alterations which they had made in the plan for carrying on the salt trade, together with their arguments on the subject.

And your Committee find, that the Court of Directors, by their letter to the Select Committee, dated 17th of May 1766, paragraphs 4 and 31 to 39 inclusive, in answer to the Bengal dispatch of 30th of September 1765, and which arrived at Bengal the 8th of December 1766, disapproved of the plan which had been transmitted in the said letter of the 30th of September 1765, for trading in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, and accordingly confirmed their former orders for its intire abolition; declaring their opinion, that all who had been concerned in this trade were guilty of a breach of covenants; and in their letter to Lord Clive of the same date, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 11, they repeat the like prohibition.—And your Committee have added to their appendix, No. 57, extract of a letter from Lord Clive to the Select Committee at Bengal, dated the 16th January 1767, relative to the abolition of the salt trade—and it appears, that on the same day the Select Committee resolved, that the Society of Trade should be abolished and the inland trade totally relinquished on the 1st day of September following; and it further appears, that in their letter to the Court of Directors, dated the 24th of January 1767, extract of which is in the appendix, No. 58, sent by the Britannia, in which ship Lord Clive embarked for Europe, they informed them of the abovementioned resolution.

And it further appears, that on the 15th of February 1767, the Select Committee laid before the council their resolution for abolishing the Society of Trade, and that the council then ordered publication to be made of the same.

But your Committee think proper to state, that the Society was not in fact dissolved till the 14th of September 1768, as will appear by the evidence of Doctor Semple in the subsequent part of this report, and likewise by a public advertisement, proved to have been compared with the original by Mr. Whittall.

Your Committee also find, that Lord Clive, after his arrival in England, in a letter, dated the 28th of August 1767, used many arguments with the Court of Directors to induce them to continue the benefit of the salt trade to their servants, as will more fully appear by the letter in the appendix, No. 59.

And your Committee further find, That Lord Clive, in another letter, dated Bath, the 14th November 1767, in the appendix, No. 60, remonstrated with the Court of Directors against the opening of the salt trade, and taking only a duty of 10 rupees per hundred maunds: And your Committee find, that the Court of Directors, in their general letter to Bengal, dated the 20th November, 1767, paragraphs 88 to 118, copies whereof are hereunto annexed, No. 61, ordered, that the duty on salt should be so fixed as to produce a revenue of 100,000l. at least, and not to exceed 120,000. and in consideration of having confined the trade of their servants to articles of import and export, they ordered a commission of 2½ per cent. of the nett territorial revenues to be distributed amongst their principal servants, in the proportions therein named.

And your Committee find, That after all the abovementioned prohibitions of the inland trade, in salt, beetle-nut and tobacco, the Court of directors, on the 15th September 1769, as appears by the 27th paragraph of the instructions to the supervisors, copy of which is hereunto annexed, No. 62. laid open the said trade to all persons, as well Europeans as natives: but your Committee do not find, when the said Court of directors laid the inland trade open to such of their servants as were not prohibited from trading by the general subsisting regulations, that they gave any directions for withholding the proportion of the 2½ per cent. on the territorial revenues allowed to such servants, notwithstanding it has been originally given to them in consideration of their being confined to imports and exports.

In order to elucidate these transactions, your Committee examined several witnesses; and that they might not break the periodical succession of facts as contained in the Company's records recited above, they have reserved the evidence to lay before the House together: And first,

Mr. Sumner was called upon to state to your Committee the grounds upon which the Society of Trade was established; and it appearing by Mr. Sumner's answer, that he had very maturely considered this subject, and that he had thought proper to enter into a full detail thereupon, Your Committee think it advisable to give his evidence verbatim, so far as it relates to that question.

The subject on which I am now to reply, of all others, opens the widest field for misrepresentation, because it was the least understood by the Court of Directors, and has proved the severest check to the interested views of individuals: the joint trade in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco having been held forth to the world in the odious light of an oppressive monopoly, it has wrought upon the feelings of a generous people as a most intolerable grievance; supported however by a consciousness that the Select Committee at Bengal perfectly understood, and closely pursued, the public good, when they instituted the society; I shall without fear of reproach, as one of the members of that Committee, enter into an explanation of the motives which governed their conduct: It will be necessary to recall your ideas to the state of the inland trade in former times; the article of salt in particular, prior to 1756, was farmed at from 25 to 35000 per annum; the revolution in 1756 extended the views of the Company's servants to advantages beyond what they had hitherto derived from a trade confined to imports and exports, and from that period they began to participate in the benefit of an inland commerce, and some even in those early days of our influence, entertained hopes of a right, founded upon our Phirmaunds, to an exemption of duties upon salt: It was not, however, till after Meer Cossim's accession in 1760, that such right was publicly avowed; then it was that the Company acquired possession of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, on which, and the Company's Calcutta Lands, near two thirds of the whole quantities of salt for the consumption of Bengal is manufactured: by possessing these countries the English considered themselves now the proprietors, and became the principal original dealers in that article; some were content with the profit arising from salt in Calcutta, whilst others launched out farther to seek the profits through the country: the magnitude of this branch of trade, and the manner in which it was now carried on, became the subject of contest and dispute between Meer Cossim, and our government, the particulars of which having been laid before this Committee, not to trespass on their time, I beg leave to refer to.

On Meer Jaffier's re-instatement to the government, in 1763, our influence with respect to the manufacture of salt, by the possession of these countries, continued in full force; and our uncontested right to trade in salt, on paying 2½ per cent. duty, was first established, the natives being still subject to a duty of 7 per cent.: how far this distinction was proper, I can't pretend to determine; but certain it is, that the proprietors of the India Stock, as well as the Directors, considered it as a grant too partial in itself, and which they apprehend might involve us in fresh disputes with the country government. Lord Clive being appointed

pointed in 1764 to take the charge of the Company's affairs in Bengal, the inland trade was then considered, by, I believe, almost every proprietor, as one of the great sources of contention with the country government; it therefore became the subject of serious debate at repeated general courts; by some it was recommended to restrain the servants, as formerly, to the usual articles of import and export; others foresaw the difficulties of inducing men, under the circumstances of power and influence, quietly to relinquish advantages they had long enjoyed, unless some adequate equivalent was proposed; various persons produced the following motion: "That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to give instruction to the presidency of Bengal, to settle such regulations in carrying on the trade in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, as shall prove most advantageous to this Company, without prejudicing the just rights of the Nabob of the provinces; and that such regulations be transmitted home to the Court of Directors by the first opportunity, with every information which can enable them to determine on so important a subject."

This motion implies a total suspension of at least two years of any regulations; the forming a plan in Bengal, which should be transmitted to England for the approbation of the Court of Directors before it was adopted, would have left this important branch of trade open so long, and it was evident such delay would necessarily hazard further disputes with the country government, which it was the earnest desire of the Court wholly to remove. The motion was opposed, from a full conviction of the bad tendency of delaying the proposed regulations, in which I joined with many intelligent proprietors; it was in consequence withdrawn, and the general court came to the following resolution; viz.

"That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to reconsider the orders sent to Bengal relative to the trade of the Company's servants in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco; and that they do give such directions for regulating the same, agreeably to the interest of the Company and the Subah, as to them may appear most prudent, either by settling here at home the restrictions under which this trade ought to be carried on, or by referring it to the Governor and Council of Fort William, to regulate this important point in such a manner as may prevent all future disputes between the Subah and the Company.

If actions and words convey any meaning, certainly the withdrawing the first motion, because of the delay and suspension of necessary regulations, which it implied, and substituting in the room of that motion this new resolution, clearly explains the meaning of the Court to be, that some regulations should immediately be established, either at home or abroad; the Directors expressly declare their inability to form a plan, destitute as they are of the necessary lights and informations; yet as they now chuse to join in the general clamour, and throw an odium on their servants, they have been pleased to construe their own orders into a meaning directly opposite to the beforementioned resolution of the General Court, and to stile this an unauthorized trade. The servants, never once imagining that the Court of Directors had assumed to themselves an authority superior to that of their constituents, adopted the sentiments of the General Court of proprietors, at which court they themselves most of them were present; they believed the orders of the Court of Directors, although loosely expressed, were intended to convey the spirit of the above resolution. Among many injurious reflections which have been thrown out, it has been said, that self-interest influenced the conduct of the Select Committee in this institution; and that the whole was calculated to bring advantages to themselves. In answer to this, I beg leave to observe that every member of the Select Committee, under the advantages they consequently possessed from their rank and situation in the service, from their local knowledge and extent of credit, must have derived to themselves much greater benefit from an open, free and unrestrained trade subject to a duty even of 35 per cent. each carrying it on on his own account, than they could possibly expect from the share assigned to each in this joint trade, subject to the same duty, and where the profits were limited. So far as concerns myself in point of interest, I solemnly declare I would rather have preferred the former to the latter.

With respect to the plan adopted for the first year, for carrying on this joint trade, the same was formed upon the best knowledge we could then obtain of the quantities of salt consumed in the country, and the medium prices of salt at the different markets. We actually searched back for near 20 years, and the prices in consequence of this research were paid at the several markets, at which the society transported salt, from 12 to 15 per cent. lower than the medium prices of the said term; from these markets it was dispersed through the country by the natives: Our contracts for the purchases were likewise left open to the natives, and others indiscriminately; so that it may be here observed, we sought not the ultimate profits either in the purchase or the sale. The plan was thus calculated to bring salt at a more reasonable price to the hands of the consumer; to encrease the revenues to the Company £. 120,000 per annum; and to hold out such rewards of fidelity to their servants, as might engage them, by ties of interest and gratitude, to a cordial discharge of their duty; but experience having pointed out, in the course of a year, some defects in this first plan, further regulations were imposed in that adopted for the second year. The duties to the Company were augmented from 35 to 50 per cent. or from 120 to £. 160,000 per annum: The profits to the servants were diminished; it was ordered that all salt should be sold in Calcutta at 2 rupees per maund to the native merchants, into whose hands, and under whose management, it was then intirely thrown, with such limitation of profits at the different markets,

as yielded a sufficient encouragement to the merchant, and at the same time brought salt to the hands of the consumer at a more moderate price than had been known in the preceding years. Such were the plans which are now stigmatized with the odious appellation of a monopoly: These are the plans precipitately abolished by the court of directors, notwithstanding, to this hour, they have not substituted any thing in their room, which deserves the name of regulations. I must here observe, that many circumstances concurred to render this plan the most eligible that could then be adopted. The Company at this period having just come into the possession of the dewannee, the Nabob's interest, with respect to the duties, was of course no longer a consideration; but it became an object with the select Committee, how to enable the Company to derive to themselves, through the channel of their Commerce, all possible benefit from their new acquisitions: This could not be effected but by an increased investment in the manufactures of Bengal; to secure this increase, it became necessary to restrain the servants from proceeding so largely as they had been accustomed to on private account; goods of the same assortment with the Company's raw silk was earnestly sought for by the court of directors, and the servants were particularly restrained in that article, from which they had always derived the greatest profits. Moreover, the whole body of proprietors having thought proper at this time to bind down by covenant their servants from the receipt of presents, and the salaries allowed by the Company to their council being inadequate even to the charge of a house rent, no prospects of returning to their native country remained to the servants, except from the advantages of an inland trade. These are the reasons which induced the select Committee to lose no time in forming a plan to carry on this important inland trade. What were the reasons which operated with the court of directors to abolish and suffer the trade to relapse into its former anarchy, they alone can best explain; they have abolished a plan for the inland trade, from which the Company gained first £. 120, and next £. 160,000 per annum; from which their servants derived an honourable reward of their fidelity, with a reasonable prospect of independency at the close of their servitude; from which the native merchants received their full share of the advantage; and from which the consumer received his salt at a more moderate rate than he had done for many years preceding; a plan equally advantageous to the Company, to the country, and to the servants; and which, in my opinion, they will soon be obliged to adopt again, or one similar to it.

And the witness being asked, whether he thought the quantity of salt made in Bengal, was equal to the consumption? he said, There were different opinions upon that subject, but in his own opinion, more than the consumption was made; and that this opinion was formed from observing the difficulty the society found in disposing of their salt; and that speaking at random, he should imagine two millions of maunds would be sufficient for the consumption, and in favourable times 2,800,000 maunds were made: That salt was also imported into Bengal from the coast of Coromandel, and from Persia; the quantities in general but small, and that from Persia principally used medicinally: That the regulations did not extend to the salt imported; and that no salt is exported. And being asked, whether the Committee of trade, or governor and council, lent the money of the society of trade to the treasury in Bengal, and received the interest, and that interest being made principal was lent again, and so on from two months to two months? he said, That no such transaction ever passed to his knowledge: That on a report of that kind prevailing some weeks ago, he had made it his business to search the Company's records upon that subject; and that he found on the consultation of the 28th of January 1771, mention made that 16,000 rupees, principal money, was lent by the society to the Company, on the usual terms of 8 per cent. per annum interest: That it appeared by the same consultation, that this same sum had been paid into the treasury so far back as the 23d of November; and that the bonds granted for the same were to bear interest from the time the money was paid into the treasury, though they were not executed till two months after the payment, according to the usual custom of the service; and that he since understood that it was upon this circumstance, misapprehending that two months interest had been paid, that such report took its rise.

And being asked, if the governor and council ever pay interest for their bonds, except yearly? he said, Never, when they pay the bonds off in ready money; but that it has been a custom for many years past, on the dispatch of the ships to Europe, that bonds are received with the interest made up thereon, without any regard to their dates, and cancelled for bills of exchange on Europe.

And the witness being questioned as to the prices of salt at Calcutta in the year 1761, and at other times previous to the establishment of the society; he informed your Committee, that in November 1761 he sold 55,000 maunds at 155, in December 35,000 at 165:—Those sales, and the subsequent ones, were at a time when no duties were payable in Calcutta; but that the merchants who bought of him were subject to the duties of the country government; and all the taxes, stoppages, and vexations in the course of the boats up the country; that he sold the following parcels as marked:

December 1767	Maunds.	2,000	at	167	For himself only.
		3,444	at	160	October 17
		12,363	at	167	October 22
		1,551	at	162	December
January 1762	—	2,710	at	167	3,085

And the witness being asked, If he knew of any books of accounts being kept by the Society, of the trade in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco? he said, That one set of books, comprehending the accounts of the Society from the 1st of September 1765 to 31st of August 1766, was opened on the 1st of September 1765, under the denomination of Society of Trade, letter (A.) Another set of the same sort were opened in the following year.

And being asked, At what time the tax of 35 per Cent. was payable, and by whom? he said, In the first year the duties were payable by the Committee of Trade, as guarantees for the proprietors; but no time was stipulated for the payment in the deed of incorporation: That the duties upon salt were computed at 90 rupees the 100 maunds; upon beetle nut, at the price at which the Society purchased; and that the Society never bought any tobacco.

Your Committee also examined William Bolts, Esq; respecting the price of salt before and after the establishment of the Salt Society; and he informed your Committee, That at a public sale, in the Mayor's Court or Townhouse of Calcutta, on the 2d or 3d of April 1764, 178,991 maunds were sold in small lots, 1,200 at 101, the rest from 97 to 60 rupees per 100 maunds, and that the salt was at Salkey, opposite the town of Calcutta; on the 22d of November 1764, 20,000 maunds were delivered at Nulloo, about a day's journey from Calcutta, to Mr. Thomas Rumbold at 85; from October 1764, to March 1765, another quantity, of 15,725 maunds, were at the same place delivered to Mr. Walter Wilkins, at the same price; upon an agreement made in December 1764, 30,000 maunds were delivered by him in Calcutta, in April 1765, to Mr. Russell Skinner, and Mr. Thomas Hewett, and others, at 80 rupees.—On the 29th of June 1765, his agent, Mr. Peter Gallopine, as administrator to Mr. William Hay, deceased, sold Harry Verelst 25,195 maunds, at 95 rupees. In August, 1765, and July, salt sold from 112 to 116—September and October, to 141—November, 150—August, 1766, 230—October, 280.—These were the current prices of salt at that time.—At Calcutta and at Dacca, the prices were according to the following original account of sale:

On the 13th September and 18th November 1765	—	170
January 1766	—	175
15th February	—	190
September 1768	—	305

And it was at the same price at that time at Rajahberry, a market two days journey from Dacca, as appears by an attestation under the Kazy's seal, produced by the witness. The prices of salt at Patna were, on the 13th March 1763, at 270 per 100 maund—from 31st January 1766, to 11th July, the witness sold by his agent, Cojamaul, 7,200, at Baboa, Safferam, and Choufa, at 4 rupees 7 annas per maund, or about 444 rupees per 100 maund—from 18th June 1766, to 14 May 1767, salt was sold by his agent, Cojamaul, on the borders of the Patna province, at near 6 rupees per maund, or near from 578 to 600 rupees per hundred maunds, retail, at Choufa and other places within the distance of 5 or 6 days sail from Patna.

The witness further said, That the rupees mentioned above were Benaras Sonauts; the maunds were 80 and 82 Sicca weight.

And being asked, Why salt was at so low a rate at Patna in the year 1763? he said, Because it was very low at Calcutta at that time, which was the time of the troubles.

Being asked, Whether every body at that time was selling their salt and all other commodities for what they could get? he said, He was not under any apprehensions, longer than the first months of the breaking out of the war—All the general alarm was over after the battle of Garcea, which happened on the 2d of August 1763.

Being asked, What were the distances of Choufa and Safferam from Patna? he answered, Two days; by water, four, or six, according to weather and current.

And the witness being desired to inform the Committee, at what prices he had sold salt at preceding periods; and having consulted his books for that purpose, by desire of the Committee, he transmitted an account, as follows: "In answer to the question which was put to me, relative to the duties and price of salt in Bengal and its dependant provinces, at periods previous and subsequent to the establishment of the Exclusive Society at Calcutta in the year 1765; upon a careful examination of authentic papers in my possession, I find, that at Patna,

" In May 1762, Mr. Henry Lushington sold 2000 maunds, at 3. 5. 0. per maund, or at 331 rupees per 100 maunds.

" In May 1763, Mr. John Harris sold 1200 maunds, at 2. 11. 0. per maund, or 268 rupees per 100 maunds.

" At Murshedabad,

" In February 1763, Mr. P. Harney sold 2,400 maunds, at 188 rupees per 100 maunds.

" In

- “ In April 1765, Mr. Ascenius William Senior sold 1600 maunds, at 150 rupees per
 “ 100 maunds.
- “ At Calcutta,
 “ In the year 1761—From my transactions with Mr. John Wollaston, Sooberam-
 “ bysaak, and others, I find the medium price of salt for the whole
 “ year, sold and delivered at Calcutta, the ground duties being
 “ paid, was 170 rupees per 100 maunds.
- “ In the year 1762, It was from 170 to 160 ditto, the ground duties being also paid
 “ by the seller or importer.
- “ In January 1763—Upon the same conditions I sold to a black merchant, name
 “ Chaund Haldar, 10,000 maunds, at the then market price of
 “ 159 rupees per 100 maunds.
- “ I have already given evidence of what the prices of salt were in the years 1764, 1765,
 “ 1766, 1767, and 1768.
- “ In the year 1769, I find, that Messieurs Archibald Keir and Comp. sold to Mr.
 “ William Young, delivered at Calcutta, the duties being paid,
 “ 10,000 maunds of salt, at 126 rupees per 100 maunds.
 “ And to Kebolramghofe, upon the same terms, maunds 1800, at
 “ 130 rupees per 100 maunds.
 “ And too Sook deb Mulliek 59,393 maunds, deliverable at Culna,
 “ the ground duties being paid, at 140 rupees per 100 maunds.
- “ The Khallery or ground duty upon the making of salt, all over Bengal and Orixia, was
 “ always extremely inconsiderable, before the establishment of the regulations made by the
 “ various Committees of the English Council at Calcutta, from the year 1762 to the pre-
 “ sent time; insomuch that a salt merchant making his salt at first hand, in a great part of
 “ the salt countries, could have made, transported, and landed his salt in Calcutta, within
 “ the expence of 25 rupees per hundred maunds.
- “ In the years 1762 and 1763, I was myself concerned in a large parcel of salt, which be-
 “ ing imported from the provinces of Jellalore and Midnapore, and landed on the shore op-
 “ posite to Calcutta, ground duty and all charges included, stood the concerned at the rate of
 “ fifty-five rupees per hundred maunds; upon the exportation of salt from Calcutta on our
 “ own accounts, I and my partners always paid the Rowanah duties established with the
 “ country government; and upon the stoppage of some of our boats for the new duties, af-
 “ ter Governor Vansittart had settled the Mongheer treaty with the Nabob Cossim Ally
 “ Cawn, we actually paid the duty of 9 per 100, established by that treaty during the con-
 “ test upon that subject, to avoid any appearance of a dispute upon the value of the duty.
- “ The medium of the charges of transporting the abovementioned salt from the provinces
 “ of Jellalore and Midnapore to Calcutta was about 7 3-16ths rupees per hundred maunds.
- “ The Committee of lands at Calcutta, during Mr. Vansittart's government, about the
 “ year 1762, established a ground duty, which continued to 1764, upon all salt made in the
 “ Company's twenty-four Pergunnahs, of thirty Sicca rupees per Khallery, or set of salt
 “ pans, which were estimated to produce in one season from 250 to 300 maunds each Khal-
 “ lery; that duty was established as an improvement of the Company's revenue, which it
 “ certainly was, but it was at that time looked upon as a great encroachment on the laws of
 “ the country; upon the establishment of the Exclusive Society, by the Right Honourable
 “ Lord Clive and the Select Committee at Calcutta, in 1765, the above Khallery duty was
 “ by their regulations abolished, though afterwards said to be continued, and salt through-
 “ out the country was subjected by that Committee to a duty of 35 per Cent. valuing the salt
 “ at 90 Arcot rupees per hundred maunds; and in the year 1766 they fixed this duty at 50
 “ per Cent.—By a paper in my possession, which is a copy transmitted to me from Bengal,
 “ of an order published in the Bengal language, by the Governor and Council of Calcutta,
 “ dated the first of April 1769, it appears the whole and sole duty on salt was fixed at thirty
 “ rupees per hundred maunds, payable upon the dispatch of the salt from the pans.
- “ Before the establishment of the before-mentioned exclusive society, Calcutta had so far
 “ become a general repository and mart for salt, that it was from thence transported to every
 “ part of the country, even to Luckypore and other places, much nearer to the salt grounds
 “ than Calcutta; so that the prices which salt could have been afforded to be sold for at all
 “ the inland places, upon a free inland trade, may be very nearly and fairly computed by
 “ calculating the risk and charges to the respective markets, and adding them, with an equit-
 “ able profit, to the Calcutta price.”

And Mr. Bolts being desired to give an account of any boats belonging to him being stop-
 ped; he informed your Committee, that in the month of October 1766, 24 boats of old salt,
 belonging to him were stopped by the Phouzdar at Rajamaul — they had the Company's
 dustuck, and the permit of Hooghly, having paid the 2½ per cent. the Phouzdar told his
 agent, as he informed him, that he did it by Mr. Sykes's orders; he applied to Mr. Sykes,
 but in the mean time the Phouzdar insisted upon having money, and took 100 sicca
 rupees from his agent; the boats were detained, and at a considerable expence to him; that
 Mr. Sykes on his application got them released, and ordered the 100 rupees to be returned;
 he had no allowance for losses sustained by demorage, nor did he ever learn that the Phouzdar

was punished. — The obstructions he met with every where induced him to sell many parcels of salt, at various places, much lower than he should otherwise have done; that he sold 7,582 maunds, to Mr. Sykes, at Salta Gunge, near the Dinagepore province, at 250 rupees per 100 maund, in August 1766; which salt he might have sold at the same place, and at that time, for 300 rupees per 100 maund, if there had not been any obstructions.

And Francis Sykes, Esquire, being desired to relate what he knew of the above transaction, said, he recollects that Mr. Bolts wrote to him relative to the stoppage of some salt boats; that on the receipt of his letter he applied to the ministers at Muxadabad, who enquired into the circumstances; the Phouzdar's answer was, That the Dustuck which Mr. Bolts's people were possessed of had not been produced to the proper officer; but on further enquiry into it, he found that Mr. Bolts's people had the dustuck, and he could not get at the true knowledge why the boats were detained; but he desired the administration would order the Phouzdar to return the money he had taken; which they did accordingly, and the money was returned; and that he recommended to them to punish the officer. — He declared that no officer of the government ever received any orders for the stopping of any boats whatever. — Rajamaul, where the boats were detained, is two days journey from Muxadabad.

And for further information respecting the prices of salt at different periods at Patna, your Committee examined Gregory Cojamaul; who said, that in March 1765 he found by enquiry, the market price was 225 rupees the 100 maund; and he sold some salt, the 14th of June following, to Kissing Chund and others, at 250 rupees; — at Sasseram, the 30th of August 1766, he sold salt at 575 rupees; — those sold at Patna, were for Patna Sonatus, those at Sasseram were Benaras.

And being asked, what was the price of beetle-nut at Patna, at the same time? he said, On the 11th of March 1765 beetle-nut was at four rupees per maund; 28th of January 1767 beetle-nut was bought for him at 10 rupees per maund; on the 13th of October 1767 he bought of Mr. Rumbold's Banyan at 13 rupees per maund.

Your Committee next examined Thomas Rumbold, Esquire, relative to the prices at which the salt, belonging to the Society of trade, sold at Patna during his chieftship; and he informed your Committee, that he was chief of Patna from November 1766 to November 1769, and that a small parcel of salt in 1767 sold at 400 rupees and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ th the hundred maund: That at the end of 1767 the greatest part was contracted for, by some black merchants, at 375 Arcot rupees; — the retail price was four rupees to four rupees 12 annas — or from 450 to 457 rupees per 100 maund; — that of late years the price of salt has varied very much, according to whether there were troubles in the country or not; that he does not know of his own knowledge, but always understood that the medium price in former years was about 350 rupees per 100 maund — that by an account of sales, on the 18th of September 1765, it appeared that part of the salt was sold at 400, and a large part at 312. 6 annas.

The witness being asked, What quantity of salt used to be imported into the province of Bahar, before the establishment of the salt society? — he said, he found, by his own observations at Patna, that the consumption was about 400,000 maunds a year.

And being asked, whether the markets in Bahar were sufficiently supplied? he said, there was so large a quantity sent up by the Society, that when he left Patna, in October 1769, there was a great quantity of the Society's salt remained uncalled for by the contracting merchants — when the Society first sent up their salt, there was a great quantity of private merchants salt then at Patna, which hindered the sale of their salt.

Being asked, whether any salt was imported into Bahar by individuals, after the establishment of the salt Society? he said, the merchants who purchased the Society's salt, the latter end of 1767, had agreed with them, that no salt belonging to individuals should be allowed to be imported into Bahar till September 1768: — That the Society reserved that time to themselves for disposing of their own salt — all the Society's salt sold before the above contracts from 412 to 425; no orders ever came to Patna for fixing the price of salt.

And being asked, whether any applications were made to him to hinder the natives making salt in 1768? he said, The Company's saltpetre works were under his directions as chief of Patna. In the district of Durbangar the Society's agents Mr. Lethieullier, complained to him that the saltpetre manufacturers, instead of making the saltpetre they ought to do for the Company, were employed in making salt, to the great detriment of the sale of the Society's salt; it had always been customary, from the refuse of the petre, to make a small quantity of salt, which salt paid a small duty to the Phouzdar, he also paying a duty to the government. — He acquainted Mr. Lethieullier that he could not put a stop to the making of that salt, as it would interfere with the duties to the government — on this he complained to the Society of trade; in consequence of which he received a letter from the president and Council, dated May 1768, to which, and his answer on the records, he referred.

And being asked, whether he knows of any orders from Mahomed Reza Cawn for stopping the boats going to Patna? — he said, there were orders from the Society of trade to him, and from M. R. Cawn to Shetabroy, that no salt was to be allowed to pass into the province till September 1768; that he has not the letter to ascertain the date, but he has his answer, which is dated the 25th of May 1768; that the nature of the order to Shetabroy was much the same as that to himself; that he, Mr. Rumbold, on the receipt of his letter, desired Shetabroy to regulate that matter himself, and that he never afterwards interfered in it — That applications

applications were made to him for boats that were stopt in consequence of that order; and that he has always referred them to Shetabroy, who had the execution of that business.

And in order to obtain further information, relative to the sales of salt, your Committee examined Doctor William Scoble; who informed your Committee, that he went to Bengal as a free merchant, and was appointed a salt agent the beginning of April 1766 — That his instructions were to take the opinion of the gentlemen of the factory in settling the price, and report it to the Committee for conducting the trade — That he found the gentlemen at a loss and therefore consulted the Black Merchants: The price he recommended was 250 rupees the 100 maunds; at which price, with the approbation of the Committee of trade, he sold upwards of 300,000 maunds — That in the course of the ensuing winter, as he believed a little after Christmas, and the beginning of 1767, he raised the price, being informed that it was customary in a dry season for the salt to rise, and sold 50,000 maunds at 320 rupees in the course of the spring, and 31,000 at 300—1000 at 325; this was before the conclusion of the first year's sale, which finished in August 1767—that the second year's sale he opened at 300 rupees 100 maunds, on the first of September 1767—that the merchants complaining to him, that the price was rather too high, he reported it to the Committee, who authorized him to reduce it; and that he settled it, with the perfect consent of his employers and the purchasers, at 200 rupees, and sold 470,000 maunds, or thereabouts, at that price—that he finished the second year's sale in September 1768—that the Committee signified to him, that the society was to be dissolved, and he therefore notified it by their desire to the public, by a public advertisement.—And being asked, if on the second year's establishment he had any stated price delivered to him at which the salt should be sold, and from whom?—he said, he was instructed by the Committee of trade to open the sale at 300 rupees for 100 maunds, which was the price he had recommended; and that there were no other alterations made in the price of salt than those he had mentioned—and being asked, if all the salt produced in the lower districts of Dacca was sold by him at Rajaberry, or whether part of it was consigned by him to the other agents at different places? he said, that the first year part of it was so consigned; that the second year he sold the whole himself, and to black merchants, agreeable to his orders so to do—and being asked, when he went to Dacca, and whether he had any orders or injunctions from Lord Clive before he went?—he said, he arrived at Dacca in the beginning of May—that when he waited on Lord Clive before he set out, his Lordship told him that the salt trade was settled in the best method they could think of—that there were many arguments for and against that trade, amongst the strongest of which, in his opinion, one was, sending so many Europeans into the country, where they were frequently guilty of many outrages; and that he hoped better things of the witnesses—that the instant he had any well-vouched fact of that sort against any one of the agents, he should be called down:—And being asked, what proportion salt sold at Rajaberry at 250 rupees bears to salt sold in Calcutta at 200, allowing for the difference of risk, and proximity of Rajaberry to the great markets of the country?—he said, At Rajaberry they were liable to great losses, and therefore their price was obliged to be higher;—that the salt coming over the open sea, great losses often happened; whole fleets of the boats being cast away; and he concluded by saying, that there were not any murmurs at the price of 250 rupees.

Your Committee proceeded next to enquire into the nature of the deed, mentioned, in the former part of this report, and also in the report of the Committee of secrecy, to have been solicited by the Committee of trade, on the 16th of September 1765, and into the transactions respecting the same.

And Your Committee examined Mr. Richard Whittall; who being asked, if he knew any thing of a deed to protect the salt trade, and to indemnify the Committee of trade?—he said, he was a sworn attorney of the Mayor's court at Calcutta;—that in October 1765, Mr. Verelst applied to him, and gave him instructions to prepare a deed of indemnity from the president and council of Bengal to the Committee of trade;—that he accordingly drew one up; and which upon being shewn to Mr. Verelst, he having made some alterations, approved of it; that the witness afterwards laid a fair copy of it before the governor and council for their approbation; that by direction of the board he made some further alterations and additions in his own hand, and ingrossed it, and delivered it to Mr. Laurell, the secretary to the Committee of trade;—that about ten days afterwards he waited on Mr. Laurell, who desired him to fill up the penalty, and alter the date, which was the 11th of September, to some subsequent day, to make it consistent with the other deed from the society to the Committee of trade; the date of which had been altered, before execution, from the 12th of August to the 18th of September:—And being asked, If he could speak with certainty as to any time posterior, to which the deed referred to must have been executed, supposing it was ever executed? he said, That in the beginning of November he rented another house, where he was very certain both the deeds referred to were ingrossed; and the seal which the deed from the society to the Committee of trade was sealed, he had from the owner of that house after he went into it;—that to the best of his remembrance he delivered both deeds to the Secretary about the middle of November, about ten days after which he altered the date, and filled up the blank for the penalty;—that he was therefore induced to believe it must be the end of November, or beginning of December, before

either of them were executed. And being asked, if he had ever seen either of them after they were executed; he said, In September 1766 he waited on Lord Clive, to receive instructions to prepare another deed, when his Lordship informed him, that he had been perusing those two deeds, and which were then laying before him on the table;—that his Lordship observed to him that there was not any valuable consideration expressed, and asked him, if he thought them valid?—that he said, he could not ascertain how far they were valid in law, but that he had prepared them agreeable to the instructions he had received. And being asked, If he was sure the deed; if ever executed, must have been executed after the 15th of October?—he said, He was positive of it:—And being asked, With what sum the blank for the penalty was filled up?—he said, he believed 300,000*l.* and that Lord Clive talked of those deeds to him as deeds executed.—And being asked, Whether he had any instructions to keep this transaction secret?—he said, He had not; but that he never did mention it to any body but Mr. Banks, which was in the year 1769;—that he did not mention it, because he thought it was a matter that should not be made public, from the nature of the transaction, it being an agreement to carry on a trade contrary to the orders of the Company.—And being asked, What were his motives for mentioning it to Mr. Banks, after keeping it secret for three years?—he said, That talking to Mr. Banks, whom he esteemed his friend, about a contract he had made for the Committee of trade, he mentioned it in common conversation.—And being asked, when and on what occasion, he first mentioned the deed in England?—he said, That he mentioned it soon after his arrival, which was in November 1770, because he thought it ought to be made public, and that he was not bound in honour to keep it secret;—that he first spoke of it to Mr. Bolts, and in December 1771, was called before the Court of Directors to be examined about it. (The copy of the rough draft of the deed produced by Mr. Whittall, as referred to him in the above evidence, is hercunto annexed, No. 63.)

Then William Brightwell Sumner, Esquire, being asked, If he knew any thing of a deed entered into between the Governor and Council, and Committee of trade, to ensure the carrying on the salt Society for one year? said, That such a deed was entered into; the express terms of the deed he did not recollect; but he said he considered it as an engagement on the part of the proprietors to pay to the Company certain stipulated duties, and on the part of the Governor and Council to secure to the proprietors the carrying on that trade for the space of one year, or to save and bear them harmless.—Being asked, whether any mention was made of that deed by the Governor and Council upon record? he referred your Committee to the consultations 16th of September 1765, and to the 40th and 41st paragraphs of the letter from the Governor and Council to the Court of Directors, dated the 30th of September 1765 (copies of which are annexed in the appendix to the former Report of this Committee.)—And Mr. Sumner being asked, Whether the deed, which he had formerly said was executed, was drawn up by Mr. Whittall?—he answered in the affirmative.

Some days after the above examination, Henry Strachey, Esq; a Member of the Committee, produced a paper, which he said he believed to be a copy of the deed of indemnity to protect the Society of the salt trade:—That he ordered a copy to be made, when he was in Bengal, in 1766 or January 1767:—That the paper is in the hand writing of Mr. William Hippiisley Cox, who was in his office at that time, as to the body of it; and that the names of the contracting parties subscribed to it, and the indorsement, are in the hand writing of Mr. William Wynne, who was also an assistant in his office;—and that he believed it to be the copy he so ordered to be made.—And being asked, When he found that that copy was in his possession?—he replied, A few weeks ago, but could not say exactly.—And being asked, If he could say, that the deed was executed before the 15th of October 1765?—he said, He did not know when it was executed.—And your Committee have also annexed a copy of the said deed produced by Mr. Strachey, No. 64.

Your Committee having thus stated all the circumstances they have been able to collect respecting the deed of indemnity in 1765, they think proper to remark, That by a letter from the Committee of trade, dated the 15th of July 1767, entered in general consultations of the 27th of the same month, it appears that a second deed of indemnity must have been entered into with the Committee of Trade for that year, viz. Messrs. Cartier, Russell, Aldersey, and Floyer; but no such deed has appeared before your Committee, nor can they discover any traces of it in the records of the Company.

Your Committee is next proceeding, in pursuance of their original plan, to enquire into the several matters therein contained, and they will report from time to time, to the House, the progress they shall make therein.

Your Committee have added to the Appendix, No. 65, 66, and 67, State of the Duanee revenues of the East India Company's territorial acquisitions, from May 1765 to the last advices, with the amount of charges, collecting, &c, and civil and military charges, with the nett annual balance; and also the state of the receipt of the northern Sircars from the time of the grant of them to the last advices; and also copy of the minute of Mr. John Johnstone, October the 1st 1765, in answer to the additional declarations of Mahomed Reza Cawn, in his letter of the 23d of June 1765, and the resolutions of the Select Committee thereupon, on the 4th of July following; which papers are referred to in the body of the last report from this Committee, but were omitted to be annexed in the Appendix thereto.

A P P E N D I X.

No. 1.

Company's Letter to Bengal, 22d February 1764.

35. **W**E cannot avoid taking notice, that in the course of the proceedings between the commissaries of this company, and those of the Dutch, among other of the latter's, alledged grievances, they complain that the opium trade at Patna had been monopolized by Mr. M'Gwire; and we find by your registers, that the said complaint was too well founded; you are therefore to signify to Mr. M'Gwire our displeasure at this transaction of his; and as such a proceeding in future must prove very prejudicial to individuals, and be the means of occasioning embarrassments to the company, it is our positive orders, that you take care to prevent every kind of monopoly; and if you find any person or persons guilty of such unfair practices, he or they are to be forthwith dismissed from the Company's service.

No. 2.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Clive to the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United East India Company, dated at Berkley Square, 27th April 1764.

“IT is likewise true, that the encroachments made upon the Nabob's prescriptive rights, by the governor and council, and the rest of the servants, trading in the articles of salt, beetle, and tobacco; together with the power given by Mr. Vansittart to subject our governors or agents to the jurisdiction and inspection of the country government; all concurred to hasten and bring on the late troubles; but still the groundwork of the whole was the Nabob's independency. It is impossible to rely upon the moderation and justice of Mussulmen; strict and impartial justice should ever be observed; but let that justice come from ourselves. The trading therefore in salt, beetle, and tobacco, having been one cause of the present disputes, I hope these articles will be restored to the Nabob, and your servants absolutely forbid to trade in them. This will be striking at the root of the evil. The prohibition of dustucks to your junior servants will, I hope, tend to restore that oeconomy which is so necessary in your service. Indeed, if some method be not thought of, and your Council do not heartily co-operate with your Governor to prevent the sudden acquisitions of fortunes, which have taken place of late, the Company's affairs must greatly suffer. What power it may be proper to invest me with, to remedy these great and growing evils, will merit your serious consideration: as a means to alleviate in some measure the dissatisfaction that such restrictions upon the commercial advantages of your servants may occasion in them, it is my full intention not to engage in any kind of trade myself; so that they will divide amongst them what used to be the Governor's portion of commercial advantages, which was always very considerable.”

No. 3.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Clive to the Court of Directors, dated Calcutta 1st February 1766.

14. **P**ERMIT me, Gentlemen, to return you my most grateful acknowledgements for the confidence you are pleased to repose in me, by the 40th paragraph of your general letter of the 15th of February 1765, in relation to the important article of the salt trade; and though I hope my conduct in your service will entitle me to your approbation in every other instance, I cannot but congratulate myself on the success of that particular plan, since it was originally proposed by me, during my voyage to India.—The only doubt that arose with me was, whether the management of the trade of salt, beetle, and tobacco, should be intrusted to Europeans or to natives; and although I acquiesced with the rest of the members of the Select Committee, in having it carried on by the free merchants, give me leave to assure you, my acquiescence proceeded rather from a principle of humanity, than a conviction that it was more for the interest of the Company, or for the interest of the society; but as every day's experience demonstrates the impropriety of the present mode, it becomes my duty to explain to you my sentiments on that subject.

15. The original capital for carrying on this trade being 24 lack, which is speedily to be increased to 32, and the salt being to be disposed of at so many different and distant parts of the country,

country, gives room for boundless expence; an astonishing number of boats must be provided, and kept in constant repair, and armies of seapoys must be maintained to protect them, as well as the agents at their several places of residence. These seapoys, under the sanction of their masters names, will lay the whole country under contribution; wherever they go, remonstrances and complaints without number will be made by the country government; and the revenues, in which you are more immediately affected, will fall short: these agents, besides drawing 5 per cent. upon the net sales, will build elegant houses for their own convenience; and I verily believe that an hundred and fifty thousand pounds will scarce defray the extraordinary, and in my opinion useless, expence, by confining the sale of salt to Calcutta, Dacca, and two or three other principal places where the salt is produced: all these inconveniences will be remedied; the company will receive as much; the proprietors will receive as much as they do upon the present plan; the immoderate charges of agents, boatmen, houses, boats, and seapoys, will be saved; the capital need be but half of what it is now, and consequently the interest of a large sum of money will not be lavished; instead of confused and complicated accounts and returns, not in two years, the accounts will be simple and plain, and the returns immediate: but what weighs more with me than all the arguments hitherto advanced is, that we shall avoid the odious imputation of monopoly: thousands of the natives will have profits out of this article, by purchasing it at two or three places only, and disposing of it afterwards all over the country; for I propose that no European whatever shall have any further concern in it.

r6. If you should think proper to adopt this new mode of carrying on the salt trade, and agree with me in the expediency of withdrawing all the free merchants, humanity will call upon you to make some provision for those who are deserving of your favour; and I cannot, in justice to the characters of the following gentlemen, avoid recommending them to your consideration; their age, behaviour, and experience, intitle them to the rank of factors; and I doubt not they will become meritorious servants of the Company.

Mr. Archdekin,	Dalrymple,	Lethicullier.
Baillie,	Kellican,	
Bensley,	Knott,	
Blomer,	Lifter,	
Cobham,	Mudie,	
Craigie,	Yates,	

The very sensible behaviour of Mr. Ducarel, upon the signing of the memorial of the servants to the Court of Directors, obliges me to point him out to you, as particularly deserving of your favour; although he was only appointed a writer last year, yet his age and understanding qualify him for a higher station; some encouragement you will undoubtedly bestow upon him for his conduct in the late affair.

No. 4.

Fort William Consultation, 22d February 1763.

Copy of the Imperial Mandate.

To all Governors, Officers, and Managers of our Affairs, Jagirdars, Fauzdars, Kauries, Rahdars, Guzrdans, and Zemindars, of the present and time to come, in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, Orixa, Port of Hughley, and other Ports of the aforesaid Provinces, who hope for the Imperial Favour.

BE it known unto all you, that in these days of our triumphant reign, Mr. John Surmon, and C. Huajah Sherad, agents on the part of the English Company, have preferred a petition in our just and equitable presence to the following purpose:

In consequence of a decree of his most Sacred and Imperial Majesty Shah, deceased, and former grants, the English Company are exempted from all customs in all parts of our dominion, except the port of Suratt, pay annually into the imperial treasury at Hughley three thousand rupees, as a tribute in lieu of customs; and hope that, according to former grants, our royal mandate will be vouchsafed to them.

Our absolute and high command is passed, That you, knowing well whatever goods and merchandize their agents may bring into, or carry out from, the ports, borders, and quarters of these provinces, either by land or by water, be exempt from duties, shall leave them to buy and sell at their own free liberty, shall annually receive the established tribute, and upon no other account impede or interrupt them.—Moreover,

If any where the least article of their effects shall be made away with, you are to use all diligence in the recovery thereof; and shall deliver over the thieves to condign punishment, and the goods to the proper owner: further, wheresoever they may set up a factory, and buy and sell goods and merchandize, you are to afford them help and support in all matters of contract, and with all justice and fairness cause to be repaid unto their agents whatever demands they may have upon any merchant, weaver, or other person; and you are to allow no one to molest their agents; or shall you stop boats hired by them, or of their own property, for toll, or on any other account whatever.

They

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They also represented to our most Sacred and Excellent Majesty as follows :

In our provinces the petty officers insist upon the original grant and attestation under seal of the nadhim and devan of the province ; but transmitting the original grant into all parts being difficult, they hope that, accordingly, credit may be given to copies under seal of a cazy magistrate, and the original grant not be demanded, nor they interrupted for want of an attestation from the nad nazim and deiwan. Moreover,

That in Calcutta the Company have a factory ; that the right of holding Calcutta, Sacalutee, Gobindpoor, in the estimate of the Pergunnah, Ameerabad, &c. of the province of Bengal, which they bought of the Zemindars, has been a long time made over to them ; that they pay annually, as a tax for it, one thousand one hundred and ninety-five rupees, six annahs : also, that there are thirty-three villages at the taxation of eight thousand one hundred and twenty-one rupees, eight annahs, pertaining to the said districts ; they intreat that the right of holding the said districts be granted to them, the tax for which they being annually to pay into the royal treasury.

Our most high and equitable decree has been made to this effect : Copies of the original grant, under seal of the chief cazy magistrate, shall be deemed valid ; and we have been pleased graciously to confirm them in their right of holding the dees regious they have purchased, upon the former conditions ; and granted them the power of keeping the other districts, for which they petitioned the deiwan of the province shall suffer them to make the purchase of the lawful owners.

They further intreat as follows :

From the reign of his most bounteous Majesty Shah, deceased, in the provincial treasuries, an exchange has been taken on their money coined at Cheenapatan ; now seeing that the silver of their said money is of equal fineness with that of Suratt, they, our subjects, though petitioners, accordingly suffer a loss ; and humbly beg that our imperial order may be passed, that they be not molested on account of the value of their coin, equal in goodness to that of Suratt and other places.—Moreover,

That if any of the Company's servants indebted to them should make his escape from any of their settlements, he may be sent back to the chief of their factory ; also, that they be not interrupted on account of the souzdary duties, or any other abuab fauzdary practices not allowed, because of which the Company's agents and officers do suffer inconveniency.

An order from our most high and authoritative court has been passed to the following effect :

From the 5th year of this blessed reign, if the silver coined at Cheenapatan shall in fineness be like unto the coin of the royal harbour of Suratt, there shall be no discount required on the cussore, or the exchange.—And,

Any one of the Company's servants who shall be indebted to them, and make his escape from any of their settlements, you are to apprehend and deliver up to the chief of their factory ; nor shall you throw any impediment in their way, on account of collecting the customs not allowed.

They have also represented, that,

In Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, the Company have factories ; and being desirous of erecting factories in other places, humbly beg, that wheresoever they may set up a factory forty begahs of ground will be granted them from the lands of the empire : moreover, their vessels at sundry times, through storms of wind, are forced on shore in our ports, and are stranded ; the governors of the ports injuriously make prize of the cargo, and in divers places insist upon a fourth part of it ; further, in the island of Bombay, belonging to the English, the European coin is current, may be struck into siccas as at Cheenapatan.

Our absolute decree is, that ye shall act as is the custom at all factories in our other provinces ; and ye are to protect these people, who hold factories in all parts of the empire, and extend their traffick even into the imperial camp, with their effects and vessels stranded or damaged, and supply them with all things necessary.—And,

In the island of Bombay siccas shall be struck, and be current in like manner as the siccas in other parts of the kingdom of equal fineness with the coin current in our happy realms shall pass for equal value.—Moreover, in all affairs ye are to act conformable to this glorious decree, and strictly abstain from and avoid what is repugnant to the order of our most high court ; nor shall you every year insist upon a fresh sunnud grant : herein use all care and diligence. Written on the 27 of the moon Maharam ul Haram, the 5th year of his Majesty's auspicious reign.

Translate, No. 3. Copy of a Purwannah under Seal of the Grand Vizier Camfed Deen Chan Cheen Bahadur, directed to Nawab Serfaraz Chan ; viz.

May his Excellence of eminent and high rank, the glorious Lord Serfaraz Chan, be distinguished with the imperial favour. At this time the deputy on the part of the English Company has petitioned as follows :

The Company have obtained the imperial mandate, comprehending an exemption on all customs, on their paying annually the tribute of three thousand rupees into the royal treasury at the port of Hughley, and they do pay that tribute into the said port ; but the people under the

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the nazim, and the deiwans in the provinces, fouzders, and others, contrary to the order of his most sacred and august Majesty, to molest them in their way, they being in humble expectation, that an hasbut hukin, directed to your Excellency of eminent and high rank, comprehending an exemption and uninterrupted, in conformity to the imperial mandate, may be granted them; and it appearing, on the face of the books in his Majesty's office, that the sum of three thousand rupees, in lieu of customs in the English Company, is annually established; his most excellent Majesty's hasbut hukin is accordingly, That you shall resolve to act in pursuance of the imperial mandate, not interrupting or molesting them by any manner of exaction; in this matter use the exactest diligence and utmost dispatch. Written on the 17 of Rajabut Marejab, the 9th year of the reign.

Translation, No 5. Copy of his most Sacred and Imperial Majesty's Hasbut Hakin, under Seal of Cotab ol Melk Yameen ed Dowlah Seyed Abe Ellah C. Han Bahadur, victorious in War, Commander of the Forces, trusty and well beloved; viz.

To the Ministers of State of the present, and Time to come, in all Parts and Provinces of these happy Realms.

Be it known unto you all, that at this time Mr. John Surman, and C. Hwajah Serhad, and Mr. Stevenfon, petitioners on the part of the English Company, have intreated in the most gracious and august presence, that the most sacred and imperial orders might be passed in their name to the following effect:

“Every Company's servant indebted to them, that may desert their settlements, shall be sent back again to the chief of their factory.”

Which being allowed—his imperial Majesty's hasbut hukin is written, that ye shall apprehend every such person of the servants of the Company as shall desert their settlements, and deliver him up to the chief of their factory: in this matter use all diligence. Written on the 9th of the moon Dzee Hijah, the 5th year of the reign.

No. 6. Copy of his most Sacred and Imperial Majesty's Hasbut Hukin, &c. &c.

Be it known unto you all, that at this time Mr. John Surman and C. Hajah, and Mr. Stevenfon, petitioners on the behalf of the English Company, have intreated as follows:

The Company's agents and officers in most places being troubled on account of Formaish Abuab Mumnuah, collecting the customs not allowed, they request his Majesty's orders may be passed, that they be not impeded on account of fouzeany or zemindary duties, or the other customs not allowed.

A decree of the most high court, exempting them from the customs not allowed, being made, and the imperial mandate granted them; his most sacred and excellent Majesty's hasbut hukin is accordingly written, that ye act in strict compliance with the glorious edict, shall not in any manner impede or molest the said people on account of customs not allowed by the imperial court, to the end that they may carry on the business of their trade to their own satisfaction. In this matter use the exactest diligence. Written on the 9th of the moon Dzee Hijah, the 5th year of the reign.

Copy of the Imperial Hasbut Hukin, under Seal of Jemlattul Mulk Modarul Moham, the Grand Vizir of the Realms, Eatemadod Dowla Camarod Deen C. Han Cheen Bahadur Naffatt Jaug Mahamed Skahy.

To the Officers of State of the present and time to come, in the Provinces of Bahar, Paradise of Nations, Bengal, and Orixia. Be it known unto you all, that at this Time, Aneep Chand, Deputy on part of the English Company, has petitioned as follows:

The Company have obtained a special mandate of exemption from customs, on paying the annual tribute of three thousand rupees at Hughly Port, and they do pay the established tribute at the said port; but the people of the nadthim and deiwans in the provinces and fouzders, and others, contrary to his Majesty's most inviolable commands, molest them in their way; they being in humble expectation, that an hasbut hukin of exemption from duties and uninterrupted, pursuant to the imperial mandate will be granted them, since also from the face of the books in his Majesty's office it appears, that the sum of three thousand rupees peshkush, in lieu of customs on the English Company, is established in Hughley Port. Accordingly the imperial hasbut hukin is written, in order that, pursuant to the contents of the special mandate which they have obtained, ye may proceed, and in no manner or way hinder or molest them in this particular year, to use the exactest diligence and utmost dispatch. Written on the 29th of the moon Shaaban, the 9th year of the reign.

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No. 13. Copy of a Distah under Seal of Jemlattul Mulk, &c. Grand Vizir Camarod Deen Chan Behadur.

To all Gomastahs, Fouzdars, Rahdars, Gurznans, and Zemindars, and others, Guardians of the Roads and Passes in the Provinces Bahar, Paradise of Nations, Bengal, and Orixá, this Distah is written; viz.

The English Company are exempt from all duties, pursuant to the Emperor's special mandate, and they pay annually three thousand rupees into the treasury at Hughley in lieu of customs; and in the aforesaid provinces they are allowed to have annually, for the time to come, fleets of boats passing and repassing:—the imperial hasbut hukin is in consequence written, that you shall not stop or interrupt them on account of taking toll, and the other customs not allowed by the court, but shall suffer them to pass in safety. In this particular use the most exact diligence and utmost dispatch. Written on the 17th of Rejat ul Morajab, the 9th year of the reign.

Translate, N^o. 16. Copy of the Imperial Hasbut Hukin, under Seal of Colabut Mulk Seyed Abdallah Chan Bahadur, &c. &c.

To the Officers of State of the present and Time to come, in the Provinces of these happy Realms.

Be it known unto you, that at this time Mr. John Surman and C. Huajall and Mr. Stevenfon, petitioners on the part of the English Company, have represented in the most sacred and auspicious presence; as follows:

At the ports that the Company have factories established, the English people buy and sell in most of the ports and aurungs; but in sundry places and aurungs, whither the sending of Englishmen can't be effected, they make contracts with the merchants and traders of their country, and deposit their money with the merchants and traders, to purchase the commodities and bring them to them; they hope that his Majesty's order may be given to the officers of state, that they shall not hinder or interrupt any person that with a dustuck from the chief of their factory may make any purchase in these ports and aurungs.

His Majesty's absolute decree being made, that you shall take the list of the account under seal of the chief of their factory; and according to that list give a fannad under your own seal; the imperial hasbut hukin is written, for you to proceed in conformance to his Majesty's decree, and taking a list of the account under seal of the chief of their factory, you shall give a fannad under your own seal, agreeable to that list:—In this matter use the exactest diligence and utmost dispatch. Written on the 5th of the moon Dezee Hijah, the 5th year of the reign.

No. 21. Copy of the Imperial Hasbut Hukin, under Seal of Seyed Abdallah Chan, &c. &c.

May his Excellency of eminent and princely rank, Akaram C. Hari, be favoured with the Almighty protection.

At this time Mr. John Surman Chuajah and Mr. Stevenfon, petitioners on the part of the English Company, have represented in the most high and respectable court as follows:

The gold and silver, on account of the Company, used to be coined in the mints Johangir-nagar and Akbarganar:—But a mint being some years past established in Harcemabad, they humbly hope that the Company's money may be coined therein as heretofore, and that the officers of the mint may ask no more than what is customary, and take only the appointed charges; and that when the merchants may have a great deal of bullion, three days in the week may be allotted for coining the Company's money; his Majesty's most authoritative decree being passed, That your Excellency do cause such regulation to be made; the imperial hasbut hukin is accordingly written, that you do *established* that the gold and silver of the Company, according to former custom, be coined in the mint of Kariemabad; and when the merchants may have a great deal of bullion, upon condition the government suffers no loss therefrom, you shall cause that three days in the week be set apart for coining the money of these people. In this matter observe the exactest diligence and utmost dispatch. Written the 9th of Dzeehijah, the 5th year of the reign.

N^o. 22. Copy of a Charter under Seal of the most excellent Meer Mahomed Jaaffir Chan Bahadur, Mahabatt Jang, from the 27th of the Month Showal, the 4th Year of the Reign. To the Officers of State of the present and Time to come, Lieutenants, Fouzdars, Zemindars, Chowdhries, Canungoes, Officers, and Managers, in the Paradise of Nations, Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá.

Be it known unto you, seeing that the English Company is exempt from duties, in consequence of the special mandate and imperial hasbut hukin:—Therefore we have written, to the end that on those goods, which the Company's factors carry backwards and forwards by land or by water, with a dustuck under seal of the chief of their factory, at their factories, aurungs, and other places, you are not to demand the least duty or custom, but to allow them free liberty

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to buy or sell, not interrupting them in any manner whatever, nor requiring any thing by way of *fillhev*, *mangan*, or other customs of the *zemindary*—and the Company's agents shall buy and sell the Company's goods, nor shall there be a broker concerned therein without the Company's consent; and you shall assist them wherefoever they may make purchases or sales of any commodities. Whosoever shall act so repugnant to this order shall be delivered up to the disposal of the English, and receive the recompence of his deeds; and if in any place a single article of the Company's effects shall be made away with, you are to find out that very same, and return it to the Company, or else be answerable for the same yourselves; and you shall cause to be repaid unto the Company's agents whatever demands they may have upon merchants or other people for failure of contract:—nor shall it be in the power of any one to molest their agents. Moreover, you shall not stop boats hired by them, or of their own property, on account of toll or other customs: you shall give credit to copies of the Company's grants attested by the magistrate, nor demand the original grants; and any one that is dependant on the Company, and shall desert their bounds, you shall not protect or support him, but deliver such person up to the chief of their factory.—Moreover, ye shall not molest the Company's agents or people, on account of collecting the *fowzdary* duties, or any other customs not allowed by the government. Further, the Company have factories in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, besides which, wherever the Company have a mind to set up a factory, you are to give them forty *begahs* of ground; and if vessels of the English, through storms of wind and rain, run ashore in our ports or other places, and suffer shipwreck, you are to give them all assistance; take particular care of stranded vessels, and deliver them as saved to the Company, and are not to demand a fourth part, or any thing else forbidden by his Majesty. Moreover, a mint is established at Calcutta, and the Company have a perpetual right to coin gold and silver, which may be equal in weight and fineness to the *ashrafees* and *rupees* of Moorshedabad; it is to pass current in all his Majesty's treasuries.—Use all diligence to act strictly in conformance to the herein-written; nor shall you annually demand a fresh charter.

Treaty with Serauje Dowla.

First. Whatever rights and privileges the King has granted the English Company, in their *phirmaund*, and the *husbulhookums* sent from Dilly, shall not be disputed or taken from them, and the immunities therein mentioned be acknowledged and stand good: whatever villages are given the Company by the *phirmaund* shall likewise be granted, notwithstanding they have been denied by former *subahs*; the *zemindars* of those villages not to be hurt or displaced without cause.

Signed by the Nabob. I agree to the terms of the *phirmaund*.

Second. All goods passing and repassing through the country by land or water with English *dustucks* shall be exempt from any tax, fee, or imposition, from *chokeys*, *caulwales*, *zemindars*, or others.

Signed by the Nabob. I agree to this.

Third. All the Company's factories seized by the Nabob shall be returned—All monies, goods, and effects, belonging to the Company, their servants, and tenants, which have been seized and taken by the Nabob, shall be restored—What has been plundered and pillaged by his people, made good, by the payment of such sum of money as his justice shall think reasonable.

Signed by the Nabob. I agree to restore whatever has been seized and taken by my orders, and accounted for in my *siccary*.

Fourth. That we have permission to fortify Calcutta, in such manner as we may think proper, without interruption.

Signed by the Nabob. I consent to it.

Fifth. That we shall have liberty to coin *siccas* both of gold and silver, of equal weight and fineness to those at *Muxadavad*, which shall pass in the provinces.

Signed by the Nabob. I consent to the English Company's coining their own imports of bullion and gold into *siccas*.

Sixth. That the treaty shall be ratified by signing, sealing, and swearing, to abide by the articles therein contained, not only by the Nabob, but his principal officers and ministers.

Signed by the Nabob. I sealed and signed the articles before the presence of God.

Seventh. That Admiral Charles Watson, and Colonel Robert Clive, on the part and behalf of the English Nation, and of the Company, do agree to live in good understanding with the Nabob;

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Nabob; to put an end to these troubles, and to be in friendship with him, while those articles are performed and observed by the Nabob.

Signed by the Nabob.—I have sealed and signed the foregoing articles upon those terms: that if the Governor and Council will sign and seal them with the Company's seal, and will swear to the performance on their part, I then consent and agree to them.

Translate, N^o. 24. Copy of a Sannad or Charter, under Seal of his Excellency the Nawab Meer Mahomed Jaaffier Chan Behadur Mahabatt Jang, directed to the Rajahs, Zemindars, Jaluedars, (Verbally the same as N^o. 22.)

N^o. 25. Copy of a Dastak taken on the 20th of the Moon Dzeccaadah, the 4th Year of the Reign, under Seal of Suja ol Molk Haslam od Dowlah Meer Mahomed Jaaffier C. Han Bahadur, Mahaabut Jung; viz.

To the Fouzdars, Zemindars, and Chokeydars, Guzrbans, and Guardians of the Roads and Passes, in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá, this Dastak is written.

The goods of the English Company should have always a free passage backwards and forwards, both by land and by water, agreeable to the order of his most imperial Majesty, in the provinces aforesaid, accompanied with the dastak of the English Company. Now also know it to be again established and appointed: it behoves you to acknowledge the Company's dastuck as current, and in no manner or way to impede or hinder their goods, either passing or repassing in the way, on account of collecting the hattbarah mangan, and other customs not allowed by the imperial court, but to let them pass without taking the least duty or custom whatever, and without molesting the dependants on the said Company. In this matter using the exactest diligence act agreeable to herein-written.

Translate, N^o. 23. Copy of a Grant for a Mint, under Seal of his Excellency of Senatorial Rank, the Nawab Meer Mahomed Jaffir Can Bahadur Mahabatt Jung, from the 15th of the Moon Deccaadah, the 4th Year of his Majesty's Reign: viz.

May their Eminencies of high rank, of illustrious and directorial dignity, the most honourable Company of Merchants of England, be the object of the imperial favour.

You have a mint established in Calcutta: you the most honourable of merchants are to coin siccas, bearing the name of Calcutta, of gold and silver, equal in fineness and weight to the ahrasces and rupees of Morshedabad: your coin shall be current in the provinces Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá, and shall pass in the imperial treasury, nor shall any one stop or impede it because of batta.

Copy Translation of a Treaty between the Nabob Meer Mahomed Cossim Cawn and the Company.



Meer Mahomed
Cossim Cawn
Bahadur.

Two treaties have been written of the same tenor, and reciprocally exchanged; containing the articles under mentioned, between Meer Mahomed Cossim Cawn Bahadur, and the Nabob Shums's Dowlah, Governor, and the rest of the Council, for the affairs of the English Company; and during the life of Meer Mahomed Cossim Cawn Bahadur, and the duration of the factories of the English Company in this country, this agreement shall remain in force. God is witness between us, that the following articles shall in no wise be infringed by either party.

First Article.—The Nabob Meer Mahomed Jaffir Cawn Behadur shall continue in possession of his dignities, and all affairs be transacted in his name, and a suitable income shall be allowed for his expences.

Second Article.—The Niabut of the subahdaree of Bengal, Azimabadan, and Orixá, shall be conferred by his Excellency the Nabob on Meer Mahomed Cossim Cawn Bahadur: he shall be vested with the administration of all affairs of the provinces, and after his Excellency he shall succeed to the government.

Third Article.—Betwixt us and Meer Mahomed Cossim Cawn Bahadur, a firm friendship and union is established; his enemies are our enemies, and his friends are our friends.

Fourth

Fourth Article.—The Europeans and Jolingas of the English army shall be ready to assist the Nabob Meer Mahomed Cassim Cawn Bahadur in the management of all affairs, and in all affairs dependant on him they shall exert themselves to the utmost of their abilities.

Fifth Article.—For all charges of the Company, and of the said army and provisions for the field, &c. the lands of Burdward, Midnapore, and Chittagong, shall be assigned, and sunnuds for that purpose shall be written and granted. The Company is to stand to all losses, and receive all the profits of those three countries; and we will demand no more than the three assignments aforesaid.

Sixth Article.—One half of the Chunam produced at Silkett for three years shall be purchased by the gomastahs of the Company, from the people of the government, at the customary rate of that place. The tenants and inhabitants of those districts shall receive no injury.

Seventh Article.—The balance of the former tuncaw shall be paid according to the rist-bundic agreed upon with the Roy Royan. The jewels which *have pledged* shall be received back again.

Eighth Article.—We will not allow the tenants of the firca, to settle in the lands of the English Company, neither the tenants of the Company be allowed to settle in the lands of the firca.

Ninth Article.—We will give no protection to the dependants of the firca, in the lands or in the factories of the Company, neither shall any protection be given to the dependants of the Company in the lands of the firca; and whosoever shall fly to either party for refuge shall be given up.

Tenth Article.—The measures for war or peace with the Shahzada, and raising supplies of money, and the concluding both those points, shall be weighed in the scale of reason; and whatever is judged expedient shall be put in execution; and it shall be so contrived by the joint council, that he be removed from this country, nor suffered to get any footing in it, whether there be peace with the Shahzada or not. Our agreement with Meer Mahomed Cawn Bahadur we will (by the grace of God) inviolably observe, as long as the English Company's factories continue in this country. Dated the 17th of the month Seffer, in the year 1174 of the Nejra.

Sign Manual of Meer Mahomed Cassim Cawn.

This was sealed on the 18th of the month Seffer, in the eleven hundred and seventy-fourth year of the Nejra; and the proposals are agreed to.

Extract of the Company's General Letter to Fort William. Dated the 26th February 1702-3.

You must insist upon it as our right, that we be custom-free in Bengal, Patna, and Orixa, on the payment of 3000 rupees a year; that our dustucks pass in all places; that our grant of Calcutta and adjacent towns be continued; and that all the other privileges and advantages obtained by the old Company formerly, or by them or the new Company of late, be enjoyed by this United Company, according to the true meaning and full intent of the said grants; and we would have the servants of each Company do all they can to keep us in quiet enjoyment of the said privileges, by representing to the government, you are now the English national Company, justly intitled unto those privileges.

Extract of the Company's General Letter to Fort William. Dated the 2d March, 1702-3.

Our privileges in Bengal of being custom-free, except the yearly acknowledgement of 300 rupees, are so essential a property to this Company, and of such great importance to us, that it requires the utmost steady care and fidelity to preserve them: it was an expensive war, a stoppage of trade, and other accidents, that retrieved them after they had been left chiefly by the feuds among our servants, who, to justify their own quarrels, exposed the unfaithfulness of their chief to the government; that he covered the Moors, and other nations, goods by our dustucks, and thereby defrauded the Nabob and other governors of their duties. To prevent the like evil for the future, we order you to cause a common seal or chop to be made, for the sealing of dustucks, and other public uses, with such words or motto as you shall judge most proper; which seal or chop we would have remain in the custody of the secretary, under the keys or seals of our two chairmen, not to be used but in the presence of them both; and the secretary must attest and register all dustucks which you grant, and which we hereby direct shall be granted for English people's goods, and no others.

Copy 72 Paragraph of the Company's General Letter to Fort William. Dated the 4th February 1772.

Although you have frequently been warned by us against all manner of illicit trade, that our affairs might not be embarrassed with the country government, and yet many evils have we frequently

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quently suffered thereby, yet you acquaint us, that the salt was clandestinely carried up in the fleet to Patna, laying the whole blame on the military officers, assuring us it was without your privity.

Copy of the 148 Paragraph of the Company's General Letter to Fort William.
Dated 3d March 1758.

We therefore order, That the custom master do in future keep the register of dustucks, and that no dustuck be granted, but on oath made by the party demanding the same, that the goods or merchandize specified be and are on his own proper account; and that he does not directly or indirectly therein cover the property of any of the natives of Bengal, free merchants, or any others, excepting our investment contractors bringing down our goods, (but not their own) and our covenanted servants; that the King, or Moors government be not defrauded of their just duties and revenues; that the said oath be tendered by our custom master, who shall attest the same at one corner of the dustuck before it is presented to the President for his signing and sealing; and in all respects, when it does not *clash* with our present plan of regulations, you are to adhere strictly to the rules and orders laid in our letters, per Somersset and Pelham, dated the 17th June 1748.

Copy of 34, 37, 38, and 39 Paragraphs of the Company's General Letter to Fort William, dated the 17th June 1748.

34. As many disputes arise with the country government, from a licentious use of the privileges granted to the Company, particularly by giving our dustucks to such who are not intitled to have them, either by virtue of the Mogul's phirmaund, or by any authority from us, or by the abuse of them, even by such as may have a right to them; and as we cannot with reason expect to have our affairs carried on in a quiet amicable manner, while our servants are committing or conniving at such mal-practices, to the prejudice of the royal revenues, and the support of clandestine traders, which must manifestly be hurtful to the true interest of the Company; we strictly enjoin you to take care, that for the future all abuses of that nature be effectually prevented; and that we may have cognizance of all dustucks granted, and the uses that are made of them, we order that on receipt of this no dustuck be granted to any person, but on their application for the same by request in writing to the Council; in which the person making such request shall set forth the quantity and sorts of goods intended to be imported, and from what place they are to come, and shall declare for whose account they are; and the Council finding such requests consistent with the rules of the Company, are to order dustucks to be made out and delivered accordingly: minutes are to be made in a book, kept for that purpose, of all such requests, distinguishing which are granted, and which are rejected; copies thereof must be sent home, at least yearly, signed by the Governor and Council; and a book shall be kept, in which every dustuck taken out shall be registered, whether it be for the Company's account or for account of others; the particulars of each dustuck shall be entered on one side of the folio of this book, with the person's name for whose account it is, and a blank shall be left on the other side of the folio, opposite such entry, for the purposes hereafter mentioned.

37. And that there may be no doubt as to the persons who are to enjoy the benefit of the dustuck, it is hereby declared, that all goods imported and exported by the Company, or for their account, are to be sent with dustucks, and every merchant who contracts with the Company, shall be intitled to a dustuck, for importing whatever he may have so contracted for; but not for the exportation of the same, unless in case of damages, in order to send them back to the aurungs to have the goods new washed or repaired; all merchants who buy goods of the Company to send into the country for sale, shall be intitled to dustucks for that purpose, for which goods only besides them, our immediate covenant servants are to be intitled to dustucks, and them under these regulations; but every person making a false declaration, on requesting for a dustuck, or importing or exporting goods, with dustucks, otherwise than allowed as above, or prostituting the dustuck in any way whatsoever than it is asked for, shall be immediately dismissed from our service, and sent home; and every merchant, dealing with the Company, who shall commit any fraud in the dustuck, shall be excluded from having any further dealings with the Company, directly or indirectly; and all the goods imported or exported in fraudulent manner, shall be deemed unlicensed trade, and shall be confiscated accordingly; one third to the Company, one third to the informer, and the remaining third to the register of the dustucks.

38. And in cases where the Company's affairs are involved with the country government, by means of any abuses of the dustucks, the person who shall have committed such abuse shall be answerable for the same to the country government out of their estate; or if a native, shall be delivered up to country government, as a person having forfeited the protection of the Company, if he do not make such satisfaction as may immediately extricate the Company's affairs.

39. Every person dealing in Bengal salt, or any other reserved or prohibited commodity, contrary to the known established laws of the country, shall be dealt with as if he or they had committed a fraud in the dustucks; but in case the country government pretend, by any new laws or prohibitions, to encroach on the privileges granted to, and hitherto enjoyed by, the Company, and those under our protection, you are at all events to resist such unjust attempts; and if you cannot procure relief by amicable means, you are to obtain it by making use of all

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the force you have, as we wish on no account to submit to any innovation, which may, either at present, or hereafter, disgrace the Company, or be prejudicial to his interests.

Copy of the 66, 67, 68 and 69 Paragraphs of the Company's General Letter to Fort William, dated the 25th March, 1757.

It is with much concern we observe, in your detail of transactions with the country government, that every circumstance and opportunity affords pretensions for exactions; it is impossible for us to mark out any precise rules for your conduct in general, we can only say, that you are to be zealous in preserving our phirmaund rights and privileges; and when any sums of money are demanded, or any oppressions endeavoured to be laid on our trade, or otherwise, that you will obviate or settle them upon the best terms you can; in doing which, our great dependance must be placed on your sense and care.

Among many other unreasonable demands, *that made upon you for the Cotmah's effects* is of a very pernicious nature, as it tends to render our protection of no effect, and subjecting the English flag to contempt. We find this affair was not brought to an issue upon the coming away of your last advices; but we hope your steadiness and resolution will disappoint *Hookumbeng* in his oppressive and lucrative views, and confirm the rich natives, who reside in the Company's limits, that their persons and effects will be secure.

A further instance of very unfair proceedings appears in the affair of the Chekeys; for after you thought our trade was sufficiently and effectually secured from their oppressions, by ample grants from the Nabob, a pretence was set up, of an equivalent to be made for those leased out under the Packowtrah Drogha, amounting to about twelve thousand rupees, which we find was left to Mr. Watts, and his council, to settle with *Hookumbeg*, with a caution, and indeed a very proper one, that it should not be made a precedent for the like demand from his successors; we hope to hear that this affair has been settled accordingly; and here we must add, that, as many of these oppressions take their rise from great abuse in the dustucks, we shall depend upon your regulating them, in such a manner as will most effectually prevent all pretences for complaint in future.

We observe, upon *Hookumbeg's* making a peremptory demand for sicca rupees 2300, on account of the sugar purchasers, you had empowered the gentlemen of Cossimbuzar to pay him that sum; this is another instance of oppression, which is now become in a manner annual; you must use your best endeavours to prevent its being established as a custom; and we do expect that you will take care to collect, from these persons who have the benefit of that trade, all impositions it is the occasion of.

Copy of the 102 Paragraph of the Company's General Letter to Fort William, dated the 1st April 1760.

The real grievances and clogs to the fair trader are well known to you all; those removed, every merchant would cheerfully submit to the moderate duties we have directed to be levied; and this is confessed by the principal subscriber to the merchants letter now in England. The hardships we mean, are the gross and iniquitous abuses that spring from the power of dustucks; they being confined to our covenant servants; trade has been subjected to very heavy impositions; it is a well known fact, can be proved abroad, and also in England, that our chiefs at subordinates gain full twenty per cent. upon the goods they provide the private trader, and often exclusive of commission, so that the merchant carries his goods to market at an advance perhaps of 25 per cent. upon their value in Bengal; the black merchants they apply to our junior servants, and for valuable considerations receive their goods covered with our servants names; even a writer trades in this manner for many thousands, when at the same time he has often not real credit for an hundred rupees; for the truth of these assertions we need only appeal to yourselves; this then is the stream from whence have flown numberless mischiefs, perhaps the capital cause of your late dreadful misfortunes. To fetter trade is opposite to all good policy; and we believe Calcutta the only colony where manufactories are locked up from the merchant; we therefore must, we will have a reform in this important branch if it is evident; the expence of that phirmaund privilege for commerce is ruined by those unfair practices; the merchant can bear no more, and fearful to speak out, demurs to our just duties, and ascribes his inability to remote causes; the government annually defrauded of immense duties, and even their subjects property covered by the Company's name, must ever look upon us a vile faithless people, strangers to honour and (we must now add) gratitude; such are the consequences resulting from the abuse of a privilege obtained at a very heavy expence, for our particular advantage. In the regulating of this branch, we wish to maintain a respectable character, secure the government from being injured, and preserve to the fair trader such freedom and benefits, as are common to all our other settlements, and which he certainly has a right to. It is not in our power to obviate all difficulties, but however, points out the remedy, to fix trade upon an equitable basis.—He may depend upon receiving signal marks of our favour; perhaps the Nabob may find it his interest to settle for a certain annual sum upon the general trade, his own subjects included, which will be farming the commercial duties dependant upon Calcutta. This
scheme

scheme must, we apprehend, answer every good purpose; it removes all causes of contention with the government, dustucks will be abolished, the merchant will gladly employ, and cheerfully allow our servants a reasonable commission, and interest for the provision of his goods; but if more than five per cent. commission is charged, upon complaint he is to be redressed, and the Company will be reimbursed the annual sum they may pay for farming the general duties, by an additional impost of two or more per cent. on the goods brought down by Europeans, and a larger duty on what may be imported by the Indians; and if the amount should exceed the annual sum stipulated with the Nabob, we are willing to add the surplus to our President's small emoluments: If this plan should take place, let us view the trader's situation; he is relieved from the present exaction, from twenty to twenty-five per cent. he will pay five per cent. commission on his goods, two per cent. to the duties farmed, and four per cent. customs, and he will therefore export his goods from nine to fourteen per cent. advantage. If you can form a better scheme, adopt it; but remember, at all events we shall expect the dustucks are put upon such a just footing, as to secure the government their duties, and enable the merchant to pay our customs.

Copy of the 110 to 118 Paragraphs of the General Letter to the Court of Directors, dated the 16th January 1761.

110. The observations concerning the privilege of dustucks, contained in the 101 and 102 paragraphs of your commands, dated the 1st of April 1760, have been considered, with that attention which so earnest an injunction from your Honours ought, and always will, excite in us: we beg leave to assure you, that we have considered it with minds free from any view to our own private interests; and that, if the regulation proposed by your Honours, or any other that we could imagine or have been informed of, had appeared capable of putting trade upon a better footing, for all traders in general, without prejudicing the Company's investment, we would most readily have endeavoured to obtain the Nabob's consent.

111. Your Honours, perhaps, have not been sufficiently informed of the difficulty that is continually met with, at most of subordinate settlements and aurrungs, in procuring a sufficiency of cloaths for the Company's investment; *I would* indeed be absolutely impossible ever to fulfil your orders, were there not many restrictions in favour of the Company at the subordinates; the gentlemen in the service are forbid to make any purchases for themselves, until the quantity required for the Company is secured; the gentlemen at Calcutta are not permitted to send gomastahs to purchase at the aurrungs dependant on any of the subordinates, nor the gentlemen of one subordinate to make purchases at another. It is the same with the outaurungs dependant on Calcutta; none of the gentlemen in the Company's service are permitted to send gomastahs to any place where there is a gomastah purchasing any goods for the Company, without giving notice to the Committee of Aurrungs, and getting a letter from them to the Company's gomastah; who is to take care that he does not interfere in any thing prejudicial to the Company's investments. These restrictions are calculated to keep the weavers confined, as much as possible, to the Company's sortments; which we believe would fall extremely short, as well as grow continually dearer, if the free merchants had the privilege of dustuck equally with the Company's servants; the great number of purchasers at the aurrung must of course make the price of labour rise; purchasers also, who having no dependance on the Company, would not willingly submit to any regulations we might make, nor think it just that any preference should be given to the Company; the trade would suffer so much by the number of competitors, that we think the effect of such a change would be very difficult from what your Honours propose; and that, instead of being a relief to trade, it would be a great hurt to the merchants in general, and to the interest of the Company in particular.

112. We flatter ourselves, that your Honours will, for the reasons beforementioned, approve of our not endeavouring from the Nabob, his acceptance of a certain yearly sum to be paid by the Company, in lieu of the duties now collected by the government from the merchants of Calcutta; so that all without exception might have the privilege of dustucks; but we believe, if we had found it so consistent with the Company's interest to put the trade upon that footing, the Nabob's assent could not have been obtained. The President when at Murrshadabad asked, Whether such a proposal would be agreeable? But far from approving it, he seemed much alarmed; sensible of the great detriment it would be to the revenues of Houghly, which are made up chiefly of the customs upon goods going to, and from, Calcutta.

113. The sum to be paid the Nabob in lieu thereof, in case such an agreement had taken place, would have been so considerable, that the dustuck duty to be levied here for the Company's reimbursement, must have been a very heavy addition to your other customs; nor is it to be doubted, but those merchants who complain now of the preference given to the Company's servants, in respect of dustucks, would have complained yet louder of this additional duty.

114. Those gentlemen who have signed the letter referred to by your Honours, have for the most part not the least reason to complain of unreasonable dealings in the Company's servant; some of them who have employed Company's servants to provide their goods have had them at very moderate

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moderate rates ; but in general they have been unwilling to make any contracts, and have chosen rather to take the chance of the market, which has proved sometimes favourable to the seller, sometimes to the buyer ; at this time goods made at Cossimbuzar yield little or no profit here, while goods made at Dacca and Luckypore will yield *tenty* twenty-five or thirty per cent. and these last, five or six years ago, were so extremely low here, that several of the gentlemen of the Dacca factory suffered much in their fortunes, by providing them, as they could not get their prime cost ; this risk the Company's servant runs ; it is the fair chance of an open market, with the free merchants for the most part, as we have before observed, prefer to contracts, and they have no more right to complain when the price in the market happens to be high, than the feller ; when it happens to be low, when they themselves bring goods to sell from foreign markets, they are not wanting in their endeavours to sell them for as high a price as they can.

115. Such therefore have no just reason of complaint, as they have not contracted or endeavoured to contract with Company's servants ; but there are some, whom we understand have had sufficient grounds for complaint, we mean those who formerly had concerns under the Governor and Council in the freight ships ; in which we have been informed it was a practice for each gentleman of the Council to load his own proportion in goods, and these goods every one charged at what price he thought proper : the Captain and Supercargo, depending on the Governor and Council to provide their goods, were obliged to take their concern in a cargo made up after that manner ; and no wonder the voyages turned out extremely ill, an unreasonable profit having been made on the goods before they left the port.

116. But we beg leave to assure your Honours, that the gentlemen, now concerned jointly with us, received a very different treatment ; such goods as are bought at market here, not having been contracted for before, are bought on the best terms possible, by managers appointed out of the concerned, and no profit of any sort charged upon them here ; such goods as are provided from the aurungs by ourselves, or by contract with the gentlemen at the subordinates, are delivered at so moderate a premium as barely to answer the interest and risk of providing them, with a small consideration for the time and charges saved by means of the dustuck ; an advantage which was undoubtedly intended to be referred to the Company's servants, when the indulgence of the dustuck was granted them ; the calculation of the advance proposed to be put upon the goods provided at the several subordinates and aurungs, in proportion to the distance and the risk, is entered on the minutes of the Consultation of the 24th of November, to which we beg leave to refer you.

117. That the abuse of this indulgence, formerly too common a practice, we have reason to think is but a just reproach ; but we are equally convinced, that no such practice has been followed since the attention given to this matter last year, and the oath prescribed to be taken by all who have the benefit of this privilege ; we doubt not but this solemn tye, added to the regard which the gentlemen in your service have for their own reputation, will be sufficient to make them abhor so dishonourable a practice ; if any there be, who, strangers to these sentiments, shall venture to abuse an indulgence for which they ought to be thankful, we shall hold them unworthy of your service, and make a severe example of all who shall be discovered. The President will be particularly observant of the applications made to him for dustucks, and he has already recommended to the Nabob, to cause all his guards, at the several choukeys, or watching places, upon the river, to be more strict in the examination of boats, and to seize all who shall be found with English colours without a dustuck ; this is an imposition often practised by Portuguese, Armenians, and the country people, to defraud the government of their customs ; and through the indolence or knavery of the chowkeys has doubtless succeeded very frequently, and been the cause in great measure of the complaints that have been put undeservedly to the account of the gentlemen here.

118. We shall leave this subject with assuring you, that we shall acquiesce, without murmuring, in the loss of the advantage of the dustuck, if your Honours, after considering all that we have taken the liberty to say, shall continue to think such an alteration would be for the benefit of trade in general, and consistent with the Company's interest ; at the same time, we cannot help giving it as our opinion, that the Company's servant has a very reasonable pretension to some indulgence in the matters of trade over the free merchant, considering that the latter has his whole time to apply to the management of his private concerns, while the former is employed for the most part in attending his duty to the Company.

Copy of the 43 and 44 Paragraphs of the Company's General Letter to Fort William, dated the 19th February 1762.

By the directions we gave in our letter of the 1st April 1760, we meant, that the Nabob should not be defrauded of his duties by an abuse of the dustuck, nor private traders oppressed— but as it appears, by your advices of the 16th January 1761, that the farming the duties of the Nabob, and the other methods we have pointed out, are not practicable, we must therefore acquiesce in their not being carried into execution ; at the same time, we repeat and enforce what

A P P E N D I X, No. 5.

what we mentioned in our said letter, that at all events the dufftucks are to be put upon such a footing as to secure the government their duties, and enable the merchants to pay our customs.

It has been intimated, that some of our late servants had engrossed the sale of beetle and salt, to their own great emolument, but highly prejudicial to the interest of the Nabob; as such measures tend greatly to the embroiling our affairs, as well as being injurious to the community, we enjoin you to take the utmost care, that neither our servants, or any persons residing under our protection, have any concern in such farms for the future.

Due attention having been paid to the perusal of these several papers and extracts, the several members of the board are desired to give in writing, next Tuesday, their sentiments of the President's letter to the Nabob, considered with all the *foresaid* papers, and also on the following questions;

1st. Whether, by the phirmaund and subsequent treaties, we have a right to trade in every article, whether for foreign or inland trade, duty free?

2d. Whether any duties ought to be paid to the country government on salt, beetle nut, tobacco, or any other articles?

3d. Whether the Company's dufftucks shall be for the future granted with such articles?

Of late, the trade of salt, from Calcutta up the country, has been carried on by the English inhabitants in general, who having first paid the duties at Houghly, and having got the phouf-dar's dufftuck or rowanna, had then a passport or certificate from the President to accompany it.

4th. Whether certificates should in future be granted to any but Company's servants?

5th. Whether the English gomastahs, in any parts of the three provinces, shall be subject in any manner to the controul of the officers of the country government, and how far?

6th. If not, how are we to regulate the disputes that may happen between them and the country government, and particularly in those parts where we have no factory?

Received another letter from Luckypore, dated the 16th instant, acquainting us of further extraordinary acts of violence and insolence committed by Aga Nazam Comar Ally and Buddul Cawn: the same having been read at the board;

Agreed, we write an answer thereto, directing the gentlemen at Luckypore to seize the persons of Aga Nazam Comar Ally and Buddul Cawn, and send them down to Calcutta, that we may either punish them ourselves or insist upon the Nabob's doing it; that on this service, they will take care to send force enough to execute it with a certainty of success, and for that purpose rather wait for a reinforcement from Chittagong, than engage in the enterprize with an insufficient number; that in case the detachment ordered from Chittagong to Dacca should not have passed Luckypore before the receipt of this letter, they may direct the officer to execute this service before he proceeds thither; or, if any part of it lies nearer and more convenient to the districts of Chittagong, they may write to them to carry such part into execution from thence.

As a full board was intended to have been summoned to consult on the subject of the late regulations, Mr. Johnson moves, that the opinion of the absent members, Messieurs Ellis, M'Guire, and Verelst, be also asked on this subject, and the papers relative thereto be forwarded to them; which he thinks will obviate the objection made to this proceeding, of summoning the absent members to the board on affairs of such consequence, as it stands minuted by the President, the 1st February.

This Motion being approved; Ordered, that the secretary do prepare copies of the several papers, to be forwarded to the above mentioned gentlemen as soon as possible.

No. 5.

Fort William Consultation, 1st March 1763.

A GREEABLY to the order of council, the 22d February, the several members now deliver in their opinions in the questions therein proposed.

Ordered, They be here entered in the following manner:

First, Mr. Watts is of the opinion in an answer to the questions proposed last council day; viz.

That by the phirmaund and husbukookkums the English East India Company have an undoubted right to trade in any articles produced in the Indostan empire, either for foreign or inland trade, and that dufftucks ought to be given with any articles; and that Meer Mahomed Jaffier Ally Cawn, in his treaty, has very particularly confirmed the same, for the provinces under the subahdarry of Bengal.

Secondly, That duties ought not to be paid to the country government on salt, beetle nut, tobacco, or any articles that have a dufftuck with them.

Thirdly, That dufftucks be granted with such articles for the future.

Fourthly, That no passports or certificates should be granted to Company's servants or others; but that salt *have* a dufftuck with it, if the sole property of a Company's servant, but not to other English inhabitants.

Fifthly, That the President, in his letter to the Nabob, has given up the privilege which the Company enjoyed by the phirmaund, and therefore he continued in the same sentiments as in the consultation of the 17th January.

Sixthly, That subjecting our English gomastahs to the country government would entirely prevent us from carrying on our trade, nor is there any necessity for any regulations in those parts where we have an English factory; but in the distant parts of the provinces something is necessary to be established, as well to prevent our gomastahs from being guilty of oppressions to the country people, as to keep the officers of the government from behaving in the manner they have lately done; that this point can only be settled between the Nabob and us.

Mr. Marriott is of opinion, That the President ought to have waited till he could have received an answer from the Board, before he wrote the letter to the Nabob, as no paragraph of the Board's letters to the President appear to authorize him to conclude a treaty without their approbation, unless their willingness to have affairs settled with the Nabob on a solid basis, with the security of our rights and privileges, be construed in that sense, which he does not imagine was the intention of the board.

That in regard to the treaty itself, it differs far from our phirmaund and sunwads, granted in consequence of our treaties with Seer Rajah Dowla and Jaffier Ally Cawn, particularly in giving up our right in granting dustucks for the inland trade; tho' some few articles may have been denied us trading in by the country government, unless we paid duties on them; notwithstanding our honourable masters strongly recommended the being jealous of our phirmaund privileges; and also in submitting our gomastahs and dependants to be under the government's jurisdiction, and liable on every occasion to be called before their courts, which is greatly derogatory to the English name, and must take from us that sway we ought to have in the country, and without which no business will be able to be carried on; and will greatly prejudice not only the quality and quantity, but also enhance the price of every article of the Company's investment; that so far from submitting our gomastahs and dependants to the government's courts of judicature, our phirmaund expressly orders all our dependants that are indebted to us and run away, to be immediately delivered up to us; and that the government's people should give us all assistance they can on such an occasion, in order to recover our demands.

That in regard to exchange of money, as we have an undoubted right to coin siccas from our phirmaund and sunwads, we ought to insist on those we coin should pass; but to obviate any loss that might arise by batta on siccas of a different mint at another place, we should get stamps of the several mints where we have occasion to send money and coin with those stamps accordingly.

For these reasons I entirely dissent to the treaty, the ill consequences of which must now appear too plain to every one; it being a dangerous system to trust the government's people with so great power; their character of being rapacious and tyrannical would, I thought, have been well known to every one: I am further of opinion the said letter of the President's to the Nabob should be demanded back, or hereafter bad consequences may arise from it.

In reply to the different articles proposed to the Board, Mr. Marriott is of opinion, That by the phirmaund and subsequent treaties, we have a right to trade in foreign and inland articles of trade; if a direct assertion is a sufficient proof, and not one single article of trade prohibited us by the phirmaund, &c. That the government denying us to trade in a few articles, without we pay duties on them, is usurping an authority they formerly were forbid, as by the tenor of the phirmaund it appears that further usurpation and limiting our trade, were attempted by Aliverdi Khan's ministers, in respect of paying duties on sugar, and which the Company remonstrate much against, and desire we will take care these things may not be brought into a precedent; which shews the opinion they entertained of those encroachments; and by their several regulations and orders concerning dustucks, it plainly appears they only meant their servants should not lower any black merchants goods, or others that had not the privilege of a dustuck, and by that means defraud the government of the duties they would have otherwise collected on the said merchants goods, which in case of being detected might have been made a plea for stopping the Company's business and imbroiling their affairs.

That in consequence of the government's collecting a duty on salt, which we for the most part have acquiesced in, a duty should be paid them at one place, and a stated sum for each hundred maunds at the rate of the Moore merchants pay, and the salt pass with the Company's dustuck; more particularly as it is the produce of their own juggere, and the collector of the said duties receipt for the same; after which the boats not to be detained at any gaut or chowkey, further than to give the chowkeydar time to take a copy of our dustuck: that as the Company's dustucks have been granted for beetle nut and tobacco they are articles we should not give up, but continue the Company's dustuck for those articles accordingly: that our acquiescing in paying duties on salt, ought to be looked upon as a concession on our parts; as the demanding them is certainly an infringement of our phirmaund privileges; but as other subahs have received them, the Nabob has custom to plead for his receiving them also; and as we have supported him in all his ancient privileges, we ought to continue this to him, that it might not be detrimental to his revenues.

That

That in granting a certificate to English inhabitants trading in salt for what they purchase, after paying the government's duties, he can perceive no bad consequence attending it, as this trade interferes not with any branch of the Company's; and therefore thinks the President should grant them to those who are not covenanted servants.

That the subjecting our gomastahs to the controul of the officers of the country government must, he conceives, be attended with the worst of consequences, as it is giving up one of our phirmaund privileges, which must make us esteemed very light in the eyes of the generality of people, and consequently treated with contempt by them, and be the means of depriving our gomastahs of the influence necessary for carrying on the least business; that in order to prevent our gomastahs from making a bad use of their authority, and injuring or diminishing the government's revenues, or interfering the least in them, this being one of the chief articles of complaint against our gomastahs, they should be again positively forbid holding lands, villages, gunges, &c. of the government, and an immediate example made of those that disobey, and then no other matters of dispute can arise but in those of trade; when the party injured should apply for redress to the chief of the nearest English factory, who, no doubt, is invested with authority sufficient to make the gomastah complained against, appear and answer to the complaint, which if appearing true, and a few severe examples made on the gomastahs, would, I flatter myself, in a short time have the desired effect, and no injustice be committed by English gomastahs in future.

Mr. Hay's.

My reasons for joining with other members of the Board, present the 17th January, in passing the censure on the President, minuted on the Consultation of that day, are, That by the treaty or written security that the Governor passed to the Nabob, the principal rights and privileges of the English Company, granted them by the King's phirmaund and husbulhookums from Dilley, confirmed and fully explained by the treaties with Serajah Dowla and Meer Jaffier Cawn, and enjoyed since those treaties almost in full, are given up in full, without one single advantage gained by the Company; but, on the contrary, the total loss of the English credit and reputation in these provinces, which has been greatly declining these two years past, was the visible consequence of this agreement, to every one who saw it and were the least acquainted with the nature of the country people; and it now grieves me that the wisest regulations, and the most steady conduct of this Board, will not be able to prevent the immediate bad effects of this ill-concerted and unauthorized proceeding of Mr. Vansittart, as too plainly appears from the letters received from the subordinates, and the general complaints of all our agents and gomastahs; which shew there is almost every where a stop to our great incumbrances on our business, and that our servants are particularly ill-used and oppressed.

In considering the arguments for and against the present treaty entered into with the Nabob by the President, it is absolutely necessary to the forming a true judgment on the affair, that the unjust methods used in the country courts of justice, as well as the methods practised by the country merchants in conducting their affairs, should be continually in your mind.

The impossibility of carrying on business when subjected to the country courts, I think must appear plain to every one; when it is considered, that for all sums of money recovered in them you are obliged to pay, besides the expences of the court, a chout, or 25 per cent. on the money recovered; which if the English do not submit to pay, it will always be the interest of the zemindars to decide against them; this I only mention as one of the numberless grievances we should suffer, if subjected to their authority; the country merchants are sensible of the impossibility of carrying on business under such disadvantages, and are therefore obliged to buy the protection of some person of authority in the government, if their own influence is not sufficient; which sets them above the reach of the lower zemindars of the country, protects them from the violence of all, and at the same time gives them a kind of judicial authority, so far as to confine the weavers and pecars when they cannot recover their balances from them otherwise; this being well understood, I imagine, was the principal reason for the Company's being at so great an expence in procuring their phirmaund, and husbulhookums; which exempt the Company from those inconveniencies, and likewise of the great care that was taken to preserve them in their full force by the treaties with Surajah Dowla and Meer Jaffier Cawn.

Before I come to consider the different articles of the treaty, it is necessary to remark, That the Governor's arguing, both in his letters and minutes, in support of this transaction, is on a supposition, that the greatest enormities have been, and are, committed by the English gomastahs throughout the country, to the great detriment of the Nabob's revenues and government; but that this has not been the case will, I think, plainly appear, from the several complaints made against them, being no further supported than by the assertion of those by whom made, and whose interest it was to make complaints of that kind, as some excuse for their non-payment of what was demanded of them; when, if there was any foundation of these complaints, it was so much in their power, and so agreeable to the present government and to the President that they should be proved, that they could never have wanted means to have done it; and likewise by the numberless oppressions that our gomastahs and people have suffered through-

out

out the country for many months past; for it is not to be conceived, that people treated in the manner they have been, could have it in their power to be guilty of those extravagant violences and enormities which they are represented have been by Mr. Vansittart. This much premised, I shall now consider Mr. Vansittart's written security or obligation to the Nabob, article by article.

In the first, Mr. Vansittart has given up the right which the Company have, by their phirmaund, husbulhookums, and subsequent treaties, of granting dustucks, except for ship merchandize; laid a tax of 9 per cent. on all other traffick; and, in a manner, acknowledge that the English do carry on their trade by force or violence, extortion, or unfair dealing.

I think the Board could never have justified themselves for giving up the Company's privileges in this manner; and of course that Mr. Vansittart, unauthorized as he was to enter into any treaty, could have no right to do it; but suppose it otherwise, How was it to be determined which were and which were not ship merchandize? Mr. Vansittart indeed, in a subsequent article, has left that to be determined by those whose interest it must be to determine them to be not so. In the arguments used for the tax of 9 per cent. on the trade from one part of the country to another, it is throughout insinuated, that this is less than what has been usually paid; and Mr. Vansittart says, That on all the trade of this kind that he has carried on in salt, &c. he has paid the country duties; but from my own knowledge, as well as enquiry, I have reason to think, that of the innumerable articles traded in in this way, only salt and tobacco have paid any, the former of which, by far the most considerable, I believe last year on a medium did not pay above 3 per cent. although we submitted to pay the established country duties. Mr. Vansittart, on being asked in council last Tuesday, What those were that he meant by salt, &c. ? replied, Only salt, for that he never traded in any other. How ill then is his argument supported by his declaration, when explained! On the whole, I believe we are by this article, instead of trading duty free, which I think we have an undoubted right to, loaded with a duty more than double what is paid by the Dutch, Armenians, or any people of the country.

The acknowledging thus, in a public writing, that the English do carry on their trade by force or violence, extortion or unfair dealing, as I imagine without any foundation for such assertion, is so hurtful to the reputation of the English in this country, that I look on it in the same light that I do the giving up the privileges of the phirmaund.

By the second article, contrary to the privileges that the English enjoy by grants and treaties, themselves and gomastahs are subject to the jurisdiction of the meanest officer that the Nabob employs, without the liberty of an appeal.

I find so many objections, of the same nature as were made to the last, to be made to this, and every article of this treaty, that I shall only remark on the whole of the remaining articles, That by being debarred the liberty of making salt, we are deprived of a privilege that every person, Europeans and others, in the country have, but ourselves.

That the giving up the right of coining in the different mints is oversetting a privilege granted from Delhy.

That the throwing the whole trade of Assam and Rangamally into the hands of one person is a monopoly most destructive to trade, and more particularly if what Mr. Vansittart advances be just, that the duty on cotton alone in that country brings in a revenue of 40,000 rupees, which if you supposed at 5 per cent. must be raised on 800,000 rupees worth, which if thus monopolized must greatly raise the price of that article, and of course the price of cloth.

Upon the whole, I think the written security should be demanded of the Nabob, and destroyed, to prevent, in future times, when our affairs may not be in the flourishing situation they are at present in Bengal, in regard to force, a bad use being made of it; for it is probable that the government would, in case of having the upper hand in the country, make use of it to invalidate the privileges the English enjoy by their phirmaund, husbulhookums, and treaties.

In answer to question the first I say—Yes.

To question the second—No.

To question the third—Yes.

To question the fourth—That certificates should be given after the duties are paid.

To question the fifth—Not at all.

To answer to question the sixth I say as formerly, Agreeable to the phirmaund: but that a plan be laid down by the board to prevent any injuries being done by the English gomastahs, and for punishing those that are guilty; which I think may be well done by a Committee appointed for that purpose, who should receive all complaints and appeals from subordinates or agents residing with authority of the board in those quarters, and examine them; and as it appears that great part, if not the whole, of the troubles that have happened to the English and their gomastahs of late, are owing to the orders sent over the country by the Nabob, I think it highly necessary that we have always a senior servant resident with the Nabob, who should be acquainted with all orders regarding the English; this I think we have a right to demand, and is what we should insist on, as it will in future prevent our so long being ignorant of the source of our troubles as we have lately been.

Mr.

Mr. Johnstone thinks the President's letter to the Nabob, containing the new regulations he intended to establish, is, from its object stile, as well as concessions, highly dishonourable to us, and such as could not fail of ruining our trade and influence, and reducing us lower than ever the English were at any period in this country; that the President, without authority, or any urgent necessity that yet appears, or can be conceived, resigned to the Nabob those rights and privileges we are entitled to by the phirmaund, and subsequent treaties, and have hitherto enjoyed by virtue of them: First, by distinguishing the Company's trade from that of their servants, and agreeing to an exorbitant duty of nine per cent. on all articles of the inland trade, without distinction, or examination of what had usually been paid on any of these articles at the different subordinates; establishing the rate upon that paid by the gentlemen of Lukypore, though expressly mentioned by them to be more than what was paid at Dacca, and known to be above double the duty paid heretofore at Hughley, and though salt was the only article in his own private inland trade that the President remembers to have ever paid any duty on or before this time: Secondly, in subjecting the English, and their gomastahs, under the authority of the Moores courts of judicature, contrary to the privileges we have ever enjoyed of protecting those employed under us, and ourselves judges of their actions; the many ill consequences of which, and the entire loss of that credit and pre-eminence we have ever maintained, is evident to every body, of which we have had ample proof, since the circulation of the regulations, as appears from the complaints of every quarter of the abuse of the power so easily put into their hands, by the stoppage of our trade and attacks openly made on those entitled to our protection: Thirdly, the prohibiting at once, without reason, or ever consulting the Board, the Company's servants, at the factories at Luckypore, Islamabad, &c. from making salt works themselves, which is a liberty not denied to any native of the country, and by which their fortunes have been and are endangered, as no time was allowed for collecting in the money they had laid out, and the balance due could only be recovered by receiving the salt from the Molongies they had employed.

The articles ordering, without any limitation, that all purchases of lands made by any of the servants of our factories should be resigned, was, I think, unjust and dishonourable to us, as if our servants, where they paid the due demands to the government, were not intitled to our protection.

The article directing, that the chiefs and servants of the factories are not to hinder the weavers and brokers of the government, has been considered as giving a full power to the Nabob's officers over them people, and may turn to the ruin of the Company's investment, as appears by the proceedings of Mahomed Aly at the Dacca aurungs.

The foregoing the privilege we had of coining in the mints of Patna and Dacca, while no provision was made for the currency of our siccas at those places, without discount, was giving up what the Company could demand of right: And,

Ordering all purchases at Gualparah to be made intirely through the Nabob's orogan, was an infringement of our rights of a free trade in that quarter, and against the treaty with Jaffier Ally Khawn, by which we are freed from being even obliged to buy by the intervention of delolls.

The minute of the Board the 17th January, on the proceedings of the President, therefore to me appears well grounded; and I think the treaty ought to be recovered from the Nabob, and destroyed, that so bad a precedent may never be established and used against us.

Next, in regard to the questions proposed, he thinks first, that by virtue of the phirmand, husbulhookums, and the treaties with Serajah Dowla and Meer Jaffier Ali Khan, I think the Company and their servants have a right, without any restriction or limitation, to trade in and grant dustucks for every article, whether for foreign or inland trade: our having been restricted by the power of the Subahs, before the revolution, from the full enjoyment of these rights, can never be urged as a good argument to invalidate them; when we became powerful enough to assert them, they were established as fully and clearly as could be expressed in the public treaties then concluded, and in sunnuds and dustucks, afterwards issued in consequence, by Seraja Dowla and Jaffier Aly Khan, for the uninterrupted currency of our trade, through the indisputable authority of the dustuck, wherever it was granted; and these sunnuds were not merely for such quarters where the Company had factories and aurungs, but comprehended also all the distant frontier provinces, where they had not the least trade of any kind, as Rungpore, Purnea, Rangamatty, Danagepoor, Syllet, &c. And Jaffier Ally Khan yet agrees, that he understood the treaty in this sense; that wherever a Company's dustuck was granted, no duty could ever be demanded. If custom, and what privileges we enjoyed under the Moores government before the revolution, are to be established, as what only we have a right to trade in now by virtue of our grants, phirmaun, &c. there is scarce an article of the gruff trade, whether for export or consumption, in Calcutta and other places in the kingdom, but we must give up; for it is known we could not professedly in our names trade in those articles, though willing to pay the duties and arbitrary exactions required on such occasions; these various other articles of gruff are no more particularized or expected in any treaty or phirmaund, &c. than the two articles of salt and tobacco, and have been ever since the treaty with Serajah Dowla carried on with the Company's dustuck.

That we have acquiesced in paying duty on the single article of salt, and passing it with the

shaubundars ruanna, at Calcutta, Dacca, and Luckypore, should not now I think weigh with us to continue it, when our rights are called in question, and we are bound to support them in their full extent; above all, as this article is the produce of the Company's own lands, of Calcutta, Purgunnas, Chittagong, Midnapore, Jallafore, and Burdwan, and as it makes a considerable branch of their revenue, ought as much as possible to be protected and encouraged, instead of being oppressed with new taxes, exceeding above double what has yet paid; as for the article of tobacco, no duffuck from the government has ever been taken, and the duty paid on it has never been demanded till after its arrival at Dacca; and at Cossimbuzar the Company's duffucks have been always granted, and never disputed for this article.

2d. I think therefore that the government have no right to demand that or any other duties, where the duffuck is granted, and that it should be now granted on salt and tobacco, as it has been hitherto for beetle nut, rice, ghee, opium, sugar, &c. articles consumed in the country as well as exported.

3d. Those European inhabitants, who by the Company's directions are not intitled to duffucks, should not be freed from paying the duties; yet when these are discharged for the ease of trade, I think a passport or certificate from the President might accompany the ruanna of the buxsh-bundar.

4th. The English gomastahs in any part of the three provinces should be subject in no manner to the jurisdiction of the country government; they are not in my opinion, more than their principals, to be accountable to them; I believe they never were; and no step could possibly have been taken more surely to ruin our trade, influence, and respect in the country, than acknowledging them our absolute masters and judges; the Company have ever been protected, their gomastahs and those of their servants; while we have subordinate factories, and a fixed government here, justice may always be had, when complaints are well grounded, and can be proved by the government's dependants; nor need we be startled with these laid before us, but from the subject, exaggeration, and groundlessness of most of them, conceive what a state of wretched dependance we should fall into, were we liable to be called upon every such like absurd complaint preferred to the country government. In those more distant quarters, where the Company have not factories, the trade is generally managed by gentlemen who have had the approbation of the Board to go up the country, and given security for their good behaviour; they may be presumed more to be depended on for determining equitably any disputes about points of trade, which is all they should or need have any connection with them, any Zemindary Court; an appeal might nevertheless always lie from them to the nearest subordinate; and when such persons are publicly known in those quarters, as under the protection, and acting with the permission and authority of the Board, to whom they are to be accountable, they may, without any new regulation or innovation, carry on their trade to the satisfaction of the people, and without any detriment to, or interfering with, the collection of the revenues.

Mr. Hastings.

My name already appearing to the letter proposing the regulations which form the substance of the President's letter to the Nabob, it will hardly be expected of me to join in the harsh and unmerited censure cast upon them by the members which then formed the Board: I at that time regarded these regulations, not as a concession of any new rights to the Nabob, but a confirmation of those which he held by the treaties in force; nor has any thing appeared since to make me change that opinion.

My sentiments upon the extent of our duffuck, and the privilege of our gomastahs, I shall fully hereafter, observing only in this place, that the settling the duties on the inland trade at 9 per cent. the Governor only fixed the trade, which was before variably levied, with continual disputes, to the great detriment of the fair trader; and in this he acted in strict conformity to the plain and literal instructions of the Board, whatever sense they were intended to convey.

The President has so fully explained the motives and reasons for this transaction, that it is needless for me to take up the time of the Board with a repetition of them: upon the whole, I declare it as my opinion, that the regulations in question were calculated in the best manner to our trade upon a proper footing, to distinguish our right from those of the Nabob, to preserve the English name from reproach, and the affairs of the Company from suffering by continual disputes and contentions in which they had no concern.

To understand the meaning of any treaty, where the expressions are doubtful or defective, recourse should be had to the circumstances of the parties concerned, at the time in which they were made; regarding the firmness in this light, we shall make no scruple to pronounce, that the Company could not, where they obtained that grant from the court of Delhee, understand it to extend beyond their own trade, or include privileges of which they could not make any use; and which, I may add, they never dreamt of.

The commerce in imports and exports ever bounded, as of necessity it must, their concerns in this country, for the encouragement of a trade beneficial to the country and its revenues; the court, at that time in its most flourishing state, and supported by wise and able ministers, indulged the Company with the freedom which they petitioned for from duties; then the trade, in such commodities as were produced and sold in the country, was intirely confined to the natives; they were either farmed out where they were considerable enough to make an article in the public revenues, or circulated through the province by the poorer sort of people, to whom,

whilst

whilst they afforded a subsistence, they at the same time added to the income of the state by the duties gathered upon them: let us suppose the Company's agents had petitioned for the liberty of trading in these articles without paying duties; can it be conceived that the government could have been so blind to its own interest as to have given a privilege to strangers which would have enabled them to monopolize the whole trade of the country, to impoverish the natural subjects, and exhaust the country of its wealth, without making any adequate return for it? The privileges therefore claimed by the Company, and allowed by the government, were originally designed by both for such a trade only as was carried on by the former, that is, in goods brought into the country, or purchased in it for exportation; in effect, it was ever limited to that; nor can it be proved that the duffuck was ever allowed to pass for any other, from the first engagement of this grant until the death of the Seraja Dowla: the Company, in their standing orders before that time, prohibited their servants from meddling with what we now term the Inland Trade, and name it illicit; nor can any difference of power convey to us a right from former treaties, which we confessedly wanted before, though since the restoration of the Company's privileges we have by degrees dealt in the inland trade, yet it was always with a tacit acknowledgement of the invalidity of our duffuck for that trade, having generally paid the government a duty thereon; and where it was attempted without, it has constantly been the subject of complaints and opposition on the part of the Nabob's officers. I am well aware of the objection which I have frequently heard repeated in the course of the debates upon this subject, and which it may be proper in this place to reply to; I mean, That we should not be too rigorous in calling in question our own privileges; but where the sense of a treaty is not sufficiently clear, interpret it in such manner as may tend to our own advantage, leaving it to others to dispute it; and that therefore, as the firmaun gives us a general right to trade duty free, without mentioning any exceptions, we should insist on a free trade in every thing, without exception. Without examining this principle, I shall only say, that if it be just at all, it can only be so where the points contested for are of real importance; but where they are either trivial in themselves, or have a pernicious tendency, it must be an absurdity to insist upon them.—I must beg leave for the first time to distinguish between the interest of the Company and that of individuals, which I am afraid have been too much confounded in these debates; that the Company will not suffer by a restriction of the duffuck to foreign merchandize is manifest, since, with that restriction, it will answer every purpose for which they want it. Besides, the odium which a monopoly so injurious to the natural rights of the country merchants must unavoidably cast upon the English name, and the perpetual jealousies which, from experience, we know it to be attended with, prove that this privilege is in effect highly prejudicial to the real interest as well as honour to the Company. As they have been pleased to permit us to share with them the benefit of the duffuck, we may surely content ourselves with the enjoyment of that privilege within the same bounds to which they have limited themselves. To attempt to extend it beyond that, and, for the sake of our own private advantage, to make this a point of contest with the power in alliance with the Company, is both a violation of justice and a breach of the duty which we owe to our employers.

My opinion then, upon the three first questions before us, is, first, That we can claim no right from the phirmaun, nor, of course, the subsequent treaties, which were but intended as copies of that; in the articles regarding our commerce, to an exemption from duties on any but foreign trade; that is, in goods imported or carried out of the country. Secondly, That duties ought to be paid to the country government on salt, beetle-nut, and other articles, which are produced and sold in the country. And, thirdly, That of course the duffuck ought not to be given for those articles, but that they pass with a rowana or certificate from the officers of the customs, in the same manner with the goods belonging to other merchants. The fourth article I deem altogether unnecessary, whether we trade in salt with the Company's duffuck, or, as other merchants, without them, the duffuck being a sufficient distinction in the first case, and the latter requiring none.

My opinion upon the fifth question is, That the English gomastahs, in every part of the three provinces, whether in the districts of the Nabob or of the Company, shall be subject to the magistrate; but with this distinction to be observed between private gomastahs and those of the Company, that the former shall be equally accountable to the magistrate, for any misdemeanor, with any one of the Nabob's subjects that shall at any time reside in the territory of the Company, nor enjoy any advantages above other merchants, but such only as the firmaun gives them, viz. that their goods shall pass duty free wherever they have the protection of the duffuck; the magistrate shall not oppose, but assist them, in the recovery of their just debts, nor suffer any one to injure or oppress them; but, as the Company's gomastahs have a weightier charge, and are none of them situated at such a distance from the Company's factories, but that complaints against them may be both easily heard and speedily redressed, it should be only permitted to the magistrate to oppose them in the actual commission of any violence, or the assumption of any right not belonging to them; but in any disputes with their immediate dependants, such as the weavers, pykers, or delolls in their service, he shall not interfere, otherwise than by assisting them in carrying their complaints to the presidency, or the factories to which the gomastahs belong, for redress; but the gomastah shall not therefore protect his own dependants from any lawful claims of the government, nor their persons from justice in any criminal cases.

This to me appears the only equitable method for preventing any misbehaviour in our people, or disputes between them and the Nabobs. If the magistrate at any time should abuse his authority, the Nabob should be required, upon proof, to dismiss him from his office, or inflict any other punishment suitable to the degree of the offence. If this justice, so essential to the Nabob's own interest and the tranquillity of the country, be refused, or from the distance of his residence cannot be timely obtained, we have always the means in our power, when such extraordinary occasions may demand it, to vindicate our right, and call the infringers of it to justice.

From the peculiarity of the times, and a natural propensity in the weaker part of mankind to run from one extreme to another, it has unfortunately happened, that the power suddenly placed in the hands of the Nabob's officers, for the protection of his people, has been so extravagantly abused, as to give occasion to a persuasion in many, that no power can with safety be trusted in their hands. As I have formerly lived amongst the country people, in a very inferior station, and at a time when we were subject to the most slavish dependence in the government, and met with the greatest indulgence, and even respect, from the zemindars and officers of the government, I can with the greatest confidence deny the justice of this opinion; and add further, from repeated experience, that if our people, instead of erecting themselves into lords, and oppressors of the country, confine themselves to an honest and fair trade, and submit themselves to the lawful authority of the government, they will be every where courted and respected, and the English name, instead of becoming a reproach, will be universally revered; the country will reap a benefit from our commerce; and the power of the English, instead of being made a bugbear to frighten the poor inhabitants into a submission to injury and oppression, will be regarded by them as the greatest blessing and protection.

It is as impossible for any state to subsist with a divided power as with none. Our servants are as likely, at least, to make an ill use of their power as the Nabob's are, but are not so easily to be restrained. In whose hands, therefore, can it be so properly lodged as in those of the government, to whom it belongs? To take from them that right, a right which we should never suffer to be contested in our own districts, will be to introduce oppression, rapine, and anarchy, into the country which we are engaged to protect; and whatever temporary advantage individuals may gain from such a scene of troubles, the affairs of the Company must infallibly suffer by it, if not be involved in one common ruin with the country. That this consequence may not appear too forcibly drawn, permit me to add, it has been observed, that the wisest and most permanent states have ever left to conquered nations the exercise of their own laws, and by that means insured their subjection. The power which we have acquired in these provinces has reduced them into a condition as nearly resembling a conquest as it is for our own interest to wish it; but if we take so ungenerous, as well as impolitic, advantage of their weakness, as to put it in the power of every Banyan who calls himself an English servant, to tyrannize over the inhabitants without controul, this is not only to deprive them of their own laws, but to deny them even of the benefit of any.

Mr. Cartier gives it as his opinion, that the President's letter to the Nabob was in every respect improper, and naturally intended, from the concessions contained therein, to bring upon the English name discredit and real disgrace; the late violences, as well as insolencies, committed by the natives, are a certain argument of its impropriety, and which were clearly foreseen the very instant the said letter was made public; that the hope given them of being constituted judges and arbitrators of all disputes that might happen in the intercourse of our business, gave cause to the many inconveniences and tyranny that we have lately suffered, and do suffer: the subjecting us to such a controul would have effectually destroyed our influence and reputation in the country, and would unavoidably have led us, from the manifold oppressions we must have felt under by such regulations taking place, to the necessity of taking up arms for the redress of those grievances every member of this colony must have felt by so arbitrary a jurisdiction: as it is, the evil has spread wide, and has acquired such strength, that no other methods, I doubt, but forcible ones, will be able to remove it; that he can't think the members of the Board gave, or intended giving, a direct consent to the President's entering into a treaty with the Nabob on points so very interesting to our privileges, or did they imagine such a step was any ways necessary; but what he thinks most condemnable is, that the said regulations, previous to the approbation or disapprobation of the Board, were made known to the Nabob, and the same ordered by him to his different officers, to be carried into execution, before such agreement could have the concurrence of the several members of the Council: he is likewise of opinion, that the said regulations, and the said letter to the Nabob, were in no respect agreeable to the tenor and spirit of our phirmaund, and the subsequent treaties entered with the Nabob Serajah Dowlah and Meer Jaffier, but would have been the means of confining our privileges into much narrower bounds than the grants and treaties are intended to restrain us in.

First, On the true extent and meaning of the phirmaund, and all subsequent treaties, Mr. Cartier thinks, that by the privileges invested in us by our phirmaund, husbullhookums, and our late treaties, that trade is under no limitation whatever, either in foreign or inland commodities; that the want formerly of power to assert the immunities of the phirmaund, cannot, as he imagines, be construed to an absolute and entire deprivation of them: this reason now no longer

longer existing, we ought to exert our privileges to their fullest intent and latitude, nor submit to the capricious conduct and encroaching behaviour of the country government.

Thirdly, On the trade on salt and tobacco, he can have no objection to the payment of an equitable duty, more particularly as we have hitherto, both at the presidency and the factories of Dacca and Luckypore, submitted to pay on one or both of those articles; but let that be fixed at a medium of what has been paid at the different settlements, and furthermore to be considered as a concession made the Nabob, and not claimed as a right paid as a thing which custom has established, and not to be confirmed by any treaty.

Fourthly, It is allowed that the trade in salt and tobacco is in every respect agreeable to our phirmaund privileges: he sees no reason why a duffuck should not be granted for those articles as well as for all others; tho' at the same time, as a duty may probably be laid on those two articles, they should be accompanied with the buxbundar, or the shawbundar's receipt, to ascertain that the full duties have been paid, and that nothing further is to be demanded on any account.

Fifthly, As certificates have been granted indiscriminately to the Company's servants, as well as to the inhabitants of Calcutta, he thinks the same should be continued to the latter, on their application to the President, on producing the buxbunder's receipt for duties paid; tho' at the same time the duty stipulated and agreed upon to be levied on these branches of trade, the properties of Company's servants, should serve as no regulations for what may be demanded from them.

Sixthly, The nature of the government in every part of Indostan being in all respects oppressive and venal, and the decision of all causes depending more on the ability of the parties engaged in bribing their judges than the legality of them, it can scarcely be thought even equitable, that the servants and gomastahs in our employ should, on any complaint or misdemeanor, be subject to their determination. It is likewise a known truth, that in every dispute concerning property and money matters, a fourth part is appropriated for the service of the government and offices: this probably might not be insisted upon from us, tho' its not being so would in all likelihood be rather prejudicial than the contrary, as the other party might be subjected to the established custom of the country, which, if so, it must appear to every one what a superior influence would be acquired on that side; but even independant of this custom, and should it not be expected or demanded from either party, yet the integrity of our proposed judges is so little allowed of, that it would be the highest absurdity to expect it, or even to submit in their having the least power or authority over our people: should this be even permitted, it will not be presumption to declare that we may then begin to date the commencement of our declining influence in the country, and would most certainly be productive of continual broils should we have spirit sufficiently remaining to resent the injustice and indignities we must in such situation be exposed to.

Sixtly, Tho' he thinks it improper to allow the officers of the government any kind of controul over our gomastahs, yet he is far from wishing their actions should be uncontrollable: let the person injured, if not in our employ, lay his complaint before the magistrate of the district he is in, to be by him forwarded with the complaint to the President, or Chiefs and Council, of the different factories as be most near the district where the complaint comes from; when the gomastah so complained against shall be ordered down to justify himself as to the accusation lodged against him: should complaints arise in parts distant from either the presidency or the factories, he thinks a confidence might be reposed in the gentlemen employed as our agents in those parts, as they are men of character, and their appointments been approved by the members of the Board, and each depended upon to settle the complaints brought against their own gomastahs: should this not be approved, he can only propose the method pointed out as to the determination of those disputes that may happen in the neighbourhood of the different settlements, or by an aumeen, properly authorized to make an enquiry into them. It is necessary we should become our own judges in all disputes in which we may possibly be concerned; most true it is, it has not the most equitable appearance; but every gentleman must be convinced how highly essential such a privilege is for the supporting our influence, and avoiding chicanery and perplexities of a Moorish court; and he can't help thinking, but a power so lodged in our hands is liable to less abuses, and will be exercised with the strictest impartiality, notwithstanding we may in some respects be interested in the decision of the cause.

Mr. Billers's.

The first part of the President's letter to the Nabob contains the agreement for our paying a duty of 9 per cent. on all articles for inland trade; the phirmaund, and subsequent treaties, are certainly the only guides that can enable us to form a proper judgment on this subject; and having given the greatest attention to them, when read at the board last council day, I think they give us an undoubted right to trade, duty free, in all commodities whatever, either for foreign or inland trade, upon the consideration of our paying annually the phisusk therein stipulated in lieu thereof. These being my sentiments of the meaning of the phirmaund, &c. it follows of course that I must disapprove of the President's entering into an agreement which so evidently deprives us of one of the greatest advantages we have gained thereby, and particu-

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larly of his having done it on the bare supposition that it would be approved by the other members of the board; however, as the Nabob's revenues would suffer, were we to carry on our commerce of every kind without paying any duties, I think it would be proper that some reasonable consideration should be made him for the privilege of the inland trade; but that he should at the same time be made sensible that he is by no means intitled thereto, and that it is entirely a mark of favour.

With regard to the regulations the President has laid down for the determination of all disputes which may happen between our agents or gomastahs and the country inhabitants, it is well known that those people cannot confine themselves within the limits of the authority with which they are invested. The many daring insolencies and oppressions which have been committed by the Nabob's officers, ever since his orders for enforcing those regulations were first issued, are evident proofs of the truth of this observation, and sufficiently point out the impropriety of them, without the use of further arguments. Upon the whole, I think the President might be desired to recall this letter, least, by falling into the hands of any of the Nabob's successors, it might hereafter be used by them as a plea for the same purpose for which it was now designed.

I have already declared my opinion of the first query proposed, in giving my sentiments on that part of the President's letter which related to the 9 per cent. duty; with regard to the second and third, I think the Company's distress should be always granted equally for the inland, as well as the foreign, trade, when it has been settled whether we shall pay any and what duty, as it will effectually cut off all subject of dispute, by putting it out of the power of the officers to make any objection to the passage of the goods; and that none but Company's servants should have the President's passport for the salt which may have paid the government's duty at Hughley.

As to any disputes which may happen between our gomastahs or agents and the people of the country, I think the only scheme for the determination of them will be to oblige the person who may think himself aggrieved to apply for redress to the nearest factory, whatever distance may be from the place where the dispute happened, and if he is not content with their decision he may appeal to the Governor and Council.

WM. BILLERS.

Mr. Batson thinks the President's letter to the Nabob detrimental to the interest of *the and the nation in general*; because, by a forced and groundless explanation, it invalidates the privileges granted by the King's phirmaun, and sundry husbullhookums, and confirmed by the treaties with Serajah Dowlah and Meer Jaffier; such an explanation coming from the chief of the English may give great advantage to Nabobs, and to other European nations against us, in future negotiations which we may happen to have with them. By this letter also, the advantage of coining in the mints of Patna and Dacca is given up, at the same time the Calcutta mint rendered of little or no service; for by our being prohibited from using any authority over the shrofs, the currency of rupees coined at Calcutta will be stopped in most parts of the country; and this is actually the case at present at Cossimbuzar and Murshedabad: he was much surprized to see those advantages, which were so strenuously contended for many years together, given up without any public consideration: he thinks also the said letter tends to destroy the national influence in this country, and to bring us into contempt; because the form of address, and several expressions, are unbecoming, submissive, and condescending; but chiefly, because it submits the English agents, not excepting the Company's factories, to the jurisdiction of the Nabob's officers, which would immediately put a stop to great part of the private trade, and would furnish the Nabob with continual pretences for subjecting the Company to the same oppressions which they underwent before the rupture with Serajah Dowlah, whenever he should think himself in a condition to proceed to such lengths; he therefore thinks we should insist on the Nabob's sending back the said original letter.

In answer to question the 1st,

He thinks by the phirmaund, husbullhookums and subsequent treaties, the Company, and under them their servants, have a clear right to trade in every article, whether for foreign or inland trade, which is right, it is our duty to preserve entire and undisputed; and that the arguments used by the gentlemen on the other side of the question, to prove the contrary, do really prove no more than that former Nabobs had the power and means of hindering us from enjoying the King's grant in its full extent.

In answer to question the 2d,

He thinks we should acquiesce in paying the same duty on salt and tobacco that have been paid since Meer Jaffier's coming to the subah, but that the same should not be agreed to by any public deed or writing; and here he thinks proper to remark, that the salt trade being formerly farmed by Coja Wazeed for an inconsiderable sum, could be no great advantage to the Nabob's revenue; and by means of the monopoly he allowed the mahers and dealers at the first hand, a very small price, from 25 to 30 rupees per 100 maunds; but since the English have had a part of this trade, the price of salt has risen to 70 or 80 rupees per 100 maunds at the aurungs; from hence any person acquainted with the country must see, that from the English trading

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trading in this article the Nabob has received benefit, not suffered loss; his complaints on this head therefore proceed not from any real grievance.

In answer to question the 3d and 4th,

He thinks dufftucks should be allowed to the Company's servants in future for such articles, but not others.

In answer to question the 5th,

He thinks the English agents should not be subjected to the authority of the country government.

In answer to question the 6th,

He thinks the business may be carried on as it has been before, without any ill consequences; however, as a regulation concerning disputes is required, he thinks the officers of the government may enquire into such matters, and send reports of them to the nearest English factory, or to the presidency, as they may chuse.

Major Carnac's.

At the consultation of the 17th January, Major Carnac concurred in opinion with the whole of the gentlemen then at the Board, on the regulations established by the President and Mr. Hastings; and his reasons for so doing, were, first, that he deems highly dishonourable our being thereby subjected to the Moorish jurisdiction, as this is acknowledging a dependancy on the country government, the deliverance from which he had ever regarded as the great happiness resulting from our first resolution; nor can any but iniquitous decisions be expected from courts of such notorious partiality.

Secondly, Major Carnac deems dishonourable, as also extremely prejudicial to our trade, the agreeing to the duty upon all articles of inland trade, without distinction, none of which were ever before subjected to the duties to the establishment of Meer Jaffer, except salt and tobacco; and this must have been through condescension on our part, as our having an universal freedom of trade is so particularly specified, both by our phirmaunds and treaties, as not to leave the least open for cavilling. Major Carnac, thirdly, deems it a dishonourable concession (and the gentlemen at Patna have shewn it will be detrimental to the Company) the yielding up the coinage in the mint at Patna, to which he believes we are entitled from our phirmaunds; but, exclusive thereof, we had a very good claim from our having constantly enjoyed that privilege during the time of the preceding Nabob. The Major, in consequence, thinks the letter from the President to the Nabob, containing the said regulations, should be withdrawn.—Thus much being premised, answers, on the part of Major Carnac, the first and fifth questions.

With respect to the second and third questions, Major Carnac is of opinion, that whatever rights we may have, from our phirmaunds, and our different treaties, should be insisted on; and therefore, that the Company's dufftucks should be granted for all commodities, without exception; and that no duties whatever shall be paid to the Nabob, but in lieu therefore, a duty be levied upon dufftucks, for the benefit of the Company; however, should the Board think this would occasion a great diminution of the Nabob's revenue, he hopes they will not consent to any other duties, but the continuance of those upon salt and tobacco, the former at the Houghley rate, and the other according as has been paid at Dacca; and that in such case, it will be clearly explained to the Nabob, that it is pure indulgence from us, and which we may retract at pleasure.—The Company's dufftucks, nevertheless, equally given for salt and tobacco, as for all other articles of trade.

If it be determined to make a compliment to the Nabob of a duty upon salt, the other gentlemen of the Board are the best judges how far the privilege of trading therein ought to be extended, and whether it should be confined to the Company's servants or not. Major Carnac begs leave to wave giving any answer to the fourth question, not being sufficiently master of the subject.

That the black people in our employ are guilty of great irregularities, and commit many abuses under the sanction of our authority, has been a frequent subject of complaint; and it certainly behoves us to seek every possible remedy thereto, except such a one as has been proposed, which is worse than the disease; there can be no difficulty at the places which are in the neighbourhood of any of our factories, the chiefs and council whereof should be empowered to enquire into the conduct of the English gomastahs; and we are not to doubt that the decisions will be fair and equitable: in the places at a distance from our factories, such as Rungpoor, Gualpore, &c. there are generally some English gentlemen of character resident; and then in cases of complaint, should be directed by the Board to take informations upon the spot, and to spare no cost or pains to get at the truth, which should be transmitted either to the nearest factory, or to Calcutta; and upon conviction of any gomastah of misbehaviour, the most exemplary punishment should be inflicted, in order to deter others from the like practices.

Mr. Amyat—Mr. Vansittart in his minute of the 1st of February, complains of the harsh and indecent opinion of the Board, on the 17th of January, against his treaty entered into with the Nabob, and that his negotiations therein did not merit such treatment from us.

We are unanimous on the regulations being detrimental and dishonourable, which every
article

article contained therein, I think, clearly denounced—the government formerly must have understood our phirmaund gave us a full and extensive trade in every thing, without distinction; and as far as our gentlemen were in capacity to carry on the inland trade, they practised for many years; but particular articles being farmed out to the government to particular persons, our trading therein gave umbrage, and Governor Stackhouse, I think, was obliged to give a mutchulka that the English would desist from further dealing in salt, silk, and beetle nut; this was at a time they could not maintain by force the Dilley grants, so through necessity complied with, an order at this time would have had the same effect; but they obliged the then governor to invalidate the phirmaund, by giving this muckulka which shewed they thought our right good, and by compulsion got this paper to overset our future pretensions, and has been ever since the argument against us, therefore detrimental, and dishonourable. Mr. Vansittart renewing this mutchulka, the adding an additional duty to what we have already paid through a condescension, is doubtless detrimental, the subjecting us to the Moorish laws, and which, to our honour be it known, in the worst of times we never were; but now, not even an appeal to the Nabob or the Council is mentioned; this, doubtless, is both detrimental and dishonourable: how prejudicial, partial, and unjust the nature of their courts, customs, and laws, are so well known to you all, Gentlemen, it's needless for me to take up your time in giving you my sentiments in full thereon; the mentioning that our servants, gomastahs, &c. shall not carry on trade by oppressions, &c. are dishonourable terms to be inserted in a public treaty; surely the English justice and honour was sufficient for the government to be satisfied, that we should surely chastise any of them who dared to prostitute our name, by any illicit action, without making it an article for them to do it: many complaints have appeared, but none proved, and I flatter myself none will, of any consequence; the Nabob's orders in circulating Mr. Vansittart's treaty, are dishonourable to us, and in a manner an act of hostility, bidding us open defiance.

The foregoing were my reasons for concurring with the rest of the Board on the 17th of January, in censuring the Governor's proceedings: and I am also to remind you, that we thought he had also been guilty of a breach of our privilege in acting without our consent; and I still think so: for I solemnly declare, I never suspected he could desire such an independant power, or so material or national a concern, or imagine the rest of the gentlemen would have been more explicit and peremptory in their letters to him; nor is it consistent with reason, any council should give such powers.

Doubtless, Mr. Vansittart will ask, What regulations we wanted to have settled with the Nabob, which we hoped from his influence with the Nabob? for he seems to know no one else would be such as tended to our advantage, and not to his prejudice; for if trade went freely on, we would readily acquiesce in paying duties as had hitherto been collected; but the removal of several vexations we had lately laboured under, was the point we wanted to see happily effectual; and our goods were certified to the English property, not to meet with any impediments.

I now come to the first question the Nabob and Mr. Vansittart seem to think, and assert we have not, a liberty to an unconstrained trade. We have, Gentlemen, carefully perused all our phirmaunds, treaties, &c. and I think it clearly appears to me we have; therefore, as the Nabob wants to invalidate those grants, we ought to have them properly explained to him; and insist on our parts to the utmost of the Company's prerogative, and demand the treaty back and destroy it.

To the second, I am to say, Since the Nabob has wanted to impose on us a breach of our liberties, we should not pay any duty on any thing, but support our rights: the Company may want to trade in these articles, when we consider their vast tract of lands and production thereof, especially salt, on which article they raise a very large duty themselves.

To the 3d and 4th questions, Duffstocks cannot be granted to any but Company's servants, unless it be for such goods produced upon the Company's lands, and paid their duties; but certificates should to such as have paid the Nabob's any where, on a proper ruwana being shewn to the governors or any chief, satisfaction that the Nabob's customs have been duly discharged.

To the 5th and 6th, The servants and gomastahs of the English should not on any account be under the least constraint of the government; but begs leave to defer saying any thing further on this head for the present; however, to regulate the disputes that may happen betwixt them and the country government; and indeed among themselves, till such time as he has heard it properly discussed at the board, where the mutual advantage of the country and ourselves will be impartially considered and deliberated on.

Major Adams does not think the agreement made with the Nabob, as contained in the Governor's letter to him, calculated to answer the end proposed by it; viz. To settle things on such a footing as may prevent future disputes with the country government, of whose justice Mr. Vansittart seems in that treaty to have entertained a much better opinion than their subsequent conduct shews they deserve.

In answer to the 1st question.

Major Adams is of opinion, That by the phirmaund and subsequent treaties, particularly the second article of that with Surajah Dowlah, the English East-India Company are intitled to carry on any kind of trade duty-free, and in any part of the three provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia.

APPENDIX, No. 5.

To the 3d,

That the abovementioned phirmaund and treaties entitle the said Company to carry on their trade, free from any duties; but that to prevent, as much as possible, any disturbances in the country, such duties as have been collected on any species of trade, since the last revolution, should be continued. In answer to the 3d and 4th questions, Major Adams is of opinion, that as the privileges in the abovementioned phirmaund, &c. were granted to the English East India Company, they, and their representatives here, are the proper judges for what, and to whom, districts should be granted; and as he looks upon the above questions to be a private nature, begs to be excused giving his opinion upon them.

In answer to the 5th question, Major Adams thinks that the experience we have had of the tyrannical and rapacious disposition of the officers of the country government almost renders this question unnecessary; however, as his opinion is required with the rest of the gentlemen at the Board, his duty to the public obliges him to declare, that he thinks that it should by no means be allowed.

To the 6th and last question, that wherever any considerable trade is carried on, however far distant, a Company's servant should reside, invested with full power to enquire into any disputes, and punish the delinquents; and that when the trade carried on is not of consequence sufficient to require a resident, upon any complaints against gomastahs, or English factors, the persons complained of should be immediately summoned to the nearest English factory, as well as all the evidences against them; and that the Chief of such factory, with his Council, should be empowered to inflict the severest punishment on such gomastahs and factors,—if found guilty; and that no expence should be spared to bring offenders to justice.—But should the complaint be found to be false or frivolous, the complainant should pay all the costs and damages.

The regulations contained in my letter (A) to the Nabob of the 26th of December, are such as appears to me to be conformable to the true intent and meaning of the phirmaund and subsequent treaties, considered with the Company's orders relative to the trade of their servants, and particularly the 24th and 29th paragraphs of their letter, of the 27th June 1748.

I am aware that the abuses, which some of the Nabob's officers have exercised, upon the appearance of these regulations, will be urged as an objection to them; but this is arguing by consequences; and I answer, that those, or whatever other regulations may be proposed, will sometimes be abused by both parties, especially on their first establishment; and the only remedy for this evil is, to punish all servants of ours who shall break through rules, and insist on the Nabob's doing the same: although some men are so licentious as to break through all laws, it is not a reason why laws should be abolished.

But to proceed to the particular articles objected to: First, it is said, That the inland trade, that is the trade in salt, and other articles produced in one part of this country, and sent to another part of the same country for sale and consumption, shall not be carried on with the Company's duffuck, but shall go with the duffuck of the country government, after paying them a duty of nine per cent. The phirmaund says, That whatever goods or merchandize the gomastahs of the English Company shall bring into any port or place of the province, by sea or land, or carry out, shall be free of duty: for my part, I can understand this no otherwise, than that the goods they shall bring in from foreign parts may be transported to any part of the province, by sea or land, duty free; and the goods they purchase in any part of the province may in like manner be carried out. This I imagined to be all the Company asked; and it is not to be supposed more was granted: by such a trade, the country reaps the benefit of the goods and money imported; but all that is gained by us in trafficking from place to place in the country, in articles of its own produce, is in truth so much lost to the country.

The subsequent treaties confirm the privileges of the phirmaund; and particularly the second article of the treaty with Serajah Dowlah declares, That all goods going to or coming from any place, by land or water, with the Company's duffuck, shall be free. It remains still to be limited by phirmaund, and the Company's orders, for what occasions the duffuck shall be granted; and I think it behoves us greatly to take care they are not granted for any purpose beyond the intention of the phirmaund, and to answer those ends the Company had in view when they put themselves to the expence of applying for it. With respect to the power of our gomastahs, the phirmaund says, That in every place where they buy or sell, the officers of the government shall assist them in their lawful demands; and every merchant, weaver, or other person, upon whom the English gomastahs shall have a just demand, the officers of the government shall oblige them to pay it, and suffer no one to oppress the gomastahs; and if any servant of the Company's, being in their debt, shall run away, the officers of the government shall take him up, and deliver him to the chief of the factory.

The Nabob Jaffier Aly Cawn, in his general sanad, 1757, confirms all the phirmaund privileges; and adds, that the Company may buy or sell without employing a banyan, or broker, and that the officers of the government shall assist them in all their just demands: nothing here can be said to give our gomastahs power to decide their own causes, or make use of any force of their own; but they are to apply to the officers of the government, and obtain redress through their means.

As to the coinage, there is an order, granting the Company permission to coin at the King's mint, at Carimabad; and, in case it can be done without loss to the King's revenue, three days in the week are to be set apart for the English Company's bullion; but

there is no particular indulgence. As to the rate of coinage, they are to pay the same mint chevegs as other merchants; and this is all the Nabob desired, as I mentioned in my answer to Nobi Troies complaints; of which answer I gave Mr. Ellis a copy; besides, I think this privilege now unnecessary, as we have a mint of our own, in which we may coin the rupees of Dacca and Patna, as we do those of Murshadabad. With regard to making toffals or salt pans in Sunderbund, I confess my letter to the Nabob does not fully express what I intended; I meant, that we ought not to take away the grounds which other merchants have cleared, nor the workmen; which as appears by my letters to the chiefs of Chittogong, which I delivered to the Nabob at the same time, they have heard. And as to the trading by our gomastahs with the mountaineers, who come with cotton to Rangamatty; if it has been customary for that article to be farmed out by the country government, and it is from that only the revenue proceeds, I think we have no right to over-rule that custom. Any innovations to the prejudice of the revenues of the country government, and the exclusion of the country merchants from that share of the trade which they have long inherited, I think, should be avoided, as such proceedings must render us universally the object of jealousy and ill will.

To the proposed questions I therefore say, first, that I think we have not a right, by phirmaund and subsequent treaties, to carry on the inland trade, or the trade from place to place in the country, in commodities produced in the country; but that we have a right to carry on all other trade custom-free.

Secondly—That I think duties might be paid to the country government on salt, beetle nut, tobacco, and all other articles of inland trade; and that a grant should be obtained from the Nabob, confirming to us a right to carry on that trade upon those conditions, so that it may not hereafter be disputed.—I mean, that duties should be paid to the country government upon articles produced in the country, sent from place to place in the country, for sale and consumption there; but when sent to Calcutta, for consumption or exportation, they should go with the Company's dustuck, and pay no duties to the country government; in such case, the country has its advantage in the vent given to their manufactories or produce by the trade of this settlement, and the Company receive the customs; but on the inland trade we pay no duties at all, unless we pay to the country government, and yet that trade will afford duties better than any other.

Thirdly and fourthly. I think the Company's dustuck should not be granted for any article of inland trade; but that certificates should be granted by the Governor of Calcutta, or the chief of any factory, to accompany the dustuck of the country government; and that such certificates should be granted equally to Company servants; any other licence English merchants who have first duly paid the government duties, and got their dustuck.

Fifthly and sixthly. I think the English gomastahs should not be under the controul of the officers of the country government, at those aurungs which are under the charge of any of the subordinate factories; but, in case of any complaint against them, the officers of the country government shall apply to the chief of the factory for redress; and in case the gomastah has a dispute with, or demand upon, any of the country people (not the weavers or other immediate servants of the Company) he shall apply to the officers of the government for redress; and if the officer of the government neglects or refuses to grant it, the gomastah shall then make his complaint to the chief of the factory, who shall require, and if necessary exact, an immediate compliance, giving a full account of the matter to the Board.

But at those aums which are not under the management of any of the Company's factories, but only some particulars have their agents or gomastahs, those, I think, such an authority cannot be trusted in their hands, nor indeed is it possible, as there may be several different gomastahs in one place who have all an equal right to authority; I think they should apply to the country government for redress on all occasions; and if the officers of the government do not grant them the satisfaction the matter requires, the gomastah may then make his complaint to his principal, and he to the Board, who will insist on the necessary reparation for all unreasonable losses: I do not, however, mean, that in case of complaint against an English gomastah at such place, the officer of the country government shall have authority to seize the gomastah, stop his goods, or interrupt his business; but he shall give him notice of the complaint, and recommend to him to get it settled; and in case the gomastah refuses or neglects to give such satisfaction as shall appear to the government's officer to be reasonable, he may then transmit the complaint to the governor of Calcutta. I see nothing in the firmaun or subsequent treaties which forbids the officers of the government from doing themselves justice on such occasions; but yet, the nature of the people is such, that it would be dangerous to admit it; of which their present violent proceedings is a sufficient proof.

The opinions having been all read at the Board, the sum of the answers to the several questions, stand as follows.

To the first question,

In the affirmative, ten voices.

In the negative, with respect to the inland trade, two.

To the second,

In the affirmative, seven.

In the negative, five.

To

APPENDIX, No. 6.

To the third,

In the affirmative, nine.

In the negative, two.

Major Adams silent.

The fourth question, being altered by the determination of the second, should stand thus;

“ As it is determined that duties should be allowed on certain articles, Whether certificates shall be granted to those who pay that duty, but are not Company’s servants ? ”

and it being accordingly put, the sum of the answers stand as follows :

In the affirmative, Messrs. Hay, Cartier, Amyatt, and the President—four voices.

In the negative, Messrs. Watts, Marriott, Johnstone, Hastings, Billers, and Batson—six voices.

Major Carnac and Adams silent.

To the fifth and sixth questions, The opinion of all the Board, excepting Mr. Hastings, imports, That the English gomastahs shall not be under any actual controul of the officers of the country government, but be restrained by such regulations as may be laid down.

As it is the opinion of the majority of the Board, That a consideration ought to be paid to the Nabob on certain articles of the inland trade, the members from the subordinates are asked, What duties they have hitherto paid, and on what articles ?

No. 6.

Fort William Consultation, 5th March 1763.

TAKING now into consideration the necessary regulations for restraining our agents and gomastahs from interfering with any affairs of the country government, injuring the people, or being injured by them, and for deciding of disputes which may arise between them ;

It is agreed,

First, That at all those aurungs which are adjacent to or under the management of the subordinate factories, the gomastahs, in case of being injured by any of the officers of the government or their dependants, shall first make their application for redress in writing to the officer of the government residing on the spot, from whom if he does not receive immediate satisfaction, he shall send his complaint to the chief of the nearest factory, who shall be empowered to take cognizance of the same, and demand or exact, if necessary, the satisfaction which the case may require : but that it is to be understood, in respect of weavers, pykars, and all others who receive advances of money for goods to be provided, or are indebted for goods bought, the gomastahs shall retain their power as usual, to call such debtors to account : that, on the other hand, where the government’s people shall have reason to complain against English gomastahs or agents, shall give the said agent or gomastah notice of the complaint in writing, requiring and recommending to him to settle it in an amicable and equitable manner ; and in case the agent or gomastah refuses or neglects to settle it in such a manner as shall appear reasonable to the government’s officer, he shall then transmit an account of it to the chief of the nearest English factory, and deliver a copy of the said account to the gomastah ; and the chief of the factory is hereby required strictly to examine into the affair, and decide it according to justice, giving a copy of his determination to the officer of the government who made the complaint. That the gentlemen of the subordinates shall keep a register of such complaints, with the decisions passed on them ; a copy whereof shall be forwarded monthly to the presidency.

Secondly. With respect to the distant places where trade is carried on, such as Rungpore, Purneah, Gual Parah, Ranganatty, there is at present no resident on the part of the Company ; but at Rungpore a provision of silk is made by a gomastah from Cossimbuzar factory ; which provision, it is hoped, may be increased and improved by the care of a covenanted servant. At the same time, the situation of this place is such as will be convenient for examining the complaints, and deciding the disputes which may arise in most of those places.

Agreed, therefore, That the addition of a senior servant be made to the Council at Cossimbuzar, and appointed resident at Rungpore.

That the order forbidding our servants or dependants from holding of lands, gunges, rents, or employments of any kind, under the country government, shall be again repeated.

That such, however, as have inherited talooks, from purchase, or other good right, shall not be obliged to give them up, but hold them as other talookdars in the country ; being informed once for all, that, in respect to such rents held from the government, they are not to avail themselves of our protection to invest them with any particular privileges.

That such complaints as have already been made, and transmitted to the several subordinates, shall be enquired into and decided, conformable to the above regulation, and that such as have not yet, shall now be forwarded to the proper subordinate for that purpose.

Agreed, in consequence of the above mentioned resolution, That Mr. Lyon be appointed third of the council at Cossimbuzar, and resident at Rungpore.

HENRY VAN SITTART,
WM. BILLERS,
RAND. MARRIOTT,
H. WATTS.

No. 7.

APPENDIX, No. 7.

No. 7.

Fort William Consultation, 7th March 1763.

RECEIVED two letters from the Nabob, dated the 26th of February, in answer to those wrote to him by the President, in consultation the 15th February.

The same being now read at the Board, it appears, that in one of them he contains his answer with respect to trade, in the Three following Demands or Proposals.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to the Governor, dated the 12^o Shaaban, or 26th of February; received the 7th March 1763.

Three demands which I formerly put to you I now again repeat: the first is, From the beginning until now the Nazim of Bengal corresponded with the Governor of Calcutta, just as I have been acquainted with you, my friend, and am now acquainted with you, and not having a single word of correspondence with the rest of the Board.

The second is, viz. I formerly represented to you, that the Company's trade has been fixed time immemorial, at this present besides the Company's trade, the gomastahs of the English gentlemen have set up the trade of salt, tobacco, dried fish, timber, &c. and make purchase of the country people with force and extortion, and are continually contriving unjust disputes and wranglings with my officers, so that the poor, the inhabitants, the merchants, and manufacturers of my country are oppressed, and both you and myself are troubled with unjust vexations. Now I say also, that your gomastahs are to trade as in customs in the merchandizes imported and exported, which has been the practice in this country; and are to refrain from those articles of trade which perplex the revenues due to my administration, and are a cause of disputes, and be the ruin of the inhabitants and poor people.

The third is, Whether your Excellency's will is, at all events, to commit the expences of the army, and management of the country and his Majesty's revenues, to me; and your own gomastahs are to carry on those branches of trade which were never practised in the country; and my country is to be oppressed, under pretences of trade, and the officers of my government are to have no concern in the affairs of the administration, or be allowed to say a word.

In the other there appears throughout a general disinclination to give us any satisfaction for the interruption and ill usage which we have received from Mahomed Aly and other officers of the government; and that both his letters seem, upon the whole, rather an evasion than an answer to the President's representations.

Agreed therefore, That a letter be immediately wrote to him by the President, acquainting him with this our opinion of his letters, and giving him a full account of what has been hitherto resolved on by the Board, in consequence of the phirmaund and other public orders of the court, and of the subsequent treaties, which have all been referred to, and strictly examined; and by the tenor of which the Board are determined to abide.

That copies of all those phirmaunds, husbulhookums, and treaties, together with the regulations which we have now resolved on, will be sent to him by Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, and whom we shall depute from the Board to explain to him more fully the injustice of those rights and pretensions, and settle the rules for levying the custom, which we have agreed shall be paid. That with respect to the complaints already made, we do insist on justice against all those officers of the government who may be proved guilty of the obstructions and extortions laid to their charge, and that reparation shall be made for the losses occasioned thereby: that, on the other hand, all the complaints made by his officers, in different parts of the country, against English agents or gomastahs, have been referred to the examination of the gentlemen of the factories nearest to those places from whence the complaints have come; and whatever injustice it may appear they have committed, we shall be particularly careful to cause them to make amends for.

Mr. Johnstone moves, That a letter be now wrote by the Board to the Nabob, in answer to the first of his three demands, explaining to him the powers of the Council, that it is with them that in fact he acts, although their opinion is transmitted through the channel of the President; that therefore he should consider them in the first degree:—further, that in it the Governor's letter, containing the regulations, should be re-demanded; and that the letter now sent should be signed by the Board, and sealed with the Company's seal.

The secretary being directed to collect the opinions of the Board on this motion of Mr. Johnstone's, the several members delivered the same as follows:

Mr. Watts is of opinion, that a paragraph should be inserted in the letter to be wrote to the Nabob, explaining to him the powers of the Board; and that the letter sent by Mr. Vansittar to the Nabob should be demanded back as from the Board, but that the letter now sent be forwarded under the President's seal.

Mr. Marriott is of the same opinion with Mr. Watts.

Mr. Hay thinks the explanation regarding the powers of the Council should be made to the Nabob in a public letter, agreeable to Mr. Johnstone's motion; but that a demand for the letter, containing the regulations, should be made in a letter under the President's seal.

The Company plainly declare their intention, that all correspondence with the country powers

powers should be carried on through the channel of the Governor; and as an alteration of this custom will subject the Nabob, who has not been used to such a method, nor can be a judge of the propriety of it, to great perplexities, and tend to create a breach between us, I object to any letter being wrote to the Nabob but with the President's seal.

As to an explanation of the powers of the Board, the Nabob, to my knowlege, is well acquainted with them, nor is such an information in any wise necessary.

It is also unnecessary to demand back the Governor's letter to the Nabob, will of course be annulled by the new regulations.

Messrs. Cartier and Billers are of the same opinion with Mr. Watts.

Mr. Batson agrees with Mr. Johnstone in opinion, That the authority of the Board should be asserted, and the Governor's written agreement be demanded back; and that it is the interest of the people, that the correspondence should be carried on by the Board.

Major Carnac is of opinion, That the Nabob does not, or will not, understand the powers of the Board, and therefore they ought to be so explained to him as to admit of no disputes; which cannot be done any way so effectually as by a letter under the public seal, as proposed by Mr. Johnstone in his minute; and that in the same letter the Governor's, containing the regulations, should be demanded back.

Mr. Amyatt is of Mr. Watts's opinion.

Major Adams is of opinion, That the Nabob's letters should be answered by the President, in the name of the Board, under his own seal, which, with the purport of letter, will sufficiently convince the Nabob that the power is lodged in the majority of the Council; and that he thinks the demanding the letter will more properly become part of the instructions to Messrs. Amyatt and Hay.

The President observes, That he has already explained to the Nabob, more than once, the power of the Board, and that he acted, in his own opinion, by the powers of the Board when he wrote the letter in question; but that as the Nabob affects to be insensible of the powers of the Board, and, instead of complying with the agreement, endeavours to make the worst use possible of the letter, he thinks he should be wrote to, in the terms proposed by Mr. Johnstone, but that it should be wrote in the usual manner, through the channel of the President, as any other method is contrary to the Company's standing orders, as well as detrimental to their affairs.

The majority of the Board being of Mr. Watts's opinion;

Ordered,

That two additional paragraphs, expressing the sense thereof, be added to the letter which is above directed to the Nabob by the President:—that the whole letter be drawn up by the secretary, from the resolutions of Council, and, when approved by the members, be sent to the translator, with directions to render it into Persian, applying to the President for the moonshy, who usually writes the letters for that purpose.

In conformity to the resolution contained in the above letter,

Messrs. Amyatt and Hay be deputed to the Nabob with full instructions, agreeable to the resolutions of Council; and that they do carry along with them a person who shall afterwards be resident at the durbar, to transact such business as must necessarily occur.

No. 8.

Fort William Select Consultation, 30th April 1764.

REceived a letter from Cossimbuzar, dated the 16th instant, inclosing a copy of one which they had received from Mr. Jekyll at Rungpoor, complaining of an insult offered him by Mr. George Ivie, an European agent residing there, in a letter which he wrote him, and of the ill usage which the vacqueel of the Shawpoor zemindar had received from a gomastah of Mr. Pottocks (another agent) set forth in a petition to Mr. Jekyll; of these two papers they also inclose us copies, and request we will give such orders as may prevent the like behaviour in future; as it will be impossible for Mr. Jekyll, if he is to be insulted in the discharge of his duty, to put a stop to the numberless apprehensions the government's people daily labour under, from the unlawful proceedings of many of the private Europeans agents and their gomastahs, settled in the Rungpoor and Dinagepoor countries, and of which repeated complaints have been made to the chief, by the Naib at Moorshedabad.

Read Mr. Jekyll's letter, and the other papers referred to in the Cossimbuzar letter.

Read a letter from Mr. Jekyll to the President.

Read a letter from the jussildar of Dinagepoor to Mr. Jekyll.

Ordered, All these papers be entered after the Cossimbuzar letter.

Mr. Middleton delivers in a letter, acquainting us, that Mr. Ivie is his agent; and accompanying the copy of a paragraph of a letter which he has received from him; in which Mr. Ivie represents the matter of Mr. Jekyll's complaint against him in a very different light to what he has done.

Ordered, It be entered, with the paper accompanying, after this consultation.

The foregoing papers call to our mind the many disputes and complaints which have already come before us, between the European agents and the country government, and proving the necessity of providing as soon as possible some effectual remedy.—And

The matter having undergone some debate at the present meeting;

Agreed, We come to a resolution on the subject next Thursday; and that these papers do lay for consideration till that time.

APPENDIX, No. 9.

No. 9.

Fort William Select Consultation, 3 May 1764.

At a Consultation ; PRESENT,

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

THE book of standing orders on the table.

The Consultation of the 30 ultimo, being wrote fair, was now read, and approved.

Having now resumed the consideration of the subject debated on at last council, and discussed fully on every point that occurred to the different members,

The Board drew up the following general opinion :

Every method has been tried for carrying on the inland trade upon such a footing as to prevent disputes between our agents and the country government, or between one agent and another, and for deciding in a just and reasonable manner such as unavoidably might happen; having experienced the obstructions to which that trade would be liable, if the officers of the country government were admitted to any authority over the English agents; it was resolved in consultation, 5th March 1763, That the chief of the nearest English factory should finally determine all such disputes; and as the Rungepoor, and Dinagepoor, and adjacent districts, where a very considerable part of this inland trade centers, appeared to be too far removed from any of our factories to admit of such enquiry being made in a satisfactory and accurate manner; for this reason principally it was agreed, that a senior servant should be appointed to reside at Rungepoor, who should have power to hear and determine all disputes.

No sooner is this resolution carried into practice, than some of the English agents complain as loudly of injuries suffered from the authority of the English resident, as they did before of the Nabob's government.

Shall there then be no government, no restraint upon those excesses, which either ignorance or passion, or self interest, may lead an English agent to commit in the country? This is really the case at present; and although it is very certain, that some of the gentlemen employed are of unexceptionable character, and whose good behaviour might be depended on, yet many there are of a contrary disposition; but these need not many arguments to prove, that both the good and the bad should be under some law; yet if we examine the case of the English agents up the country, we shall find they are under none; our character does not authorize our courts to take cognizance of any crimes they might commit in those parts; and it has been laid down as a fundamental principle, that the country government shall have no power of them.

We need not look further for the root of that licentiousness which has produced such innumerable complaints from the country government, and the inhabitants in those parts where European agents have been sent; it now no longer can be doubted, that many of those complaints have been well grounded, particularly in the article of selling goods by force, for more than the current market price; a practice called in this country Barja, or Guchaout.

All the power we can give the Chiefs of our factories over these agents will be very insufficient to remedy this disorder; since in reality *none ourselves*; and therefore disagreeable as it is to deprive so many of our nation of the benefits they now receive, by being employed as agents in the country, yet it seems an unavoidable necessity; and for the sake of the public tranquillity and welfare must be adopted, and the trade carried on for the future by the black gomastahs, who may be tried and punished by our court of jemindary, if they commit any excesses or acts of injustice, and that power delegated, as far as shall appear necessary, to the chiefs of the subordinate factories.

It will be objected, by the concerned in the inland trade, that gomastahs will be liable to be oppressed by the country government, who have taken, and will take, every opportunity of restraining us from that trade, which they regard as an innovation; this objection we believe is very just, and we shall expect that many difficulties will be found in the beginning in carrying on this trade by gomastahs; but these we think may be surmounted by proper applications to the Nabob and his officers; and upon the whole are of opinion, that all private inconveniences must be submitted to, even the risk of being entirely deprived of the trade, rather than suffer the inhabitants of the country to be oppressed by an abuse of the English name.

It is therefore the opinion of the Board, and resolved, That all the Europeans, Portuguese, natives, and Armenian agents, and which are now up the country, shall have notice given them to settle their concerns so as to return to Calcutta by the 30th of November next; and that after that time no European shall be permitted to go up the country on any pretence whatsoever, or any other agents be employed in our trade but Bengal natives.

With respect to the practice of carrying on the inland trade by force (called Barja, or Guchaout) it is a practice which we intirely disapprove; and in order to put a stop to it as soon as possible, it is agreed to send directions to Dacca, Rungpore, Mantda, to forbid it in the districts under their factories; but to do it with such care and discretion as not to affect the Company's investment, as we don't mean to invalidate the right derived to the Company from their phirmaund, always held over their own weaver.

As these resolutions will affect the particular interest of all the gentlemen in the service, by altering

altering the manner of carrying on the trade, it was wished, that every possible expedient should be proposed for rendering more effectual the intention of the Board, with as little inconvenience as possible to particulars; and every objection heard that the case will admit, before these resolutions shall take place.

Agreed therefore, That a copy of the proceedings of last Monday, and of this day, be forwarded to Messieurs Batson, Billers, Verelst, Cartier, Johnstone, Watts, and Senior, and their opinions desired, which we mean shall be esteemed as voices to the question.

Messieurs Middleton and Burdett differing in opinion from the rest of the members, with respect to the first resolution, deliver in their sentiments in the following minute:

By recalling of English agents from the different aurungs, and placing black gomastahs in their stead, we think we shall be subject to the same inconvenience, with respect to disputes with the country government as at present; for the latter are naturally of a tyrannical and arbitrary disposition, and where they have any authority, they will exert it to the utmost of their power, at least as far as they find it necessary for their own interest; we judge that they will have an equal authority to an English agent, as they must be supported by the same instrument, a duffick and English colours, else they cannot carry on their business; and we therefore think, it would be best to give the preference to gentlemen of our own country, in whom we can certainly place more dependance than on a black gomastah; but that such gentlemen as are sent should be only men of known probity and good character, and that have the permission of the whole, or at least the majority of the Board; we would recommend severe penalties being annexed to any breach of such orders as the Board may please to give them, relative to their interfering in the affairs of the country government; and that these penalties may, without favour, be put in execution, whenever there is an instance of an offence of this kind: this, we conceive, will keep trade in general more on a balance; for if the English agents are withdrawn, the gentlemen residing at subordinates will have such influence through all the adjacent aurungs, to their respective factories, that they may, when they please, monopolize the whole trade to themselves.

With respect to the second and third resolutions, we agree intirely with the opinion of the Board.

Ordered, in consequence of the third resolution, That the papers be prepared, and forwarded as soon as possible to the different gentlemen, with a letter from the secretary.

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

No. 10.

Fort William Select Consultation, the 21st July 1764.

THE secretary reporting, that he has received the opinions from the several gentlemen at the subordinates, concerning the European agents, the Board now proceed to determine finally on that subject.

Read again the Consultations of the 30th April and 3d May.

Read the opinions received by the Secretary, in the following order:

Mr. Batson is of opinion, that the permitting of free merchants, or any others, not in the Company's service, to settle at the aurungs, or other places up the country, is quite contrary to the intentions of the Company, no such thing having been allowed for 10 or 12 years after he came to Bengal, and that a stop ought to be put to it, since he is persuaded it would prove highly detrimental to the Company's trade and interests in these provinces.

Patna, May the 18th, 1764.

Having perused the Consultations of the 30th of April and 3d of May, I now give it as my opinion, that all Europeans, &c. agents, should be called down from the different aurungs; for I don't conceive it possible to lay them under such restrictions, so as to prevent their meddling with the country government, by setting up for phousdars wherever they go, which has been too much the case of late; for this reason, as well as that by the continuance of them at different aurungs they might in time be a great detriment to the Company's investment, by providing of goods for foreigners; I think it highly necessary to withdraw them, as soon as they can settle their present concerns; however, I can't help observing, that the orders of the Board are somewhat hard, in not permitting an European to go up the country on any pretence whatsoever, as there are some particulars to be excepted to; namely, that of conducting of boats, which cannot be so well performed as by the management of an European.

WM. BILLERS.

Mr. Verelst, after having carefully perused the Consultations of the 30th of April, and 3d instant, with the papers therein referred to, transmitted to him by the Secretary, by order of the Board, begs leave to remark as follows:

From the general opinion the Board have formed in their latter consultation, it appears to him, that the debates have taken their rise from Mr. Jekyll's complaints against Mr. Ivy, an European agent, for having wrote an insulting letter to him; and from the ill usage that the zemindar of Shapore had received from a gomastah of Mr. Pollocks, another agent; but as the Board seem not to have come to a determination, how far either the one or the other of these gentlemen has been culpable, and as the resolution of the Board to call down all European agents has been formed from an opinion of the ill behaviour of those that have been employed, and as Mr. Verelst is unacquainted with the different complaints made, he would have been glad to have

have heard the debates on Messrs. Jekyll and Ivy's letters, as their representations are strongly contradictory to each other, to have enabled him to have given his opinion more fully thereon; therefore, should he be deficient in what he may propose, he hopes the Board will consider how difficult it is to recommend a remedy, where the disease is not thoroughly known.

First, He is of opinion, that European agents, in any part of the country, acting with the approbation of the President and Council of Bengal, are as much under the law, as any person residing at any factory, established before or since the grant of his Majesty's charter; for his Majesty's intentions, as expressed in the beginning of the charter, seem to be for the benefit of all such of his subjects as carry on their trade in any part within the limits prescribed; which are set forth to be, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan: that no factory in the kingdoms is out of the limits of our own courts, every member of the Board must be well satisfied, since a warrant from the Mayor's court was not long since sent up, and executed on a gentleman in this place. The same public power that authorizes an agent to trade in these countries, confirms to him by that act a protection for his life and property against every invader, through those parts where the influence of such power extends; and the agent becomes reciprocally answerable for his own conduct.—It is not doubted, he presumes, but that the Board have a privilege of settling a factory, for the greater conveniencies of trade, in any part of these provinces that they may approve; and that on settling such factory the members are still under the law; if therefore, in a collective sense, any number of gentlemen are thus qualified, and naturally continue subordinate to the laws of their country, be their residence in those parts where it will, he hopes it will not be disputed, but that the same subordination extends to any single member, or to an agent publicly and fully authorized to trade in the same parts (that is to say, by the suffrage of the Board) as it does to this community; for equity must invariably be the same in a single as in a collective sense; and his Majesty's motive seems to have been, that his grant should not be confined to any particular place or degree. Mr. Verelst therefore thinks it would be an inconsistency to suppose, that his Majesty could intend, that one part of his charter, which constitutes the Mayor's court of Calcutta, should have a power of trying all losses of meum and tuum, where the property of any of his subjects was concerned, be the debt contracted (and the persons present) in any place within the limits of trade; and that the other constituting courts, for the redress of greater grievances, where his subjects one with another were also concerned, should in any case be so confined, as to leave their persons and properties without redress.—Indeed, he considers the charter a more extensive good, designed for the happy government and protection of every individual of the English nation residing in any of these parts.

Secondly, He is of opinion, that the employing English agents is much more eligible than black gomastahs; for having experienced both, he can aver, that he has never had a complaint against any of his European agents, though he cannot say so much of the black gomastahs, whose tyrannical and arbitrary dispositions, when in authority, do incline them to a search after their own interest, and a disregard to every means they may think most convenient to promote it; nor can the strictest eye over them, and even the infliction of punishment, root the evil out; whereas he believes that few Europeans are without some principles of honour and justice, but should there be a character void of them, he imagines such might easily be detected, and the power of the Board prevent their being employed; for he thinks it both right and necessary, that every European agent going up the country should have the approbation and permission of the Board; and if any person be proposed to them, whose character and disposition they are any ways dubious of, and who cannot give an ample and sufficient security for his good behaviour, he thinks it highly necessary such person ought to be objected to; the security might be responsible for his not interfering with the Nabob's officers, revenues, government, or any concerns belonging to the natives; but should the agents be ill used by them, his application for redress may be made to the Chief of the nearest subordinate, or in case of his not being in the neighbourhood of a subordinate, to the President of Calcutta; and should an European agent, after this, be guilty of any act of a criminal nature, he thinks the Board have a right immediately to recall him, when he may be prosecuted for his offence: but should Mr. Verelst be erroneous in his opinion, in regard to the execution of our laws in such cases, not having a perfect copy of the charter to refer to, and that such offences cannot be tried by our own laws, we have still a sufficient authority left of administering justice by the laws of this country; for if an agent, when up the country, is supposed to be under his own native laws, he must unavoidably be under the laws of the country he is in, for it is impossible that a subject of any society can be unresponsible to all law; this method he thinks the Nabob can have no objection to, though the offence may be committed within part of his government, where he shall be convinced how far it is only intended to give redress to his subjects by the most impartial justice; nor does he apprehend the injured native can disapprove this method of redress, which he may without expence; when in the same circumstance, by application to his court, he must pay to heavily for it; and to prevent any objection being made to the distance that such complainants must come for redress, a reasonable allowance for their loss of time and expence (which will also be a further check on agents) may be made to them by the offender, or in case of his default by his securities. A few examples like these he doubts not would in a short time remove most or all complaints against European agents; but he knows no method that can be proposed to prevent the licentious behaviour of black gomastahs.

Having thus far considered the propriety of employing European agents or black gomastahs, Mr. Verelst begs leave to add, that it is his opinion a greater dependance may be made on gentlemen of our own country, and a much greater advantage reaped by the trader from their ser-

vices; and viewing it also in a political light, he thinks many very material benefits may arise from the knowledge we might thereby gain of the country, its produces and trade, the customs, manner, and government of the people; circumstances which we may ever remain ignorant of, if black gomastahs only are to be employed; the benefits of the knowledge of which speak so strongly for themselves, that they need no comments thereon.

The licentiousness of European agents that the Board mentions, in the circumstance of Barja or Guchout, he is of opinion ought to be entirely prohibited; and is surpris'd how so extraordinary an oppression has taken its rise, or was ever suffered, if known to the employers of such agents as are accused of it.

Mr. Verelst therefore begs leave summarily to observe, that he is of opinion European agents should be employed in preference to black gomastahs; and that such agents who have the approbation and permission of the Board may be prosecuted for any crimes or licentiousness they may commit.

Mr. Cartier's Opinion.—Having perus'd with much attention, and deliberately reflected on the purport of the consultation held in Fort William the 3d of May, I agree in opinion with the majority of members at the Board, as to the necessity of recalling all European agents, Portuguese, and Armenians, residing in the inland parts of the country, and employed by gentlemen in the Company's service; but that a stated time be allowed the gentlemen, as may be thought sufficient to conclude their affairs now in the hands of their several agents. The frequent complaints which have been made by the officers of the government, of the great power and independency these agents assume in conducting their business, the abuses the natives are subject to from their caprice and uncontroulable authority, are the chief reasons of my agreeing to the above opinion: if we expect the Nabob will set about redressing the errors in his government, he has a right to expect we should remove such in ours as may be particularly oppressive on his subjects: when private interests interfere with public tranquillity, it ought to give place; and all methods that may tend to remove jealousies ought to be pursued with vigour: the time of European agents being allowed to go up the country is of a very late date, and has not been very general till within these two years; how agreeable this practice would prove to our honourable masters, it is most probable we shall have their sentiments on the subject by the next ships.

JOHN CARTIER.

Mr. Johnston's Opinion.

It is observed in the general opinion, that every method has been tried for carrying on the inland trade upon such a footing as to prevent disputes between our agents and the country government, or between one agent and another; yet I can recollect no method that has ever been tried, but that which was claimed and approved in the general council; viz. the appointing a resident for the district of Rungpore, and referring disputes in other places to the nearest English factory: if the want of proper and explicit powers invested in the resident there to take cognizance and determine in these matters, or his abuse of them, has given cause for complaints against him by European agents and gomastahs, or of appeals to the Honourable Board for further instructions for his future guidance, it is most to be wondered at, but may be expected in all new regulations, which cannot be perfect at once, but by experience and frequent amendments; which surely ought first to be endeavoured at, and I am far from imagining now more than before to be impracticable.

Instead therefore of so readily seizing and making an handle of the first squabbles, abuses, or unjustifiable proceedings of the English agents and gomastahs, on their contesting the power of the resident, or of the resident and his gomastahs proceedings in their competition of interest at Rungpore, to entirely abolish the regulation made for conducting the private trade in general through the country, before we have had time to try the good effects it is capable of producing, when carried into execution, it should much more reasonably occasion an enquiry to be made into the proceedings of the parties complained against, and that proper security and resentment should be shewn towards those who may be found to have transgressed. Scarce any laws have been made without being liable to some inconveniences and defects; surely when this regulation was made, it was not supposed that causes of complaint would immediately cease, and never more exist: but that this established method for examining into and speedily redressing them bid fairest for correcting and lessening them in future: let government and proper restrictions take place by all means; but as all men are fallible, it is the more necessary that the powers of those who govern, as well as the liberties of those who are governed, should be clearly and fully explained and prescribed.

I ever disapproved of those regulations by which our inland trade and privileges in the country were so easily and precipitately given up to the lawless will of the Nabob Cossim Aly; and though white men are men, there ever will be abuses; yet I am far from thinking it right, those in general that have been complained of, but that have never yet, that I know of, been properly examined into and proved, should be urged as established facts, or be the grounds of resolutions so likely to be productive of the same bad effect on our inland trade. It was resolved at that time, when so many complaints were collected and produced before the Board, that they should be properly enquired into, without being taken for granted, by the chiefs of the factories the most contiguous to those places, and by the resident at Rungpore, whose appointment was principally on this account, in order no doubt that satisfaction might be given to the sufferers, and example made of the offenders; which no one then thought either impracticable or beyond the power of the Governor and Council; nor can I conceive how it is become so now, or that no obligations that can be entered into betwixt them and the Eu-

Europeans can be binding, or penalties recovered of them, which seems to be urged as the greatest difficulty and objection; but though the whole resentment now meditated is likely to fall on the Europeans alone, yet by that very collection, and since, I believe it will be found that there are many more complaints against the Bengal native gomastahs for the abuse of their power, than against the European agents under whom they are employed; yet if it is intended we should support our right to, and enjoy the advantages of, a fair and open inland trade in future, the native gomastahs, to be employed in managing so considerable concerns, must have powers invested in them like to those that are given to English gentlemen, by none of which do I imagine they are ever authorized to act with violence, injustice, or oppression to any one. From their ideas of government, the constitution of their country, and the daily examples of their own people before their eyes, as well as from my own experience of their behaviour, I esteem them equally liable and more prone to make a bad use of their stations and powers in their transactions in the country, than our countrymen, and I wish I had no reason to complain of their honesty; however, it is plain that they may be restrained and furnished by these very same rules and laws now, when they act subordinate to an European agent stationed up the country, as they can be when invested with their powers immediately from the Company's servants, wherever they may chance to be; nor do the restraints that we have upon them, with all the powers of a Zemindary or Cutcherry Court, appear to me to be half so great as those we have it in our power to impose on Europeans. A black fellow, if found clever and diligent in business, we see never at a loss for getting employment, though he may have imposed upon many masters; besides, being in his own country, he can never be without resources; but I think it very different with an English agent, whose very bread and fortune must depend upon the protection, assistance, and employment, of the Company, or of their servants; and who, by depriving them of this, have it always in their power to punish those that behaved unworthily:—if so unfurmountable an obstacle and so many difficulties present themselves, merely for want of power in prosecuting and punishing any capital offences in Europeans, because the rights of our charter extend only within the bounds of our own factories—judging as Englishmen, is the difficulty less, when we come to examine by what legal authority we can proceed to try, and put the same punishments in force against, the natives that happen at this time to be under the Company's power, or who act in affairs of commerce within the Nabob's dominions?—Perhaps the truest answer can be given is, that it is a necessary exertion of power that we assume, to prevent greater inconveniences, and the bad effects of suffering crimes to go unpunished, which our power, now so greatly extended, won't longer admit of being submitted to another tribunal.

The arguing that our English agents are not liable to be tried by our laws for any crimes they commit in those parts, and that this is the source of those evils, makes equally strong against the Company's employing their servants without the limits of their charter; but they have never yet declared on this account that they debar their servants from employing any agents they please, and thereby sharing on the advantages of trade they themselves enjoy in this country, merely from the possibility of their committing capital crimes.—I believe there are few, if any, of our nation, stand accused of any other principles; and other checks have in this respect answered all the purposes of a penal law. What security do the Company yet require for the good behaviour of their servants, in their dealings with the natives, that the free merchants have not given, or that the Board are not at liberty to require, or greater, if they think proper, on the part of those Europeans sent up the country? Extortion, violence, and punishments inflicted of their own authority, and such like abuses, if not prosecutable in the Mayor's court or Cutcherry, yet the agents and their constituents may be bound down by such penalties, in case of bad behaviour, as to render this a greater check and restraint than the common prosecutions at law, besides their being recalled and never again permitted to get their bread in that employ, or, if the Board think proper, sent home. While Messrs. Van Sittart and Hastings carried on their trade, none in the settlement had so many European agents in their service up the country as they, and some of these, if we credit the representations lodged against them, particularly Mustapha and Mr. Moore at Rungpoor, carried it with as high a hand as any others that have been charged with an abuse of the power and name of the English: while these gentlemen were carrying on their trade in its greatest extent, and had not declared their intentions of going home, I do not recollect that their zeal for the English name, which in their former political transactions and treaties has been so little considered, gave occasion to any proposals for recalling all English agents:—that they promote it when their affairs are collecting in, and themselves not likely much longer to be interested in the consequence, is not strange; while it will be urged to our honourable masters, as a proof how much before they were in the right, in their famous paper of new regulations, in sacrificing to the public tranquillity, as they may say, our privileges of a free inland trade, &c. &c. and all the rest that then disapproved it, and planned this regulation, were in the wrong: yet what are the unfurmountable difficulties that have arisen since, I am at a loss to conceive: if so extensive a private trade was conducted well and prudently by Mr. Van Sittart's agents, there is still as much reason to expect it may be yet conducted discreetly for others, by men whose characters are to be approved of by the Board, and when these regulations and obligations are put in force. I am well convinced with what jealous eyes the government's people and country merchants look on us since we became sharers in the inland trade, which formerly they carried on alone, and how ready the officers and collectors

collectors are to complain, exaggerate, and misrepresent the most trifling circumstances against any of our people, that can serve for an excuse for their not paying up for their collections; yet the longer we defer examining and confronting them, the more will those excuses be pleaded and supposed as true. Let it therefore be firmly resolved, that they in future be fairly tried; and satisfaction, such as the Board in such cases shall think meet, be duly given on the offenders. The number of complaints and causes would soon, I believe, much diminish, when it is one made publicly known to the Government's officers, and to the country people every where, that it is our resolution to protect them, and redress their grievances in their transactions with our agents, &c. and a method pointed out to them how they may have justice. Daily experience persuades me these people will not be backward in their application to our courts; or that an agent can long continue to exercise oppression or rapine without being found out and convicted, at the hazard of his bread. This I think sufficient to obviate any objections drawn from the difficulties the Board must always be under, as to the distinguishing who are proper people to be permitted to go up, from ignorance of characters, and from the valuableness of the same men, who in such situation act very differently from what they have done in other stations, because their actions, it is evident, can neither be long disguised or concealed. But can it be wondered at, should many of the irregularities, abuses, and oppressions, complained of, have actually been committed, while we have neither taken cognizance, punished, or inquired into, ourselves, any who could have been convicted; nor would permit the government's people to use the same methods as before the revolution 1757, for doing themselves justice, or obtaining satisfaction, by a reference to any of their own magistrates? As for my own part, I neither desire to screen nor to support Mr. Pollock, nor any that I have had dealings with, for misdemeanors that can be made appear, either past nor to come; his being particularized in the complaints that has given rise to the present proceeding, will, I hope, excuse me to the board for producing other instances in this case, and pointing out in return, that Mr. Moore was then supported by 25 Seapoys besides his peons, &c.; and by Mr. Jekyll's own representations on that very letter, had, with the assistance of Captain Daw, settled and recovered all his demands for losses, and who, it would appear, overawed the Rungpoor Phoufdar, so as not to dare to complain or acknowledge any thing about it.

As I have declared my disapprobation already of every abuse the English agents, as well as those gomastahs that are employed under them, have made or may make of their power, I am the readier to agree to the tying them down by every restriction that reason and prudence can dictate, as most likely to correct the like in future; by bounding their powers in regard to the force they should keep, badges, Chubdar sticks, &c. and never to allow them to punish or redress themselves at their own hands, but oblige them to submit their complaints every where to the chiefs and residents; when they should be publicly tried, entered, and registered in books for that purpose; and liberty, in sums to a certain amount, for appealing to the governor and council. I would recal all those who are known to have behaved badly heretofore, and without satisfactory proofs of their innocence, would not permit such to return again; allow none but men of good fame to go up, either to reside in any part of the country, or to conduct fleets; and oblige them and their employers to give such security as that damages could always be recovered of them in case of bad behaviour. Should those measures prove ineffectual, we may then think of adopting others; but for vague and general complaints and aspersions, or for the offences of a few, without an effort made to examine and rectify them, to take a resolution so injurious to the rights and trade of every Company's servant, and to the British subjects under the Company's protection, appear to me highly improper:—The support of these and our other privileges, in their full extent, against the usurpations of the late Nabob, engaged us in this unhappy war, and after so many valuable lives lost in the defence of them, I shall ever be against parting with them, or hazarding the loss of them, without greater and better cause than has yet appeared; and till after we have found by experience that all other remedies are in vain.

It must be well known, to all who have had their concerns managed at the discretion of Bengal gomastahs at a distance, what embezzlements and deceits they are guilty of; and that temptation to make away with their employers money is stronger than any fear of corporal punishment or imprisonment; which they submit to for years sooner than refund; as yet neither death nor loss of cash has been annexed to their breach of trust:—Is it to be expected their fidelity and moderation in the exercise of their trusts will be increased, by knowing that we are without other recourses obliged to employ them alone? To oblige us therefore to trust our fortunes solely to the fidelity of black servants, over whom we have so little rank, rather than the conduct and discretion of men that we ourselves, it is presumed, ought to know; who are to be judged of and approved by the Board, who have their honour, character, and their future success, at stake, in my humble opinion, is neither right nor salutary.

I subscribe to the dissent of Messrs Middleton and Burdett to the first resolution of the majority, which I think they have supported with very good and true reason:—In the second, I think the orders regarding the stopping the oppressions by Baya and Cajaan are very proper: but if any such methods are used over the weavers employed in furnishing the Company's investment, I

imagine it must be equally their interest, and for the honour of their name, that such methods should in future be prohibited finally; such resolutions seem more especially premature at present, after the great losses that the servants, whose fortunes were circulated in the inland trade, have and do sustain by the troubles, and by the yet distant and uncertain prospect they have of restitution, and the narrow bounds prescribed to their claims; and above all, considering that this affair has been already so lately heard and determined in a General Council, and the Company's final regulations, to whose determination it has been referred, may be so soon expected.

Burdwane,
the 4th July, 1764

JOHN JOHNSTONE

Mr. Watts's Opinion.

Mr. Watts agrees with the general opinion in the consultation of the 3d of May, for recalling the English, Portuguese, and Armenian agents; but as by this step the gentlemen stationed at the subordinates and residencies, will have it in their power to monopolize the trade to themselves, he thinks it ought to be guarded against; and therefore proposes that we have permission to send European agents to reside at the subordinate factories and residencies; and the better to prevent their interfering with the country government, they should not be allowed to go to adjacent markets, villages, or cities without the leave of the chief, neither should they be suffered to seize any pykars or others, but to apply to the chief for the redress of any grievances.

Calcutta, the 25th June 1764.

Mr. Senior's Opinion.

The ordering down of Europeans has been a matter of long debate, and which I was ever of opinion would be the only means for establishing of peace and tranquillity in the country. My former situation at Dacca gave me a much greater opportunity than most of the gentlemen in the service to see the necessity of such a step, as appears by my frequent remonstrances to the board on the subject; and since I have been at Colimbar, complaints of the like kind have been more frequent, particularly from Rungpoor, Denagepoor, and the districts of the Ratsoy Raja, list whereof I now enclose for the honourable Board's inspection. I will allow that many of them may appear both frivolous and unjust, as it is not to be doubted but the country people will take every opportunity to deprive us of a trade they regard as usurped; yet I am well convinced that some of them are not without foundation, as I made it my business to send Hircarras to several of the places mentioned, to make the inquiry, before I would give my judgment on so interesting an occasion. I should be very sorry to be the means of depriving so many of our nation of the benefits they now receive, by being employed as agents up the country, as I have a great regard for many of them, and believe of unexceptionable characters; but as I do not find that any method can be fixed on to curb the licentiousness of others, or to keep such as are worthy only in our employ, I am therefore of opinion that a general removal should take place, agreeable to the resolution of the board of the 3d of May last.

A. Wm. SENIOR.

Read the Company's orders on this subject, contained in the 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, and 25th paragraphs of their letter of the 8th of January 1764.

In consequence of these opinions and orders, it is

Resolved, that all European agents be recalled; and that they do leave the respective places of their residence in the country, in such time as to arrive in Calcutta, by the 31st of December.

Ordered, that notice be accordingly published here, and at all the subordinate factories, requiring the constituents of all such agents to pay due obedience thereto, and transmit to them in time the proper information and orders. And

Agreed, that a scheme be prepared for restraining and carrying on the inland trade, agreeably to the spirit of the Company's orders.

No. 11.

Company's Letter to Bengal 8th February 1764.

8. IN the course of our enquiry into these transactions, we observe, one Cole, said to be a writer, is complained of, for that at Munaur Gunge Haut, which produces annually 12,000 rupees, he had turned out all the inhabitants, in order to build an house, as set forth in a letter entered after consultation of the 18th of October 1762; who this Cole is we are not informed, but let him be whom he may, you are to make a strict enquiry into the said outrage; and if you find him guilty of it, you are, in the first place, to oblige him to make a suitable and ample satisfaction to the injured parties, and then immediately send him away to Europe.

9. We further find, that several persons residing under the presidency of Bengal, as we'll free merchants as others, have conducted themselves very unwarrantably, carrying on their trade in several parts of the country, in the most uncontrollable manner, and thereby exposing the Company's valuable privileges to the greatest detriment and hazard; some of whose names, who appear the most remarkable, are Messieurs Chevalier Texeyra, Ivy, Motte, Robinson, and the before mentioned Cole; with respect to free merchants, they certainly by such behaviour forfeit their covenants, and as to others, they have no right to the Company's protection, especially if they are guilty of the irregularities laid to their charge; we shall therefore leave it to you to make a general enquiry into the behaviour of such persons who reside any where under

your

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your presidency; and if you find their behaviour has been, or shall be, such as may be really detrimental to the Company, you are to withdraw our protection from them, and send them away from Bengal as soon as you shall think fit, giving us from time to time an account of your proceedings with respect to every such person.

23. As no agents or gomastahs are to reside, on account of private trade, at any of the inland parts of the country, all business on account of licenced private trade is to be carried on by and through the means of the Company's covenant servants, resident at the several subordinate factories as has been usual.

No. 12.

Fort William, the 20th May 1765.

General Consultation.

AGREED and ordered, in consequence of the proceedings of the Committee laid before the board last council day, that public advertisement be made, enforcing our orders already given for the return of the English, Portuguese, and Armenian agents, employed in the different parts of the country, to the Presidency; and requiring all whoever, most strictly, to arrive by the first of August; and their constituents to give them due notice accordingly.

No. 13.

To Mr. Maltby.

S I R,

I Am directed by the Select Committee to acquaint you, That, in consequence of the bad state of your health, which you represent, four months, from the 21st instant, will be allowed you for collecting in your affairs; at the expiration of which, you are required to repair without further notice to Calcutta.

Fort William, the
27th June 1765.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. CAMPBELL, S. S. C.

No. 14.

To the Right honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort William.
My Lord and Gentlemen,

HAVING, in obedience to the directions of the Secret Committee, transmitted us under date the 15th ulto. for the recal of all English agents, sent orders to all such as we know of, residing in parts contiguous to Dacca, and to those who are employed by us at Gualparraw, for their return to Calcutta in the space of one month; we must now, my Lord and Gentlemen, from a full conviction of the real and great inconveniences and losses that will attend us, as well as some of those agents by us employed, on so sudden and immediate a recal, in-treat that a longer space of time may be allowed the following gentlemen, for the settling of their business, or putting it on such a footing as we their employers may be as little sufferers as possible; and we are more particularly urgent in behalf of those gentlemen residing at Gualparraw, from the impossibility of having that branch of business transacted by the natives, without suffering very considerable losses on account of the great distance, and their being free from all check and controul of their employers; and we do willingly consent and agree, on such indulgence being shewn us, to be responsible for the prudent conduct of our respective agents.

We are now to request, my lord and gentlemen, that the additional space of time you may be pleased to allow the following agents may be lengthened to the undermentioned term, from the date of granting the same,

To Mr. John Corsar at Gualparrau, four months.

Mr. Robert Crawford, ditto ditto.

Mr. James Galloway at Corrigong, two months.

We are with due respect, my Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

Dacas,
the 8th June 1765.

JOHN CARTIER,
FRAS CHARLTON,
THOS FRENCH,
WILL^m SHEWEN.

No. 15.

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

Gentlemen,

WE have received your letter of the 8th instant, to the President and Council, which ought to have been addressed to the Select Committee.

To evince how ready we are to grant every reasonable indulgence to those free merchants, especially who are employed as agents for the Company's servants, we do consent to extend the time for their return to the presidency to four months, as you request.

At

A P P E N D I X, No. 16, 17, 18.

At the same time we must acquaint you, that we are determined to put in execution the Company's orders, though with all possible regard for the interest of individuals; and we desire you will inform the gentlemen of this our resolution.

Fort William,
14th June 1765.

We are with great regard, Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servants.

No. 16.

To the Right honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee at Fort William.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

MR. James Hargrave, who has resided some time at Rungpur, in order to finish some concerns there belonging to Mr. Henry Vansittart, acquaints us, that there are still outstanding several sums of money due from the people of that place for goods sold to them, and which he apprehends will be recovered with great difficulty, or probably lost, if he is obliged to quit the place directly.

We therefore take the liberty to request, you will grant him permission to reside there three or four months longer, which he informs us will be time sufficient for the purpose.

Fort William,
the 18th June 1765.

We are with great respect, my Lord and Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servants,
GEO. VAN SITTART,
HENRY PLOWMAN.

No. 17.

To the Right honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

IMMEDIATELY upon your order, regarding Europeans coming down from the country, I wrote to those who were employed by me, either on my own account, or on account of the estate of the deceased Mr. Robert Brown, to whom I am executor, that they should make all dispatch in finishing their business, so as to be here by the first of August, if it was in their power, without suffering any very great loss; but notwithstanding of this, there is one George Berner at Camp, collecting in money belonging to Mr Brown's estate, being from thence to come to Caragola upon the same account, where it will be necessary for him to remain a few months perhaps, if I can so far obtain your indulgence for him. There is also one Peter Petropoly, who went up with a fleet of salt, belonging to Mr. Billers and me, who has very lately stopped with the returning boats at Nabobgunge, where it will be absolutely necessary to repair them before they can be brought any further; a like indulgence for him therefore I shall esteem as a particular favour.

My Lord and Gentlemen, I further most humbly beg the favour and protection for two persons of this country, called Urban Saffer and Johannes Boedel; they entered into contract with me, on the 2d day of April last, under a very considerable penalty too, to transport a large quantity of salt to Patna, for which at a great charge they have now got the boats ready, and are loading.

They will be obliged to make two or more trips, and of course take several months before they will be able to finish their contract; but as their business is not to trade, but only to attend and take care of their boats, and the salt in them, they will want only your permission to purchase provisions, and to be allowed every necessary assistance that they may need, as they go along, on their faithfully and honestly paying for the same.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost respect,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
Calcutta,
the 18th July 1765.

ARCHD KEIR.

No. 18.

To Mr. Archibald Keir.

Sir,

I Am directed by the members of the Select Committee to acquaint you, that the several agents you employ in collecting your own affairs, and those of the estate of the late Mr. Brown, will be allowed to reside three months after the 21st instant for that purpose; that the time necessary for repairing your boats at Nabobgunge will be granted to Peter Petropoly; and that the persons with whom you have contracted to convey your salt to Patna will be suffered to fulfil their contracts, and to go up and down the river unmolested, provided they confine themselves strictly to that object.

Fort William,
the 11th July 1765.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. CAMPBELL, S. S. C.

No. 19.

No. 19.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

HAVING been jointly concerned with the late Mr. Billers in salt made in the collaries of the Honourable Company, which was all intended for the market of Patna, and being now the only surviving partner, I most humbly beg your permission for leave to go and reside at that place till the joint stock shall be all sold, and that I shall have collected the produce of the sales. Your favour in this will very greatly oblige me; who have the honour to be, with the utmost respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARCHIBALD KEIR.

Calcutta, the 7th August, 1765.

No. 20.

To Mr. Archibald Keir.

Sir,

I Laid your letter this morning before the Gentlemen of the Select Committee now in Calcutta, and have their directions to acquaint you, that they do not think themselves impowered, in the absence of a majority of the members, to grant you an indulgence, expressly contrary to the late positive resolution of the whole Committee, and the peremptory orders of the Court of Directors.

However, that in consideration of the peculiar circumstances you set forth, they will immediately forward your letter to Lord Clive and the other members, and request their opinion on the subject of your application.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL, S. S. C.

Fort William, 10th August, 1765.

No. 21.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey, &c. &c. President and Governor, &c. Select Committee.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

NOT having had no further notice taken of the letter which I had the honour to write you in August last, I had flattered myself with the hopes that my case, which you were pleased to say should be considered of, would have been found such by you, as to have excepted me out of your last general order, touching free merchants residing here. But as I find, by what was notified to me to-day, that my former representation has not had the effect which I expected from it, I must again beg your indulgence in stating my case to you in a more full and particular manner than what I have yet done, which I hope you will have the patience and goodness to hear.

My situation and circumstances are very widely different from that of any other private trader in Bengal, I believe; for I may justly and truly be considered as a company's merchant, who has bought a very large parcel of goods for a certain market, under direction of a chief and council, where I only want liberty to sell them: for I hired the Kallarus of the Honourable Company at a very advanced price, more than what any merchant who had before had them would venture to give them, in the year 1762. again in the year 1763, in conjunction with the deceased William Billers, Esquire, I hired them a second time, at a still higher rate; and the salt of these two years remains now on my hands, to the quantity of three lacks. But at the time when those Kallarus were taken, there was not the smallest intimation of people's being hindered going up the country to dispose of goods; of course there could be no occasion for my stipulations on indulgence; which would certainly have never been denied me, as it is well known that every encouragement that can be given was always granted to those who bought goods of the Honourable Company. For this reason, I have always had difficulties with my salt; and this was the reason, I believe, which so readily engaged your Lordship, &c. to grant my request in June last, when I applied to you on account of those who had contracted with me for liberty to carry up my salt. What favours or indulgencies you may be pleased to shew to others, do not at all concern me; yet I cannot help observing, that if any private persons are to be indulged in this respect, whether as servants to the servants of the Honourable Company, or even on account of the Society of Trade, or otherwise, a Company's merchant will not be thought unworthy of the favour of being allowed to sell his goods (which he bought of the Company) in the best manner he can; more especially if it be considered, that for that purpose he requests only leave to reside at a chiefship; and that he is ready to enter into any bond, under any penalty, that he shall neither directly or indirectly, meddle with the country government at all, as I am ready to do whenever you think proper to require it: nay, I will even oblige myself to

be in every respect under the orders of the Chief and Council here, provided only I have but free liberty to stay and dispose of my salt, with the protection of the Honourable Company.—That I did not apply to you for this indulgence at the time when I wrote to you for those who were to bring up my salt, was, because I did not then know that I should have had any occasion at all to have asked such a favour; for about that time I made proposals to the executors of the deceased Mr. Billers, either to dispose of the joint stock themselves at Patna, or to sell it to me; which last, being thought by them most beneficial for the estate, was accepted of, on my giving bond and security for the payment of the money; you will thus plainly perceive, therefore, that the necessity of my staying at Patna is not entirely of my own seeking; nor would I have given you so much trouble, in thus earnestly requesting such a favour, if my own fortune, as well as that of others, to a very considerable amount, did not so greatly depend upon it.

My Lord and Gentlemen, You will perhaps alledge, that I may consign my salt to any gentlemen of the factory here, and that it will be as well taken care of as it could were I present: but first, as to the care, I should beg leave to differ from you; for though I have the highest opinion of the worth and integrity of most of the gentlemen here, yet I can never imagine that any, who have so much business of their own and the Company, would ever be able, were they ever so willing, to pay that care and attention to my concerns as I should do myself; as to selling, indeed, it is easily done, and requires little more than integrity; but for receiving and delivering such a quantity of salt, there is industry and trouble to undergo, more than what I shall ever trust to any other person in so large a concern, unless I am absolutely obliged to it; there is in this, however, another matter which you may perhaps less attend to than me, and that is commission, which I am to be under a necessity of paying, if I am not permitted to remain; for commission, where it will amount to several thousand pounds sterling, as it would on the salt I have to dispose of, is an object too considerable for one of my fortune to give up, if I can any ways possibly avoid it.

My Lord and Gentlemen, I am extremely sensible of the justice of your orders in general, of the service it will be to the Honourable Company, and of the necessity there is for steadiness in all the orders you give, without the appearance or even shadow of partiality to any one: I am sensible also of the difficulty you labour under, should you be disposed to favour me, though merely in consideration of the equity and justness of my case; for the malicious and half-informed, who are much the greatest part of mankind, are ever ready to impute to wrong causes, and complain of their superiors, wherever they see favours granted to others, in which they are not themselves sharers; yet, if you are as much convinced of the equity and reasonableness of my request, as I would fain hope you and every impartial person will be who hear and attend to my circumstances, you will find but little trouble, I imagine, to obviate every difficulty of that kind: will it not be reckoned presumption, or may I venture to give a hint of what occurs to me on that head? You have appointed private people agents in the country for the affairs of the Society of Trade; and though the agency of this place, which will be very considerable, will most probably be intrusted with the gentlemen of the factory there, yet, if you thought proper, you might either name me as one of them, or if it were but clerk to the others I should be entirely satisfied, and esteem it a favour, or if that could not be done, I should be contented to be again appointed surgeon in the service, with liberty to remain here till a vacancy should happen, which I believe will be very soon, Mr. Fullerton having informed me, that his intention is not long to continue here; and this is a favour which I flatter myself will not be refused me, both in consideration of what I have already alledged, and in consideration of my having formerly so long served the Honourable Company in that station, and of my having remained twice in India when I was going home, once at the request of this Presidency, and once at that of Fort St. George.

I shall be willing, in short, to submit to any thing by which I may be able to prove to you the very great respect with which I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, most humble servant,

ARCHIBALD KEIR.

Patna,
17th Oct. 1765.

No. 22.

To Mr. Archibald Keir.

Sir,

IN Answer to your address to the Select Committee, the 17th Instant, I am directed to acquaint you, that, in testimony of the regard they pay to your particular circumstances, the right honourable the President and members consent to your remaining at Patna till the first day of January next, at which time they will order a Company's servant to take charge, and dispose of your salt to the best advantage.

This is an indulgence that has been extended to you alone; and a farther allowance of time they cannot grant, without deviating from, and frustrating the effects of, such an order, which admits of no exceptions.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. CAMBELL, S. S. C.

Fort William,
the 1st November 1765.

No. 25.

To Alexander Campbell, Esquire, Secretary to the Select Committee.

Sir,

I HAVE this day received the letter you favoured me with the first instant, by order of the Committee; be pleased to return my most humble acknowledgements to the right honourable the President and members for the indulgence they have granted me; acquaint them at the same time, that as this, they say, has proceeded from a testimony of their regard to my particular circumstances, I still flatter myself that the same regard to justice and equity will further engage them to think of some more effectual method to assist and relieve me; for I am still under the greatest anxiety with the thoughts of being obliged to leave this by the 1st January next, which it will be impossible for me to do without a very great loss and hurt to my fortune.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARCHIBALD KEIR.

Patna,
9th Nov. 1765.

No. 24.

To the honourable Lord Clive, President, &c. Members of the Select Committee.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I WAS honoured with your answer to my letters the 17th October, by that from your Secretary of the 1st November last; your having therein granted me a small indulgence in testimony of your regard to the peculiarity of my circumstances, and mentioned that you would order a Company's servant to take charge of my affairs: I in return made you my most humble acknowledgements, and wrote to Mr. Campbell, that, the same circumstances still subsisting, I still also flattered myself with your further consideration and indulgence; but the month of January being now well advanced, without any reply, or my hearing of any orders being issued with regard to me, I must once more take the liberty to trouble you, that I may know your final and peremptory resolution, which, when I receive, I am resolved to obey and conform to with the utmost expedition possible.

My lord and gentlemen, when before I had the honour to address you, I endeavoured to state my case to you in the best and most distinct manner I was capable of, which I am afraid was but badly enough, seeing that it seems to have had so very little effect; it is true, my intention then was rather to create your favour and indulgence, than with clear and solid arguments to assert to you the justice of my cause: I did imagine, indeed, that it being of itself clear and evident, and sufficiently understood by your Lordship, &c. I should thus more have recommended myself to your favour and protection, than if I had expressed myself otherwise, in claiming a right, which I have the most just and undoubted title to; but as it has happened contrary to my expectations, and that I hope it is not yet too late, I shall beg leave to represent in the most respectful manner, that having made a fair and open bargain with the Honourable Company for a large quantity of goods, with condition and permission at the time of purchase to sell and dispose of the same under their protection, and at any of their factories; I look upon, and believe all the world besides would look upon it, as a most manifest violation both of justice and equity, should I be deprived of this my just right, under any pretence whatever. The sale was made in the most public manner; Sic. Rupees, 10 per hundred maunds, and 30 and 10 for each kellary, besides the price to the Molungus and all other charges: I purchased and paid for this salt with design and intention to sell the same at Patna, or any other factory of the Company, or where the Company's protection could be of use to me, a truth which can never be denied; but to impose a new condition on a bargain to the prejudice of the purchaser of it, were only not expressly mentioned in the original agreement, or contrary to the most manifest principles either of law or equity. Had the Honourable President and agents for the Company, who sold me the salt, declared to me soon after my making of the bargain, that I could not be permitted to sell any at Calcutta, the Company having changed their presidency, which they have it always in their power to do, to Fulto or any where else, would it not have been an act of the greatest injustice? and, as his Majesty's Justice, my lord and gentlemen, I beg to know your opinion, whether, in such a case, I might not have had remedy against them at law? but I took the Callarys, and purchased my salt of the honourable Company with intention and design of disposing of it at this Factory; so that to hinder me to reside here on so just an account, when the greatest part of it is already brought here, and the rest upon the way by your own permission, to me appears pretty much the same, as if I had been prevented by those other gentlemen from residing at Calcutta, had I found it most my interest to dispose of my goods there.

Your alleging, it is the honourable Company's order, to which I ought to submit, is in argument, which, with all due submission to your Lordship, &c. I apprehend can have but small weight: for, as the honourable Company, I am well persuaded, never meant but the strictest justice to every one that they ever dealt with; so if, on the contrary, I or any one else is likely to be hurt by implication, or accidentally being comprehended in a general order, it is in your power, I imagine, to modify and explain them, that no reflection of that kind may either be cast on yourselves, or upon the honourable the Court of Directors. But that the honourable

A P P E N D I X, No. 25, 26, 26.

Company's orders are not absolutely so very strict as not to admit of certain latitudes, appears the more evident, from the permissions you have already granted, and which, as I am informed, you still intend to grant, to many who have no such plea as I have, I believe, for such an Indulgence.

In short, my Lord and gentlemen, I must beg leave to declare to you, though with the most profound respect, that if you still continue in the resolution of bringing me down, and of tearing me from my property, and my right, you will do an act, which in the eyes of the world, I am afraid, will have more the appearance of a piece of personal pique and dislike to me, than of any more honourable motive to myself: It can never be so, for as, to my knowledge, I have never given any personal offence to any of you; so, on the contrary, I have ever met with the greatest civility and indulgence from all, and even many particular marks of friendship from almost every one of you, which I shall always greatly acknowledge; and I must declare, this is what has brought me to the resolution of strictly complying with your orders, whatever they may happen to be, or however contrary in my own judgment they may be, to what I have the justest reason to look for and expect.

I have the honour to be, with the most perfect respect,

Patna,
Jan. 12, 1766.

my Lord and gentlemen,

your most obedient humble servant,

ARCHD. KEIR.

No. 25.

To Samuel Middleton, Esquire, Chief, &c. Council, at Patna.

Gentlemen,

WHEN we reflect upon the very particular indulgence shewn by this Committee to Mr. Keir, in permitting him to remain at Patna, so long after the period fixed for the return of all the free merchants to the presidency, we cannot help expressing some astonishment that he should claim as a right, what we must consider as a favour, granted out of mere regard to his particular circumstances; such indulgences cannot however be extended to individuals, to the injury of the Company, and the prejudice of the public, without our betraying the trust reposed in us by the Court of Directors: We therefore not only approve of Mr. Middleton's refusing to grant him a duffuck for his salt, to which he certainly has no better claim than all other free merchants, but we expressly direct, that he shall quit Patna by the last day of May next, and that you, or such other of the Company's servants, residing on the spot, as he shall appoint, do take charge of the salt, and dispose of it upon his account, to the best advantage you can, consistently with the Interests of the country, and of the Society of Trade.

Fort William,
the 13th March, 1766,

We are, gentlemen,

your most obedient servants.

No. 26.

To the Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. and Members of the Select Committee.

My Lord and gentlemen,

No. 38. MR. Archibald Keir being on the point of his departure to Calcutta, has applied to us to take charge of his salt concerns here, which, in pursuance of your orders, we shall do; but must beg leave to observe to your Lordship, &c. that he expects we will dispose of this salt free of commission. We must here remark, that Mr. Keir having now the privilege of a duffuck, has an equal advantage with a Company's servant residing in Calcutta, and from whom commission is always received; we therefore hope you will think with us, that we have a just right to demand the same from Mr. Keir; but this we submit to your Lordship's &c. and shall freely follow any directions you think proper to give on the occasion; being, with much respect,

Patna,
the 26th July 1766,

My Lord and gentlemen,

your most obedient humble servants,

SAM. MIDDLETON
P. M. DACRES.

No. 27.

Extract of Letter from the Directors to the Select Committee, dated the 21st November 1766.

14. WE are well pleased to remark your attention to our orders, in calling down the free merchants; their proper employment is in the sea service, as captains and supra cargoes in the country trade, or settled as merchants in Calcutta; and if hereafter we find any infringement of our orders in this respect, we shall assuredly send for them home, and testify our displeasure at those who have protected them, or permitted them to go up the country; we are determined to have as few Europeans as possible dispersed about the country;
you

you are to keep to the spirit of this our resolution as much as possible, for we have the strongest sense of the injuries the natives have suffered from having Englishmen exercising an authority over them.

No. 28.

Extract of Company's Letter to Bengal, 19th February 1762.

43. **B**Y the Directions we gave in our letter of the 1st of April 1760, we meant that the Nabob should not be defrauded of his duties by an abuse of dusticks, nor private traders oppressed; but as it appears by your advices of the 16th January 1761, that the farming the duties of the Nabob, or the other methods we had pointed out, are not practicable, we must therefore acquiesce in their not being carried into execution; at the same time we repeat and enforce what we mentioned in our said letter, that in all events the dusticks are to be upon such a just footing as to secure the government their duties, and to enable the merchant to pay our customs.

44. It has been intimated, that some of our late servants had engrossed the sale of beetle and salt to their own great emolument, but highly prejudicial to the interest of the Nabob: As such measures tend greatly to the embroiling our affairs, as well as being injurious to the community, we enjoin you to take the utmost care that neither our servants, or any person residing under our protection, have any concern in such farms for the future.

No. 29.

Extract of Company's Letter to Bengal, 8th February 1764.

20. **O**NE general source of the disputes, misunderstandings, and difficulties which have occurred with the country government, appears evidently to have taken its rise from the unwarrantable and licentious manner of carrying on the private trade, by the Company's servants, their gomastahs, agents, and others; to the prejudice of the Subah, both with respect to his authority, and the revenues justly due to him; the diverting and taking from his natural subjects the trade in the inland parts of the country, to which neither we, or any persons whatsoever dependant upon us, or under our protection, have any manner of right, and consequently endangering the Company's very valuable privileges; In order therefore to remedy all these disorders, we do hereby positively order and direct,

21. That from the receipt of this letter, a final and effectual end be forthwith put to the inland trade in salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, and in all other articles whatsoever, produced and consumed in the country; and that all European and other agents or gomastahs, who have been concerned in such trade, be immediately ordered down to Calcutta, and not suffered to return or be replaced as such by any other persons.

22. That as our phirmaund privileges of being duty free are certainly confined to the Company's export and import trade only, you are to have recourse to and keep within the liberty therein stipulated and given, as nearly as can possibly be done; but as by the connivance of the Bengal Government, and constant usage, the Company's covenant servants have had the same benefit as the Company with respect to their export and import trade, we are willing they should enjoy the same, and that dusticks be granted accordingly; but herein the most effectual care is to be taken that no excesses or abuses are suffered, upon any account whatsoever, nor dusticks granted to any others than our covenanted servants as aforesaid; however, notwithstanding any of our former orders, no writer is to have the benefit of a dustick until he has served out his full time of five years in that station: Free merchants, and others, are not intitled to, or to have the benefit of, the Company's dusticks, but are to pay the usual duties.

24. We are under the necessity of giving the foregoing orders, in order to preserve the tranquillity of the country, and harmony with the nabob; they are rather outlines than complete directions, which you are to add to and improve upon, agreeable to the spirit of and our meaning in them, as may be necessary to answer the desired purposes; and if any person or persons are guilty of a contravention of them, be they whomsoever they may, if our own servants, they are to be dismissed the service; if others, the company's protection is to be withdrawn, and you have the liberty of sending them forthwith to England, if you judge the nature of the offence requires it.

25. We cannot avoid in this place taking notice of the endeavours of President Van Sittart, to form a plan of regulations, which, though it appeared so advantageous to individuals, was strongly censured by the majority of the council, as not giving them, according to their way of judging, a sufficient scope for their unwarrantable trade; however, we are satisfied of the president's good intentions; but at the same time we say, it was not calculated so as to prevent future misunderstandings with the Subah, and his government, because thereby an inland trade was to be admitted of, which, as has been observed, would certainly be attended with constant embroils and difficulties.

No. 30.

Extract of Company's Letter to Bengal 1st June 1764.

54. **F**OR the reasons given in our letter of the 8th of February last, we were then induced to send positive orders to put a final and effectual end to the inland trade in salt, beetle nut, tobacco, and in all other articles whatsoever, produced and consumed in the country: to the remarks we made in that letter, we must add one observation; which is, it appears very extraordinary, that, in a trade so extremely lucrative to individuals, the interest of the company should not have been at all attended or considered.

55. Those orders were sent, it is true, before we received the new Treaty you entered into with Jaffier Aly Cawn, upon his re-establishment in the Subahship; in which it is agreed, That the English shall carry on their trade by means of their own dustick, free from all duties, taxes, and impositions, in all parts of the country, excepting the article of salt, on which a duty of 2½ per cent. is to be levied on the Rowanna, or Houghly market-price; wherein it is further agreed, That the late perwānahs issued by Cossim Aly Cawn, granting to all merchants the exemption of all duties for the space of two years, shall be reversed and called in, and the duties collected as before.

56. These are terms which appear to be so very injurious to the Nabob, and to the natives, that they cannot in the very nature of them tend to any thing but the producing general heart-burnings and dissatisfaction; and consequently, there can be little reason to expect the tranquillity of the country can be permanent: The orders therefore, in our said letter of the 8th of February, are to remain in force until a more equitable and satisfactory plan can be formed and adopted; which, as it is impossible for us to frame here, destitute as we are of the Informations and lights necessary to guide us in settling such an important affair,

57. You are therefore hereby ordered and directed, as soon after the receipt of this as may be convenient, to consult the Nabob as to the manner of carrying on the inland trade in salt, beetle nut, tobacco, and the other articles produced and consumed in the country, which may be most to his satisfaction and advantage, the Interest of the company, and likewise of the company's servants.

58. You are thereupon to form a proper and equitable plan for carrying on the said trade; and transmit the same to us, accompanied by such explanations, observations, and remarks, as may enable us to give our sentiments and directions thereupon in a full and explicit manner.

59. In doing this, as before observed, you are to have a particular regard to the interest and intire satisfaction of the Nabob, both with respect to his revenues, and the proper support of his government: In short, this plan must be settled with his free will and consent, and in such a manner as not to afford any just Grounds for complaint.

60. In the next place, the utmost care and attention must be bestowed, in forming the said plan, that in some proper mode or shape a just and equitable consideration be secured for the company.

61. If any inconveniencs shall be apprehended to arise to the company's Investments, upon carrying on such an inland trade, you are to give us your full thoughts thereupon, and in what manner they may be obviated.

62. You are to give us your impartial and unbiassed thoughts also, whether the carrying on this inland trade may affect the just rights and privileges of the French, Dutch, or any Europeans, and tend thereby to draw on any national altercations and embroils; which are by all means to be avoided in forming the said plan: Therefore you are to be particularly careful to prevent these, or any evils of the like kind.

No. 31.

Fort William General Consultation, the 25 January 1765.

WE observe the sentiments and orders of the court on the subject of the inland trade, contained in the 54 and subsequent paragraphs to the 64: but as Lord Clive, and the other Gentlemen, may be now so soon expected to arrive, it is agreed to defer, for the present at least, any further proceedings thereon.

No. 32

Fort William Select Consultation, 17th October 1764.

The English Gomastahs in the Districts of Dacca, Rungamatty Chilmary, and Bakergungā, &c. force tobacco and other goods upon the Talookdars, and Ryotts, whereby the country is desolated, and a very heavy loss falls upon the Sircar; it is proper that a stop should be every where put to this oppression, that the country may flourish, and the inhabitants may pay their rents in security, and my revenues may not suffer.

The poor of this country, who used always to deal in salt, beetle nut, and Tobacco, &c. are now deprived of their daily bread by the trade of the Europeans; whereby no kind of advantage accrues to the Company, and the government's revenues are greatly injured.

IN consequence of these representations from the Nabob, and the Company's orders in their letter of the 8th of February 1764,

It is resolved, that the inland trade; that is, the articles produced in one part of the country, to be carried for sale and consumption to another, shall in general be prohibited, with such exceptions as shall appear to the board may be admitted, without the danger of creating disputes with the government, or depriving the Nabob of his just rights.

After mature consideration of the subject, and recollection of all the disputes that have happened, and the complaints which have been made by the government since this inland trade has been taken up; we think that one, and one only exception can be made, consistently with the spirit of the Company's orders; and that is, that it may be permitted to the company's servants to send salt and beetle nut for sale to the factories of Patna, Cossimbuzar, and Dacca, or the capital cities of Patna, Moorshedabad, and Dacca, thereunto adjoining, paying to the country government, on the article of salt, the duties agreed on with the Nabob in the last treaty, and on the article of beetle nut, a like duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the price of the Chaundpore Market, and a Company's dustick shall be given them along with the Company's Rowanna.

Our reasons for thinking this exception may be admitted, are,

First, with respect to the objection of disputes: among the many instances we have had we do not find any touching the sales of salt or beetle nut, at any of these places.

Secondly, with respect to the objection of the Nabob's revenues: since we relinquish every advantage that he ceded by his treaty of last year, with regard to his trade, we may, without imputation of injustice, reserve so much as is here meant, unless any inconvenience, which at present we do not foresee, should be found to arise from it.

But it shall be expressly forbid to all the Company's servants, and others residing under the Company's protection, to raise salt works (as Collaries or Toffals) or make salt upon the grounds, in any part except the territories appertaining to the Company. All claims to any such grounds shall be immediately relinquished; and application will be made to the Nabob, on behalf of the claimants, to order the Zemindars to discharge in money such balances of former years, and advances of this season, as may appear to be justly due, upon examination of the accounts with the Molungees.

As from a delay in executing this resolution, the Zemindars may pretend and complain of the loss of the season for carrying on their business, and raise difficulties in adjusting the accounts;

Agreed, that the resolution be recited, in letters to be immediately wrote to Dacca, Chittagong, Mldnapore, and Burdwan, with directions to carry the same into execution, so far as regards their respective factories: and

Ordered, that the drafts of these orders be entered after consultation.

The Company's servants, who shall trade in salt to the places herein before expressed, shall take the greatest care that their Gomastahs do deliver up the dustick to the Company's Chief, and the rowanna to the Naib of the government, on the salt's being landed at the factory or city to which it is consigned; our intentions herein being to enforce our resolutions, that the salt shall be actually and bona fide sold at one of the foresaid factories or cities, and not circulated through the country, under the influence of the English name, or Dustick.

To the end that these regulations, when published, may take effect within a reasonable time, so that on the one hand the merchants may not suffer from their present engagements in the articles of this trade; and on the other, that an opening may not be left for the continuance of this trade longer than may be necessary for the finishing those engagements;

It is agreed and ordered, that the secretary do give public notice of them, both here and at the subordinate factories; forbidding from this day, all Company's servants, free merchants, and others, residing under the Company's protection, to make any new purchases, or enter into any new contracts which may involve them further in the prohibited trade; and directing them to deliver in, within the space of seven days, an account of the goods of this trade that they may have remaining at every place, with the intended place of their destination for sale; upon an examination of which, a reasonable time will be allowed for concluding such sales.

Although we imagine the restraint we have now laid upon the inland trade will put an end, for the most part, to that unjust manner of dealing called Burja, or Guchowt; yet, least it should be ever attempted in the sale of any articles of licensed trade, it is hereby

Ordered, in the strictest manner, that no person trading under the Company's protection shall, on any pretence, force the merchants or people of the country to buy goods which they do not want, or to give a price above the market; and whoever shall be found to be guilty of infringing this order, shall be punished with the utmost rigour.

Agreed therefore, that the secretary do also make this resolution public; and that the Nabob be desired to make it known to his officers, desiring them to complain to the nearest English factory, if any such attempts should be made by English Gomastahs within their Jurisdiction.

Upon the whole, it is agreed to represent to the Nabob, that all our attempts to reform the grievances he complains of will be ineffectual, unless his officers at the several chokies and custom houses will be attentive to let no boats pass with merchandize, without first seeing the

Company's

Company's duttick, as directed in the resolution on article second: and further, as we are informed that he has indulged some English gentlemen, free merchants, with general dutticks, which will give them a privilege of trade far more extensive than we shall now permit, even to Company's servants, it will be absolutely necessary that he do withdraw all such indulgences, and refrain from granting any in future; otherwise these regulations can be of no effect.

No. 33.

Fort William, the 10th August 1765.

At a Select Committee; P R E S E N T,
W. B. Sumner, Esquire, President,
Harry Verelst, Esquire.

IN conformity to the honourable Company's orders, contained in their letter of the 1st of June 1764, the Committee now proceed to take under their consideration the subject of the inland trade, in the articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, the same having been frequently discoursed of at former meetings, and Mr. Sumner having lately collected the opinions of the absent members at large on every circumstance; it is now agreed and resolved, that the following plan for conducting this trade shall be carried into execution, the Committee esteeming the same the most correspondent to the Company's orders, and conducive to the ends which they have in view, when they require that the trade shall be put upon such a footing as may appear most equitable for the benefit of their servants, least liable to produce disputes with the country government, and wherein their own interest, and that of the Nabob, shall at the same time be properly attended to and considered.

First, that the whole trade shall be carried on by an exclusive Company formed for that purpose, and consisting of all those who may be deemed justly intitled to share; that a proper fund shall be raised, by a loan at interest, for the supply and support of the same, and that it shall commence in the month of September ensuing, or as soon after as may be found most convenient.

Secondly, that the salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, produced in, or imported into, Bengal, shall be purchased by this established Company; and public advertisement shall be issued, strictly prohibiting all other persons whatever, who are dependant on our government, to deal in those articles.

Thirdly, that application shall be made to the Nabob, to issue the like prohibition to all his officers and subjects of the districts, where any quantity of either of those articles is manufactured or produced.

Fourthly, that the salt shall be purchased by contract, on the most reasonable terms, giving the preference to the factories of Dacca, Chittagong, Burdwan, and Midnapoor, for the produce of their respective districts; to the Phouldar of Houghley, and the other Zemindars, for the produce of Ingellee, Tumlook, Mysidole, &c. and to such persons as may offer the most reasonable proposals, for the quantity produced in the Calcutta lands.

Fifthly, that the beetle nut and tobacco shall, in like manner, be purchased by contract, under such terms and conditions as, upon proper enquiry, shall appear to the managers to be most conformable to the interest of the concerned.

Sixthly, that the contractors for the salt shall agree to deliver it at certain fixed places, at a stipulated rate per m maunds, comprehending such an advance upon their contracts with the Zemindars and Molungees, as may be esteemed an equivalent to their risk, trouble, and bad debts.

Seventhly, that as the advances will be made by the contractors to the Zemindars, &c. at certain periods of the season, in the usual manner, so shall the advance from the public Company to the contractors be made in proportion thereto.

Eighthly, That the salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, thus purchased by the public Company, shall be transported to a certain number of places for sale, to be *there*, and there only, disposed of by their agents; and that the country merchants may then become the purchasers, and again transport the articles whither they think they have the greatest prospect of profit.

That by this means, not only the frequent oppressions the inhabitants of the country have suffered, by Europeans having permission to traverse to every place for the sale of those commodities, will be put a stop to, but by thus reserving to the natives and merchants a competent share of the profits, both in the purchase and sale, we may hope for the good effect of removing the general odium that has prevailed, from our seeking to deprive them of every part of that trade.

Ninthly, That as it is apprehended some difficulty will arise in securing the produce of the Dacca and Chittagong districts, by reason of the property of the lands being scattered in a number of hands, all dependant on the Government; it is agreed, that application shall be made to the Nabob for Perwannas on the several Zemindars of those districts, as well as those of Houghley, &c. strictly ordering and requiring them to contract for all the salt that can be made on their lands with the English alone, and forbidding the sale to any other person or persons whatsoever.

Tenthly,

Tenthly, That the Honourable Company shall either share in this trade as Proprietors, or receive an annual duty upon it, as may appear to be most for their interest, when considered with their other engagements and demands at this Presidency.

Eleventhly, That the Nabob shall in like manner be considered, as may be judged most proper, either as a Proprietor, or by an annual Nuzzerana, to be computed upon inspecting a statement of his duties on salt in former years.

Twelfthly, That the manner in which the Honourable Company and the Nabob shall be considered being once determined, the remainder of this trade shall be divided amongst the Company's servants, arranged under certain classes, and each class to share a certain proportion of the capital stock.

Thirteenthly, That a Committee of trade shall be appointed to receive the management of this plan, and prosecute the same in all its branches; and that they shall be immediately authorized to take measures for raising the fund at interest, and to receive proposals and settle the contracts; and further, that for their assistance in this work, a person shall be appointed in the quality of their secretary and accomptant: the foregoing regulations, the select Committee judge, will be found a sufficient ground work for commencing this trade, to be improved hereafter as circumstances may occur and direct; and it is therefore "Agreed" that they be delivered over to the Committee of Trade, as soon as they are appointed, with instructions to proceed in raising the money and making the contracts.

The points contained in the 10th, 11th, and 12th regulations, as their not being adjusted need be no impediment to the prosecution of the business, so the Committee esteem them of so much importance, that the settlement of them should be delayed until the absent members return to Calcutta, and they can be deliberated on at a full Committee:—Agreed therefore, that the Committee of Trade be also advised of this resolution; and that they shall be hereafter informed of the distribution which may be settled, with any other regulations which may occur relative thereto, for their government.

Mr. Sumner acquaints the Committee, that, being apprised of the intention contained in the third and ninth regulations, he desired Mr. Sykes, when he lately went up to Muxadabad, to apply to the Nabob for the necessary Perwannas for authorizing and facilitating this trade, and that he has accordingly received from that gentleman, Perwannas to this purpose, being 106 in number; the same he now presents to the Committee, together with several papers of information which he has collected, regarding the produce of the different districts, and the conditions that salt can be contracted for.

Ordered, that they be delivered over to the Committee of Trade for their guidance.

Taking now into consideration the appointment of this Committee of Trade, the select Committee are of opinion, that it should be composed of two members of their body, and two gentlemen of the Council.

Agreed therefore, that we recommend to the Council to appoint two of their members to be joined with two of the Committee, to constitute this Board, and receive charge of the plan; and at the same time to appoint a proper person to the office of secretary and accomptant.

No. 54.

Port William, General Consultation, the 12th August, 1765.

THE President lays before the Board an extract of the proceedings of a Select Committee, held the 10th instant, himself and Mr. Verelst present; containing considerations on the Company's orders respecting the inland trade, and some regulations determined on in consequence, as the ground work of a plan for carrying it on in future.

And the same have been perused.

Messrs. Lyecester and Gray enter thereupon the following dissents.

I dissent to the powers assumed by the gentlemen of the Committee, of fixing any regulations for the carrying on of the inland trade, independant of, and without consulting the gentlemen of the Council, as it is a power by no means delegated to them by the court of Directors; who point out in very express terms, that the only object of those powers lodged with the Select Committee is the restoring of peace and tranquillity to the provinces, then supposed in a very distracted state. It is needless for me, at present, to give my sentiments of the regulations themselves, as the Committee have already determined on the plan.—And as it is on all occasions expedient for the members of the Board to unite in carrying on the public business, so I declare myself ready, notwithstanding this dissent, to share any trouble that this system may occasion to the other gentlemen of the Council, and to co-operate with my best endeavours, that the intended scheme may be carried into execution with all the benefits that can possibly result from it.

Mr. Gray dissents from the proceedings of the Committee, this day laid before the Board: as the orders for the regulation of the trade of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, are immediately directed to the whole Board, he thinks no part of it are sufficiently authorized, without the concurrence of the whole, to carry them into execution:—he means however, notwithstanding this his dissent, cheerfully to obey the orders of the board in his appointment of a member of the Committee of Trade.

These dissent having been entered :

Messrs. Sumner and Verelst offer their services, as members of the Committee, for carrying on this trade, upon the plan laid down.

And as Mr. Playdell is appointed chief of the factory of Chittagong, and Mr. Burdett has intimated his intention of resigning the service this season.

Mr. Leycester and Gray are therefore appointed members from the Board.

Agreed, That we address those gentlemen, constituting them the Committee accordingly, for the management of this trade, and transmitting them the regulations of the Select Committee, with the several papers accompanying for their Government therein; authorising them, at the same time, to correspond with the subordinate factories, and to pursue all such measures as may, conformably to the plan, appear to them eligible and proper: And

That we give the necessary advice and directions, in consequence, to the different factories.

No. 35.

Extract of a Letter to Afcenius William Senior, Esquire, Chief, &c. Council at Cossimbuzar.

Gentlemen,

WE are to inform you, that we have now established certain regulations for conducting the inland trade in the articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, agreeably to orders received from the Court of Directors, and that the same are to be immediately carried into execution, by a Committee of Trade, consisting of Messrs. Sumner, Verelst, Leycester, and Gray, who are for that purpose authorized to correspond with the several subordinate factories, and to take all such measures as may appear to them proper; and we therefore direct, that you do pay a due regard to whatever instructions you may from time to time receive from them, in matters relative to this trade, and address them accordingly in return.

Fort William,
the 12th of August, 1765.

We are, &c.

No. 36.

Fort William Select Committee Proceedings, 18 September, 1765.

RESUMING the consideration of the plan for carrying on the inland trade, in order to determine with respect to the Company, and the classes of Proprietors, the Committee are unanimously of opinion, that whatever surplus monies the Company may find themselves possessed of, after discharging their several demands at this Presidency, the same will be employed more to their benefit and advantage in supplying largely that valuable branch of their commerce, the China trade, and in assisting the wants of their other settlements; and that it will be more for their interest to be considered as superiors of this trade, and receive a handsome duty upon it, than to be engaged as Proprietors in the stock; bestowing therefore all due attention to the circumstance of the Company's being at the same time the head and masters of our service, and now come into the place of the country government, by his Majesty's royal grant of the Dewannee. It is agreed, that the inland trade in the above articles shall be subject to a duty to the Company, after the following rates, which are calculated according to the best judgment we can form of the value of the trade in general, and the advantage which may be expected to accrue from it to the Proprietors.

On salt, 35 per cent. valuing the 100 maunds at the rate of 90 A. Rs. and in consideration hereof the present collaree duty to be abolished.

On beetle-nut 10 per cent. on the prime cost.

On tobacco 25 per cent. on ditto.

By this calculation, we hope may be produced a clear revenue to the Company, of at least 100,000l. sterling per annum; and should it appear, upon further experience of the trade, That the profits will admit of an encrease in these rates of duties, we hereby resolve, that a fair and impartial representation of the same shall be made to our honourable masters, in order to receive their directions, as it is our fixed determination to render them all possible satisfaction on this point.

With respect to the Proprietors, it is agreed and resolved, That they shall be arranged into three classes; that each class shall be entitled to so many shares in the stock, and that a certain capital stock shall be agreed upon, in order to ascertain the value of each share.

According to this scheme, it is agreed, That class first shall consist of the governor, five shares;—the second, three shares;—the general, three shares;—ten gentlemen of council, each two shares; twenty shares:—two colonels, each two shares; four shares:—in all, thirty-five shares for the first class.

The class second shall consist of one chaplain, fourteen junior merchants, and three lieutenant-colonels; in all eighteen persons: who shall each be entitled to one third of a councillor's proportion, or two thirds of one share; and which makes in all twelve shares for the second class. We mean always to include in this number such junior merchants as the Company have thought proper to fix in the service; who, as well as the factors in the next class, that may be restrained from rising as covenant servants, shall, however, be entitled to their full share of the advantages of this trade.

A P P E N D I X, No. 37, 38.

The class third shall consist of thirteen factors, four majors, four first surgeons at the Presidency, two first surgeons at the army, one secretary to the Council, one sub-accomptant, one Persian translator, and one sub-export warehousekeeper; in all twenty-seven persons: who shall each be entitled to one sixth of a councillor's proportion, or one third of one share; and which makes in all eight shares for the third class.

It is necessary, however, to be observed, That by this arrangement it is intended, and it is accordingly hereby ordered, that twelve shares in this trade shall be allotted to eighteen persons, composed of the first senior and junior merchants, lieutenant colonels, and chaplain or chaplains; all exceeding that number of those ranks, must stand excluded until they can be included in it; and chaplains, be they more or less, to be reckoned only as one senior or junior merchant.

That eight shares in this trade shall in like manner always be allotted to twenty-four persons, composed of the senior factors, majors, surgeons, and the three officers above specified; all exceeding that number of those ranks are not to share till they can be included in it.

The Committee have thus settled the arrangement of the classes, and the shares in the stock; but they leave to the Committee of Trade to ascertain the amount of the capital, as they must be the most competent judges of what fund will be required.

That the trade may meet with no interruption, and for the better regulating the same, the Committee of Trade may, from time to time, form bye-laws, which having been communicated, approved, and signed to by the body of Proprietors, they (the Committee) shall be empowered to enforce and carry into execution.

That the books of the Society shall be opened the first of every September, and closed the 31st of the following August; that for the present year, all persons, who shall from this time be deemed Proprietors, and whose names shall be enrolled by the Committee of Trade, agreeable to this scheme of distribution, shall be intitled to their proportion of profits arising on the trade, during the course of the year, whether absence or death should ensue; and so in all future years, after the names of the persons, who may compose the classes, shall have been regularly enrolled.

Resolved, That no person shall share in a double capacity, and receive a benefit at the same time from his rank in the service, and from such employment as he may happen to enjoy.

Ordered, That a copy of these proceedings be prepared, and laid before the Council, that they may transmit the same, with their directions, to the Committee of Trade.

CLIVE,
WM. B. SUMNER,
JOHN CARNAC,
H. VERELST,
FRAS. SYKES.

No. 37.

Fort William General Consultation, the 25th September, 1765.

THE President lays before the Board a copy of the proceedings of the Select Committee, containing their conclusion of the plan for the inland trade, with respect to the Company, and the different classes of the Proprietors—And the same having been perused,

Agreed, It be transmitted to the Committee of Trade, with instructions to proceed agreeably thereto.

No. 38.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort William.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE have had the honour to receive your letter of the 25th ult. with the conclusion of the Select Committee's plan for carrying on the inland trade. We shall pay due attention thereto; and we have in consequence enrolled the Proprietors of the stock for the present year.

The office of our Secretary and accomptant being vacated by Mr. Graham's appointment to Midnapore, we request your lordship, &c. will grant us permission to appoint Mr. Lawrell in his room.

We must also take this opportunity to request your permission to nominate agents for transacting the business of the society in the different parts of the country. We shall be very careful to make choice of the most unexceptionable persons for this purpose; and we shall cause them to enter into such engagements you shall think proper to prescribe for regulating their conduct, and to prevent their interfering with the business of the country government.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
R. LEYCESTER,
GEORGE GRAY.

Fort William, 21st October, 1765,

No. 39.

No. 39.

Fort William, Select Committee, 29th October 1765.

HAVING perused a letter from the Committee of Trade, desiring leave to appoint a secretary in the room of Mr. Graham, and agents, to conduct the business of the society in the different parts of the country;

Agreed, we write them, that we entirely approve of their choice of Mr. Lawrell for secretary and accomptant.—Also, that as they seem to think the business of the Society will require European agents, we consent to their nominating persons of approved character, who shall enter into such engagements and restrictions as we may judge necessary for regulating their conduct, and securing the country from disturbance, and the natives from injury or molestation.

We also consent that they appoint four European agents to build boats for the society at Nabob Gunge, and Buker Gunge, who shall enter into similar engagements.

No. 40.

To Wm. Brightwell Sumner, Esq; and the gentlemen of the Committee of Trade.
Gentlemen,

YOUR letter of the 21st instant to the president and council, having been referred to the Select Committee, we highly approve your intention to appoint Mr Lawrell to succeed Mr. Graham in the office of your secretary and accomptant.

We likewise consent that you nominate agents for transacting the business of the society in the different parts of the country, since you consider this measure as necessary to the due execution of your plan; but we must request that all these gentlemen must be persons of unblemished character; that they be approved by the Select Committee, and bound down by such engagements and restrictions as we may judge necessary to secure the country against disturbances, the natives from injury and molestation, and the government from future cause of complaint.

We are with great esteem,
Gentlemen,

Fort William, the 1st Nov. 1765.

Your most obedient humble servants.

No. 41.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President, &c. Members Select Committee.
My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE have had the honour to receive your favour of this date. In consequence of the permission therein contained, we have appointed the following gentlemen to reside as agents for transacting the business of the Society of Trade, at the undermentioned places, viz.

Mr. HUGH BAILLIE,	to reside at	Gualparah.
CHARLES BLOMER,	—	Dinagapore.
PITT LITHIEULLIER,	—	Durbunga.
TOM LEWIS,	—	Rungpore.
J ^{no} CORSAR,	—	Surhit.
Wm. BENSLEY,	—	Carragolah.
J ^{no} . ROBINSON,	—	Nabob Gunge.
HARGRAVE,	—	Chilmarie,
Wm. HALTBY,	—	—
HARRY GRANT,	—	—

The places of residence of the two last-named gentlemen will be determined hereafter, as well as what other places it may be thought necessary to send agents to.

We hope that this arrangement will meet with your Lordship's, &c. approbation; and we request you will as soon as possible transmit us the regulations you would propose for the conduct of those, and such other agents as we may have occasion to appoint.

We have the Honour to be,
My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort William, 1st Nov. 1765.

Your most obedient humble servants

W. B. SUMNER.
H. VERELST.
GEORGE GREY.

No. 42.

Letter to William Brightwell Sumner, Esquire, and the Members of the Committee of Trade, dated Fort William the 5th November 1765.

Gentlemen,

YOU have represented to us, that the Society for conducting the inland trade will derive very particular advantages from entrusting the management of their concerns to European agents; and we have for this reason consented, under certain limitations, to a measure which

we

we could never otherwise approve—giving permission to Europeans, not in the Company's covenanted service, to reside in different and remote parts of the country, opens so large a field for abuse and oppression, and is in itself so opposite to the express injunctions of the Court of Directors, so contrary to the orders we have so lately issued, and so alarming to the natives in general, that such indulgence can only be justified by necessity.

To obviate therefore, in the best manner possible, the inconveniences to be apprehended, we think it is our indispensable duty, to lay such restraints on the conduct of the gentlemen, who shall be employed in this service, as appears to us best calculated to prevent future cause of complaint, and secure the peace and repose of the country.

To this end, we require that all European agents, on whatever service employed by the society, do subscribe to the following restrictions before they leave the presidency, and bind themselves in a penal Bond of 30,000 rupees, to a strict observance of the same, which penalty shall be levied on conviction of their breach of agreement, and applied at the discretion of the board, or of this Committee.

The restrictions we would enjoin, are the following, which, we think, ought to be specified in the Penal Bonds, or drawn out into formal instruments, to be signed and sealed before witnesses, by the several agents.

1st. That they carry on no trade or commerce, either as agents or principals, except for the benefit of the whole Society of inland trade.

2d. That they lend no money to the Zemindars, the public officers, or other persons any way connected with the government.

3d. That they assume to themselves no judicial power or authority whatever ; but in all cases of difference or dispute between them and the natives, apply for redress to the country government, and in case of delay or refusal, to the Select Committee.

4th. That they neither interfere, directly nor indirectly, with any business relative to government, or by any means whatever give interruption to the collections, or just cause of complaint to the administration ; but confine themselves scrupulously and strictly to the sale of the salt, tobacco, and beetle nut committed to their charge, making such returns of the produce as the society may require, and expecting no other reward of their services than the stated allowance by commission on the above articles.

These, gentlemen, are the principal restrictions which we think necessary, to avoid contradiction in our own resolutions, and to secure the Company from injury, the ministers from occasion of complaint, and the natives from insult and oppression.

We are with great regard,

Gentlemen,

your most obedient servants.

No. 43.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President, &c. Members of the Select Committee.
My Lord, and Gentlemen,

THE following persons,

Messrs. Hugh Baillie,
Charles Blomer,
Pitt Letheilleur,
Tom Lewis,
John Corfar,
William Bensley,
John Robinson,
James Hargrave,

Agents for transacting the Society of Trade's Business, being about to proceed to their different stations, have applied for leave to dispose of the salt now on hand, belonging to private traders.

We think it will be for the advantage of the society, that such salt as is now on hand, should be sold by your agents, on account of the persons to whom it belongs, before the salt of the society gets up ; but as there is an article in the restrictions transmitted to us by your Lordship, &c. which forbids their receiving any private Commissions, we request you will grant us permission to insert a clause, allowing them to dispose of the salt, to prevent their forfeit of the penalty they would otherwise be subject to.

We are,

my Lord, and gentlemen,

your most obedient servants,

Wm. B. SUMNER,

H. WATTS,

W. SENIOR.

Fort William, 8th January 1766.

No. 44.

Fort William Select Consultation, the 9th January 1766.

RECEIVED a letter from the Committee of Trade, requesting leave for their agents to dispose of the balances of salt belonging to private merchants, now on hand, which they imagine will conduce to the interest of the Society.

Agreed, We acquaint the Committee of Trade, that we grant their request, in consideration they think it will be a public benefit.

No. 45.

To William Brightwell Sumner, Esquire, &c. Members of the Committee of Trade.
Gentlemen,

No. 1. **W**E consent that the balance of salt belonging to private merchants, which are now on hand, shall be disposed of by your agents, at the several stations to which they are appointed, since you are of opinion this Measure will conduce to the benefit of the society; but we must desire they will not think of extending this privilege beyond the particular article here specified.

We remain,
gentlemen,

Fort William, January 9th 1766.

your most obedient humble servants.

No. 46

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

Honourable Sirs,

1. **W**E have now the honour to transmit the sequel of those proceedings of the Select Committee which were dispatched the 30th September by the Admiral Stevens, and also a duplicate of our letter of that date.

2. The conjectures we then formed, with respect to the system which the Committee found it necessary to adopt, have in the event corresponded to our warmest expectations; and it is with extreme satisfaction we can assure you, that a happy prospect is daily opening to our view of security and opulance to the Company; money flowing into your Treasury; contentment expressed by the country government; and peace diffusing the blessings throughout every district of the Nabob's Dominions, are to us the most pleasing testimonies of the rectitude of the measures we pursued when the late grants were obtained: The more we reflect on the situation of your affairs, the stronger appear the reasons for accepting the dewanny of these provinces, by which alone we could establish a power sufficient to perpetuate the possessions, we hold, and the influence we enjoy; while the Nabob acted in quality of collector for the Mogul, the means of supporting our military establishment depended upon his pleasure; in the most critical situation, while we stood balancing on the extreme border of destruction, his stipulated payments were slow and deficient, his revenues were often withheld by disaffected Rajahs and turbulent Zeminders, who despised the weakness of his government, or they were squandered in profusion and dissipated in corruption, the never failing symptoms of a declining constitution and a feeble administration; whence we were frequently disappointed of those supplies, upon the punctal receipt of which depended the very existence of the Company in Bengal.

We cannot indeed look back without horror upon that desperate crisis to which your affairs were reduced, when a mutinous spirit prevailed among your troops; when dissensions distracted your consultations; and a powerful enemy was invading the provinces, to seize and desolate your possessions, and probably extirpate your servants; to us it evidently appears there remained but the alternative to advance, as we have done, and grasp at the whole power, or to shrink back into our primitive condition of simple merchants, to abandon our possessions, disband our forces, and rest our future hopes on the clemency of princes, who will not easily forget or forgive the superiority we have so long maintained. In a word, this last measure was in itself impracticable; for we must observe, although with much regret, that the misconduct of individuals hath rendered the English name so odious, that we are no longer secure than while our hands are armed for the Defence of our lives and property.

3. The several statements, that go numbers in our packet, shew clearly the amount of revenues to be collected this year into the treasury, exclusive of those issuing from the provinces of Burdwan, Midnapoor, and Chittagong: the Calcutta lands, and all your former possessions, at present they stand encumbered with a variety of superfluous charges, which we hope to reduce, when we come to adjust the collections of the ensuing year; but we thought it advisable to avoid introducing innovations, which might create disgust and dissatisfaction, at so early a period of our government. The nett balance, amounting to 212 lacks of sicca rupees, or

2,862,000

2,862,000 pounds sterling, will be more readily paid, that the ministers and officers of the government can have nothing to plead in excuse for deficiencies; and we have reason to believe it will not fall short of the stated amount. This balance is abundantly sufficient to supply your China trade, provide for our own investment, and defray all the expences of our civil and military establishment. Whatever surplus may remain in the treasury, after the stipends to the King and Nabob are discharged, and all other more immediate demands are answered, this, together with the revenues of Burdwan, &c. shall then be applied to relieve the wants of the other presidencies, to pay off your bonds, and to such other purposes as may appear to us most conducive to your interest.

4. Mr. Sykes, who was some time since appointed resident at the Durbar, and supervisor of the collections, hath now taken charge of the factory at Cossimbuzar, upon Mr. Senior's application for leave to return to Europe; the great diligence he has exerted in settling the revenues, and forming the statements, as well as attention shewn to the other several objects of administration, afford us the utmost reason to be highly satisfied with his conduct. He is daily making remittances, the first fruits of the collections, to the treasury; whereby we are already enabled to set apart a supply of 24 laaks for your China investment; 12 of which are now under dispatch for Canton, the remainder will be sent in the month of February to Madras, to be forwarded from thence to China by the earliest conveyance: when the collections of the year are closed, we have directed Mr. Sykes to enquire strictly into the balances to the Government, and to use every possible endeavour to recover them, as we entertain the most flattering hope, that from these arrears will arise a fund sufficient to discharge all the publick demands on the late Nabob, for which your honour may stand any way engaged.

5. Notwithstanding all these immense revenues, of which the company is actually possessed, we must earnestly request your serious attention to the consequences of our impoverishing the country by such considerable annual exports of treasure to China. We must also recommend that you devise some method of enabling your Servants, and the inhabitants of the settlement, to remit their own fortunes, and the effects of deceased persons in their hands, by some other channel than that of bill on France and Holland; you are now in a situation which will never require your receiving private effects into the treasury, to be able to compleat your own investment: your collections are adequate to every purpose and demand which we can foresee; the governor and council could not therefore, with any propriety, subject you to the inconvenience of answering bills, to the amount of forty or fifty laaks, merely for the benefit of your servants, and suffer your own money to lie dead and unappropriated in the treasury; indeed we were particularly cautious of drawing largely for this year, in order that you might be able to discharge your more immediate and pressing engagements at home; yet should the necessity continue of remitting private property by foreign funds, the French and Dutch will not only be enabled thereby to provide early and valuable investments, but the provinces will also be deprived of a very considerable addition to the current species, which those nations will otherwise be obliged to import every year in ready money. To obviate as far as possible any immediate bad effects to the public from the above causes, the President has now under consideration, a proposal to prevent the exportation of treasure; from occasioning a scarcity of money for some years at least; yet as this proposal rather tends to palliate, than effectually remedy the evil, it is from your instructions only that we are to expect a radical cure.

6. The opportunity which the restoration of peace affords for carrying into execution your orders, relative to the batta allowed to military officers, will greatly contribute to the increase of your surplus fund; those orders, although reasonable and necessary, could not however be conveniently enforced before public tranquillity, and military discipline and subordination, were firmly established. It was also requisite, before we entered upon a reduction of pay, to devise the means of their living cheaper, and of supplying them with liquors, and other stores, at a more moderate price than these articles had usually been furnished. We must likewise observe, that regimenting the troops, hath not only conduced to the reformation we proposed, but also facilitated the reduction of expence you enjoin. A soldier who knows and performs his duty, will neither expect nor require the superfluities and luxuries of life.

Accordingly we have ordained, that on the first day of the present month the batta should be struck off from the troops in general, excepting the brigade stationed in Shujah Dowla's dominions; who on account of the high price of provisions, and the difficulty of procuring stores, will be allowed double batta in the field, and half double batta in cantonments and in garrison, until they are recalled to the provinces: for the same reason; half batta is continued to the troops quartered at Patna and Mungheer; but the rest of the army, we mean the detachments at Subordinates and other places, that are not engaged in actual service, are reduced precisely on a footing with the company's forces upon the coast; even those stationed at Mongheer and Patna receive the same exact batta as your troops at Trichinopoly. From such regulations, and also from the check given to the many shameful abuses committed in musters, returns, hospital bills, boats, and other articles, we may affirm with confidence, that the charges of your whole establishment, civil and military, including your fortifications, will fall short of the amount expended during the course of the late war on your army alone; and yet it is proposed, if you supply us duly with recruits, to maintain the complete establishment projected by Lord Clive, and the most formidable army that ever took the field in Bengal. From what causes

your

your military expences swelled to such immeasurable bounds requires no explanation; certain it is they far exceeded the supplies so liberally voted by the British Parliament for an army of auxiliaries employed to oppose the combined forces of the most powerful Princes in Christendom.

7. To these schemes of Economy, permit us to add the late resolution of this Committee regarding the new works erected for the security of your servants and property: these works have for several years past been a perpetual drain for treasures, which might have been more usefully applied; yet should we ever meet with the misfortune of being driven off the field, and cooped up within the walls of this fort, your affairs may then be considered as desperate and irrecoverable; it is therefore the unanimous opinion of this committee, confirmed by the sentiments of the chief engineer, that we ought to regard the new works as a temporary security only; for which purpose the ditch, ramparts, bastions and ravelin, already finished, are sufficient to withstand the greatest force which the powers of this country are ever likely to assemble. Captain Martin further delivers it as his opinion, that enlarging the fortifications, conformably to the plan of the intended outworks, would add nothing to the strength of the place; unless we could at the same time maintain a garrison proportioned to their extent. We resolved therefore not to proceed on the plan, beyond what is now completed; but to use all possible means to check the incroachments of the river, which hath advanced within a very few yards of the covered way, and threatens to sweep away one intire side of the fort. We will also make all the dispatch we are able in completing the barracks, some of which we have converted into very commodious apartments for the writers lately arrived; and are convinced it would be much for the benefit of the service if all the younger servants, and the public officers, were collected within so narrow a compass as might subject them to closer inspection than is possible in their present situation.

8. Mahomed Reza Cawn, and the ministers we associated with him, to conduct the business of the country government, proceed with alacrity and unanimity, under the direction of Mr. Sykes, the Resident; they, as well as the people in general, express great satisfaction at the orders now lately issued and enforced, by recalling to the presidency all free merchants and other Europeans, who are not in your covenanted service; many of whom had, by interfering with public affairs, by acts of oppression and violence, and by assuming and exerting a judicial authority, totally perverted the ordinary course of justice, and given great interruption to the business of the administration: yet we must lament that the just and necessary punishment inflicted upon those who had committed abuses should unavoidably extend to others, who always acted with integrity and honour.

9. The more effectually to remove every cause of complaint, and render the ministers responsible for the collection of the stated revenue, we have directed that none besides those who are employed in certain public stations, shall in future correspond with the officers of the government, hold lands, lend money to the Zemindars, or take any other means of improving their fortune, or acquiring influence in the country, that may tend to disturb, distress, or defraud, either the administration or the people; and this prohibition we have extended to all our servants, civil and military, and their dependants. It was the earnest request of the ministers that we should impose such restrictions; and we thought compliance but reasonable, as we were well assured that the revenue had suffered from the excess to which these practices were carried.

10. In one instance, however, we have taken the liberty of deviating from your orders for recalling the free merchants, &c. the plan for conducting the joint inland trade in the articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, is in itself so extensive, the capital required so very considerable, and the difficulty of procuring money at a moderate interest so great, that it becomes indispensably necessary the accounts of the society should be closed, and their books balanced with more dispatch than can be expected, should black gomastahs and agents be employed: for this reason, and because we are willing to promote, to the utmost of our power, a scheme that appears well calculated from your interest and the public benefit, we have permitted the Committee of Trade to appoint European agents for disposing of the society's concerns at certain established marts in different parts of the country: and for this purpose, Company's servants could not be spared from the presidency and subordinates; those agents are therefore chosen from the list of free merchants, with the utmost attention to their character and former behaviour; besides which, we have strictly confined them to the business of the society, by such severe penalties and restrictions as we think must effectually prevent their giving offence or molestation: should we find these limitations insufficient to secure the peace of the country, and remove all cause of complaint, we are then determined to recal them, and commit the business to black agents.

11. Further to assist this valuable branch of commerce, and promote the credit of the infant society, the governor and council have, at the request of the committee, signed and executed a deed, for the better securing the society the free and exclusive purchase and sale of the articles of salt, &c. from the first of September 1765 to the 30th of August 1766, allowing a sufficient time to dispose of such stock as may be provided for the season, in order to prevent the great loss that must arise to the proprietors, should any alteration take place by your order, after the concerns for the year are begun, and before the same are concluded. We therefore flatter ourselves with your entire approbation of this measure, so essential to the

due execution of the plan formed by your permission, and with all possible regard to your interest.

12. Our proceedings point out clearly the increase of your rents issuing from the Calcutta lands; and the several minutes entered upon that subject explain our sentiments on the prospect we have of rating the Purgunnahs still higher, without exaction or oppression. It evidently appears to us, that considerable frauds were formerly committed in these collections; with a view of correcting which, we have determined that the leases granted to the present farmers should expire on the 1st day of September next; by that time we hope to find leisure to ascertain their value more exactly, at least we shall then silence the clamour of the inhabitants against what they deem a monopoly, by universally diffusing and extending the benefit arising from the possession of lands, among the most substantial and respectable banyans and black merchants living under your protection.

13. Most earnestly do we wish that such shameful embezzlement of the public money were confined to those lands, situated more immediately under the eyes of the governor and council, since nothing but the greatest inattention and misconduct could then prevent the detection of abuses; but should a general depravity of manners prevail, and your servants acting in the highest stations be restrained neither by motives of conscience nor by principles of honour, the discovery of frauds at places remote from the presidency will then become more difficult, and merely accidental: this evidently appears from the state of the Midnapoor revenues, which for three years past have yielded 2,52,000 rupees more than ever were placed, as they ought, to the Company's credit. Our recalling the factory, and appointing Mr. Verelst supervisor, and Mr. Graham resident at Midnapoor, under his direction, brought this unwarrantable transaction to light, which might otherwise have lain in profound obscurity, until chance had produced a resident, whose sense of honour and feelings of conscience were stronger than the impulses of private interest. For your further information, we beg leave to refer you to Mr. Verelst's letter, and the statement of those revenues inserted in the accompanying list of packet. Yet, fortunate to the Company as this discovery will certainly be considered, we must confess it occasions great embarrassment to our proceedings, unless we would deviate, on the one hand or the other, from that duty which we owe to our constituents. It was firmly our intention to avoid further retrospection of the conduct of an administration so notoriously corrupt and meanly venal throughout every department, in hopes the examples already made would sufficiently deter others, and work a reformation: It was the correction of abuses, and not the punishment of misconduct, that we proposed; although we endeavoured to avoid exposing ourselves either to the censure of partiality, or the heavier charge of unfaithfulness to our employers. In this, as in many other instances, we consider that a scrutiny into the particulars of the embezzlement would be unprofitable to you, when it would at the same time occasion great obstruction to our consultations, and might end in the necessity of diminishing the number of your council, already much reduced by the death of one, the suspension of another, and the resignation of four members of the board. Must farther beg leave to observe, that we cannot help regarding the late resident, as far less culpable than any of his immediate predecessors, who may be said to have chalked out the path, and guided his steps by the false light that misled him. Certain it is, that should you disapprove our lenity, the same decree in law or equity, which will oblige Mr. Watts to refund, will also oblige his predecessors to make restitution. From these considerations therefore, we resolve to leave it in the option of your honourable board, to prosecute or relinquish your claim to such balances as ought to have been applied to your credit; contenting ourselves with giving you the necessary information of facts, and taking the most effectual means to prevent such practices in future.

14. For reasons of a similar nature, we decline resuming any further consideration of the conduct of the board and deputation during the late negotiations at Moorshedabad. Already our consultations have been too much interrupted by cavilling debate and faction: we are heartily sick of the fruitless labour of raking in the jakes of corruption, and should we enter upon fresh inquiries, we must again wholly suspend the course of current business. You have before you sufficient proofs whether the gentlemen distinguished most zeal for your service, or attachment to their own interest; and should you be disposed, for the sake of example, to attempt the recovering of those sums, obtained so unwarrantably from the Nabob and his ministers, we apprehend the evidences transmitted are strong; and explicit enough to ground an action upon in any court of judicature.

Pa. 15.—It remains with us to offer a few remarks upon that Letter, which Mr. Johnstone sent into the board, just as the Admiral Stevens was under sail; as if he apprehended, lest some bold assertions he advanced, might be refuted before he was out of reach of the shame consequent on detection; many of these assertions are so mean, so contrary to truth, and to Mr. Johnstone's own knowledge, that we read them with equal surprize and contempt; sensible that he must be hard pressed indeed, to support a sinking reputation, who has recourse to falsehood to justify misconduct.

16. This gentleman thinks it necessary, after three months preparation, to apologize for a lame and unseasonable defence, by affirming, that he was denied all access to the papers, relative to himself, until a few days before his departure. Mr. Johnstone forgot that he acknowledges the receipt of those very papers in a note he wrote to our secretary, in the month of June,

before he came to any determination; which note is now in the secretary's possession; he also forgot, that the letters of Messrs. Senior and Middleton, inserted in our proceedings of the 21st of June, prove, that all the evidences and proceedings upon that occasion were regularly transmitted to those gentlemen who were not present at the Board—He ought therefore, to avail himself of the first plea, and refuse rather to acknowledge the authority of the Committee, than thus to skulk behind a pitiful untruth.

From the deep fund of critical learning which Mr. Johnstone displays in the country language, we might reasonably expect a more perfect knowledge of the power and idiom of his mother tongue; for after torturing the phrase "Cooch Booligani," to make our proceedings appear unfair and partial, he is at length forced to construe it into a signification, that implies a stronger menace than can possibly be conveyed in the words of our translation; the least acquaintance with the English language will enable any man to determine, whether, in the circumstances there represented, Mr. Johnstone's expression, "I will be silent," doth not imply a more emphatic menace, than the words which we ascribe to him; "Your business will meet with no countenance;" inasmuch as the one declares all that is meant; whereas the other intimates a harsher meaning than he would chuse to express.

Mr. Johnstone insinuates, by way of reflection on the management of the Committee, That we were under the necessity of applying to the Seets for the loan of a laak and a half of rupees—The fact is true, but it rests with Mr. Johnstone, and his associates at the Board, to explain how the Company's Treasury came to be at so low an ebb as to want so poor a supply?—It also rests with them to explain, how the Nabob (for our first application was to the Nabob) came to be so impoverished by presents made to the deputation, that he could not furnish even this small relief to the necessities of the Company? And it rests particularly with Mr. Johnstone to assign the reason, why a balance of 6 lacks was due from Burdwan to your exhausted Treasury, while he was filling his own pockets at the Durbar, which balance was afterwards collected by Mr. Verelst.

What he remarks on our opinion of Mr. Leycester, delivered in our proceedings of the 21st of June, is also very true. That gentleman had, jointly with Mr. Johnstone, received bills from M. R. Cawn; but as he declared upon oath, That he had no intention of benefiting by them, it was surely incumbent on the Committee to acquit him in a public opinion.—We should have acquitted Mr. Johnstone likewise, if he had made the same solemn declaration; but our private sentiments of that oath we should have reserved, as in Mr. Leycester's case, to our letter to the Court of Directors; for an oath may silence an accusation of crimes, but it doth not necessarily produce conviction of innocence.

Mr. Johnstone has tacked to this extraordinary defence, certain letters, written to him by Mahomed Reza Cawn, and his own agent Mooteram, as vouchers for his good behaviour, during the negotiation. With respect to these letters, we must observe, That they were obtained at a period when it may reasonably be supposed, that such testimonies durst not be refused, on account of the extraordinary authority which Mr. Johnstone had just before assumed at the Durbar.

It may also be observed from M. R. Cawn's letter, That great apprehensions were conceived, least the nabob should come to Calcutta, to lay his complaints before the Committee; and Mr. Johnstone knows that interest was made with the then resident, to prevail on him to exert his utmost influence in preventing a visit, which it was thought would not bring much honour to the deputation. We leave it therefore to your Honourable Board to determine, Whether, at the best those testimonies will justify Mr. Johnstone from the charge of extortion, and weigh down against the most positive evidence that can be given upon any matter of fact—Be this as it will, we think it necessary to correct Mr. Johnstone's mistake, when he affirms, that M. R. Cawn's first deposition takes no notice of any demand made in the name of the deputation—A reference to that deposition will satisfy you, that Mr. Johnstone either reads without attention, or that he quotes without candour. It would be endless to pursue Mr. Johnstone through the tedious maze of error and misrepresentation, so evident in every page of his letter. Permit us therefore, to refer you, for a more particular reply, to the proceedings themselves, and to Lord Clive's minute, and to those of the members of the Select Committee, entered in the appendix already transmitted by the Admiral Stevens. As to Mr. Johnstone's management in the Burdwan Province, we could wish he had suffered us to cover with the veil of silence, transactions that will not bear examination. He hath now, by his ill-judged strictures on Mr. Verelst's memorial, obliged that gentleman to disclose, what, out of tenderness to Mr. Johnstone, he was unwilling to reveal.

17. You will observe from the consultations, That Mr. Leycester stands suspended, and that Mr. Gray resigned the service while his conduct during his residence at Maulda was under consideration of the Board; you will also perceive the obstruction given to all public business, by cavilling, debate, and unseasonable minutes, while these two gentlemen remained at the Board. Those minutes are of themselves sufficient testimony of the spirit which actuated so extraordinary a behaviour; they are indecent, violent, and factious, beyond any thing ever before tolerated in this government, in the most licentious times. Messrs. Leycester and Gray no sooner perceived the lash of correction removed, than they, unmindful of the lenity of the

Committee,

Committee, when we might with propriety, and indeed ought to have suspended them the service, set up a determined opposition, and dared to ridicule and insult the government upon all occasions; yet we bore this usage with patience, out of regard to your situation, and replied to their minutes with temper, until Mr. Leyeester proceeded to such lengths of licentiousness, as tended to involve the settlement in anarchy and civil dissensions. He published an expression, hastily dropped by General Carnac at the Board, with such additional and aggravating circumstances, as were best calculated to raise a ferment in the minds of the people, and excite the inhabitants to open sedition. The alarm that we were about to introduce a military government became so general, we thought it incumbent on us, to trace the author of such dangerous calumny,—and upon conviction, that Mr. Leyeester had forged and published it, with a design of weakening the hands of Administration, we judged it necessary to suspend him, as unworthy his station in your service.

18. We need not take up your time, in justifying a measure that became indispensibly necessary, unless we meant to relinquish all attempts to effect that general reformation, so essential to the stability and permanency of your possessions. Mr. Leyeester had strenuously opposed every measure which tended to the correction of abuses; and even while he was acting in the capacity of a magistrate and judge, most shamefully endeavoured to suppress, pervert and flite evidences, relative to Mr. Gray's conduct. His own minute upon the occasion, that produced his suspension, so strongly points out the violent designs he entertained, that we would sit no longer at the same Board, with any regard to our own characters, or prospect of advantage to your service. From the loud cry raised by Mr. Gray and him against military force and arbitrary power, one would naturally conceive the president had deprived half the British subjects in the settlement of their birth right. The fact, however, was nothing more, than that Lord Clive had ordered a guard of seapoys over Remnaut, a man of infamous character, said to be employed by Mr. Gray in the most iniquitous acts of extortion, and a native of Maulda, who himself refused to claim the protection of our laws, because he should thereby become subject to the punishment to which those laws condemn his offences; whereas numberless instances occur, in former governments in Bengal, of natives, inhabitants of Calcutta, being confined by military guards, upon accusations of infinitely less consequence to the public weal.—In short, these two gentlemen were so discontented and indolent, in propagating the seeds of their humour, that we are firmly convinced the suspension of the one was necessary, and the resignation of the other is conducive to the benefit of your service; yet these are the gentlemen who, we are told, flatter themselves with the hopes of justifying their conduct to your satisfaction, and of returning again to the management of your concerns in Bengal; should this event ever happen, we have only to wish, and we fervently do wish, although contrary to all human probability, that your affairs may prosper.

19. The Board being now reduced far beneath the establishment we proposed, and to a number insufficient to conduct the necessary business of the Government, filling the vacant seats became an object of immediate consideration. By the Admiral Stevens we freely delivered our sentiments of the unfitness for that station of some of those gentlemen who stand next in succession. We also recommended with the greatest earnestness, that in composing your Council, you would admit of no claim but that of merit and approved services. We must now again beg leave to repeat, that from a list of fourteen junior merchants, we are not able to select a number sufficient to make up the deficiency of members at the Board, unless we abandon all hopes of curbing licentiousness, reforming abuses, and subduing that universal passion that prevailed among our servants of accumulating riches in a manner inconsistent with the good of the country and with your interest. The factious spirit which lately blazed out so violently in Council hath reached the lower classes, so that we can entertain no reasonable hope from their cordial services, until they have felt the weight of correction, and experienced the influence of example. Still, however, we should be sorry to deprive them of all prospect of rising, by promoting their juniors on this establishment; since time, and the certain assurance that merit, not standing, will entitle them to your favour, may produce the desired effect upon their conduct.

20. For these reasons we applied to the Presidency at Fort Saint George, requesting that Messieurs Russell, Aldersey, Kelsal, and Floyer, might be permitted to assist us in the present exigency, until your pleasures should be known; being fully persuaded, that this preference of the servants of another Presidency will operate more effectually, than if we had recourse to the mere irksome and mortifying indignity of superseding them from this establishment. We are sorry to find that our endeavours to serve the Company in a manner the least injurious to your servants here should be misconstrued. As soon as this measure became known, by reports from Madras, and previous to our laying any proceedings before the Board, the young gentlemen of the settlement had set themselves up for judges of the propriety of our conduct, and the degree of their own merit; each would seem to think himself qualified to transact your mighty affairs in council, at an age when the laws of his country adjudge him unfit to manage his own concerns to the extent of forty shillings. They have not only set their hands to the memorial of complaint, but entered into associations unbecoming at their years, and destructive of that subordination without which no government can stand; all visits to the president are forbidden; all invitations from him and the members of the Committee are to be slighted; the gentlemen called down by our authority from Madras, are to be treated with neglect and contempt; every

every man who deviates from this confederacy is to be stigmatized and avoided: in a word, the members are totally to separate themselves from the head; decorum and union are to be set at defiance; and it becomes a fair struggle whether we or the young gentlemen shall in future guide the helm of Government. Look at their names, examine their standing, enquire into their services, and reflect upon the age of four fifths of the subscribers to this bill of grievances, who now support the association, and you will be equally surprized with us at the presumptuous intemperance of youth, and convinced that a step of three or four years in the course of promotion is indispensibly necessary, if you would have your Council composed of men of experience and discretion.

21. From this sketch of the behaviour of your junior servants, you will perceive the dangerous pitch to which the independant and licentious spirit of this settlement hath risen; you will then determine on the necessity and propriety of the step we have taken. In the mean time we are resolved to support it, or we must submit to the anarchy and confusion consequent on subjecting the decrees of your Select Committee to the revisal and repeal of young gentlemen just broke loose from the hands of their Schoolmaster; earnestly do we wish that every member of this board had cordially joined in the same sentiments, since dissents serve only to break the force of resolutions, to weaken authority, and give vigour and courage to faction and disobedience: As to the point of indignity of which your Petitioners complain, nothing can be more evident, than that the Committee regarded the present supercession as less injurious than a selection would be from this establishment, since we even declined promoting upon this occasion the very persons whom we particularly recommended to the most distinguishing marks of your favour: in this light it is considered in every other service, and we doubt not but it would have been so considered in this service, had such promotion been the choice of the Committee.

22. Our proceedings explain the motives of our conduct, and also the measures we enforced to reduce the settlement to order and obedience. Mr. Majendie, the secretary to the council, is dismissed from his office, and suspended the service for having eminently distinguished himself in forming a combination so unwarrantable in itself, so dangerous in the present conjuncture, and so peculiarly unbecoming to his age, to his station, and his employment; should this example suffice, we shall avoid proceeding to the extremity of punishing with the loss of bread, young men who have been artfully spirited up to faction, to gratify the resentment and promote the selfish views of men in whom you have reposed unmerited, and much abused confidence.

You will be astonished to observe at the head of this list, two members of your council who subscribe their names in testimony of their sense of the injustice done to the younger servants; possibly this testimony might have weight with your honourable board, had those gentlemen first cleared up their conduct from certain imputations, which intimate how little their interest disposes them to co-operate in a reformation for the public benefit; at all events, whether the proceeding of the Committee be in itself right or wrong, it is most certainly their duty to repress every factious combination, to temper the heat and vehemence of youth, to maintain the authority of the board, and to avoid giving countenance to a seditious and rebellious humour, that might have produced the subversion of government, and the most fatal consequences to the Company's affairs, before your decision could arrive.

23. This incident occurring four days only before the dispatch of the ship, you will not expect that our letter from the public department should enter so minutely into the transactions of the board, as we proposed; the business is now suddenly taken up by Mr. Campbell our secretary, who, we are assured, will exert his utmost ability: but he requests, you will please to make an allowance for the shortness of time, and his total unacquaintance with all that has been transacted in that department.

24. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that Sujah Dowlah appears well disposed to cultivate our friendship and adhere strictly to the conditions of the late treaty; Colonel Smith's Brigade is now stationed at Illahabad and Benaras, to secure the King and Vizier against the invasions of the Morattoes, until they have fully re-established themselves, and payment of the stipulated indemnification to the Company is completed: His Majesty's visionary projects of seating himself with our assistance on the throne of his ancestors, and proceeding to Delhi, his capital, seem to have vanished before the Committee's remonstrances; we hope he is at length convinced, that without us the scheme is impracticable, and we are certain it never can be our interest to extend the influence of your arms to so great a distance from your present possessions, and the seat of your government.

25. Opening a communication between the Northern Circar and Bengal, must prove mutually advantageous to your presidency at Fort Saint George, and to us; we have therefore determined to embrace the favourable opportunity which the present feeble condition of the Morattoes affords, to carry this measure into execution, and have for that purpose set on foot a negotiation with their chief, whereby we propose he shall cede to us the Northern parts of Orissa now in his possession, upon our consenting to pay a certain stipulated annual revenue; whatever his determination may be, it is our resolution not to attempt gaining this advantage by violence or force of arms: Peace is at length happily restored to these provinces, and it will be the study

of this Committee to preserve and prolong these advantages which you already begin to experience.

We remain with the warmest zeal for your service, and the greatest respect,
 Fort William. Honourable Sirs,
 the 31st January 1766.

Your most faithful humble servants,
 CLIVE,
 W. B. SUMNER.
 JOHN CARNAC,
 H. VERELST,
 FRA. SYEES.

No. 47.

Extract of Company's Letter to Bengal, 15th February 1765.

39. **I**N our letters of the 8th February and 1st June last, we gave you our sentiments and directions very fully in respect to the inland trade of Bengal; we now enforce the same in the strongest manner, and positively insist that you take no steps whatever towards renewing this Trade without our express leave; for which purpose you must not fail to give us the fullest information upon the subject, agreeable to our above mentioned directions.

40. The enforcing our said orders is the more indispensably necessary from our observing the complaints of the present Nabob, taken notice of and referred to in your separate letter of the 20th February 1764, relating to the many Difficulties, Hardships, and Oppressions he meets with resulting from the before mentioned unwarrantable and licentious trade—We have such an intire confidence in Lord Clive's great abilities and good intentions, that we make no doubt these great abuses will be the particular objects of his care and attention, and that he will be able to carry these our orders effectually into execution.

No. 48.

Company's Letter to Bengal, 26th April 1765.

20. **W**E are extremely anxious for the arrival of Lord Clive, and the gentlemen who accompanied him; as they have been so lately in England, they are the best judges of the opinion the Company and the nation entertain of the conduct of the English in Bengal, for these last four years, which, we are sorry to say, is in general, that they have been guilty of violating treaties, of great oppression, and a combination to enrich themselves.

21. We do not here mean to enter into a discussion respecting the political conduct of our late governor and council, but must say, that an unbounded thirst after riches seems to have possessed the whole body of our servants, to that degree, that they have lost all sight of justice to the country government, and of their duty to the Company.

22. In reading the opinions of the several members of the late Council, respecting this illegal trade, by which we mean the articles of salt, beetle-nut and tobacco, we are astonished to find those among them, who pretended to found their right on the Phirmaunds.

23. Treaties of commerce are understood to be for the mutual benefit of the contracting parties: is it then possible to suppose, that the court of Delhi, by confirming the privilege of trading free of customs, could mean an inland trade in the commodities of their own country, at that period unpractised and unthought of by the English, to the detriment of their revenues, and the ruin of their own merchants? we do not find that such a construction was ever heard of until our own servants first invented it, and afterwards supported it by violence;—neither could it be claimed by the subsequent treaties with Meer Jaffier or Cossim Ally, which were never understood to give one additional privilege of trade beyond what the Phirmaunds expressed; in short, the specious arguments used by those who pretended to set up a right to it, convince us they did not want judgment, but virtue, to withstand the temptation of suddenly amassing a great fortune, although acquired by means incompatible with the peace of the country and their duty to the Company.

24. Equally blameable were they, who acknowledging they had no right to it, and sensible of the ill consequences resulting from assuming it, have nevertheless carried on this trade, and used the authority of the Company to obtain by a treaty exacted by violence, a sanction for a trade to enrich themselves without the least regard or advantage to the Company, whose forces they employed to protect them in it.

25. Had this short question been put, which their duty ought first to have suggested, Is it for the interest of our employers? they would not have hesitated one moment about it, but this criterion seems never once to have occurred.

26. All barriers being thus broken down between the English and the country Government, and every thing out of its proper channel, we are at a loss how to prescribe means to restore order from this confusion, and being deprived of that confidence which we hoped we might have placed in those servants, who appear to have been the actors in these strange scenes, we can only say, that we rely on the zeal and abilities of Lord Clive and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee, to remedy these evils: we hope they will restore our reputation among the country powers, and convince them of our abhorrence of oppression and rapaciousness.

No. 49.

Company's Letter to Lord Clive.

My Lord,

WE have with the greatest pleasure received the news of your Lordship's arrival in good health at the Cape of Good Hope; and although your passage to that place was not so expeditious as we could have wished, we hope the winds proved more favourable in the latter part of your voyage, and that this letter will find your Lordship in health and safety at Fort William.

Our advices from Bengal in a separate letter of the 27th September last, make us anxious for the issue of the war against Shujah Dowlah and Cossim Ally Cawn; we hope the expectation of your Lordship's arrival will have had a happy influence on our affairs, by hastening the conclusion of that expensive war, and leaving you at full leisure to attend to the establishment of a firm and lasting peace, to the regulation of the trade in salt, beetle nut, tobacco, and other articles, that it may be adjusted on such a plan, to the satisfaction and with concurrence of the Nabob, as may redound to the honour of the Company, and effectually prevent the confusion and oppression that have sprung from the abuses practised in it of late years, to the reduction of our enormous military expences, to the establishment of good order among our civil servants, discipline in our army, and harmony in the settlement: these, my Lord, are our sanguine expectations, founded on the experience of your great abilities, and zeal for the Company's service, in which we have the fullest confidence; and we must beg leave to add our opinion, that success in these great points will redound as much to your Lordship's reputation, as any of the great actions by which you have already been distinguished.

Your Lordship may be assured of our firmest support in every thing that can be suggested or proposed for the prosperity of the Company, and your own honour.

We are, my Lord,

Your Lordship's loving Friends,

Henry Crabb Boulton.

George Dudley.

Josias du Pré.

John Stephenson.

Thomas Saunders.

Edward Wheeler.

George Cuming.

Henry Hadley.

John Roberts.

Charles Chambers.

J. Pardoe.

J. Creswicke.

John Harrison.

Charles Cutts.

Robert Jones.

J. Purling.

Frederick Pigou.

Henry Savage.

E. H. Crutenden.

Thomas Rous.

Luke Scrafton.

F. W. Barrington.

London, 26th April, 1765.

No. 50.

Extract of a Letter from the Court of Directors to the President and Council at Fort William, dated 24th December, 1765.

10. YOUR deliberations on the inland trade have laid open to us a scene of most cruel oppression, which is indeed exhibited at one view of the 13th article of the Nabob's complaints, mentioned thus, — in your consultation of the 17th October, 1764, “ The poor of this country who used always to deal in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, are now deprived of their daily bread, by the trade of the Europeans, whereby no kind of advantage accrues to the Company, and the Government's revenues are greatly injured.” We shall for the present observe to you, that every one of our servants, concerned in this trade, has been guilty of a breach of his covenants and disobedience to our orders. In your consultations of the 3d of May, we find among the various extortionate practices, the most extraordinary one of Burjaut, or forcing the natives to buy goods beyond the market price, which you there acknowledge to have been frequently practised.

11. In your resolution to prevent this practice, you determine to forbid it, “ but with such care and discretion as not to affect the Company's investment, as you do not mean to invade the right derived to the Company from their Phirmaund, which they have always held “ over their weavers,” as the Company are known to purchase their investment by ready money only, we require a full explanation how this can affect them, or how it ever could have been practised in the purchase of their investment, which the latter part of Mr. Johnstone's minute entered on consultation the 21st July, 1764, insinuates, for it would almost justify a suspicion that the goods of our servants have been put off to the weavers, in part payment of the Company's investment; therefore we direct you to make a rigid scrutiny into this affair, that we may know if any of our servants, or those employed under them, have been guilty of such a breach of trust, that their names and all the circumstances may be known to us.

12. We

12. We also order you to give us the particular instances which have confirmed you in your opinion that the Burjaut has been practised, that we may know whose agents they were, and whether the agents who practised it, were countenanced and protected in it by their masters.

13. Mr. Johnstone's minute on consultation, the 21st July, 1764, cannot escape our notice, wherein he says, "the support of these, and our other privileges, in their full extent against the usurpations of the late Nabob, engaged us in this unhappy war, and after so many valuable lives lost in the defence of them, I shall ever be against parting with them, or hazarding the loss of them, without greater and better cause than has yet appeared, and till after we have found by experience, that all other remedies are in vain."

14. As the privileges here meant principally relate to the unwarranted inland trade, in which our own servants have been so generally concerned, greatly to the prejudice of the Company, by involving their affairs in distresses and difficulties, and manifestly injurious to the country government, of which every one of you cannot but be fully sensible, we say we cannot avoid taking notice of the said opinion, as by it Mr. Johnstone seems to persevere in all events to prefer the private interest of individuals to the general good, so far as respects the said inland trade.—If Mr. Johnstone continues in these sentiments, as from the general tenor of his conduct we have too much reason to apprehend, he cannot but be looked upon as a dangerous servant; therefore if he, or any other persons, shall persist in carrying on a trade, which, as before observed, has been attended with so many bad consequences, we would have him or them dismissed the Company's service.

15. We shall say nothing further at present on the inland trade, till that important subject shall have been taken up by Lord Clive, and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee, only to observe that the regulation proposed in consultation, 17th October, 1764, of confining the trade of our servants in the article of salt, to the capital cities of Patna, Dacca, and Moorshedabad, on paying the Nabob $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is a manifest disobedience of our orders of the 8th February, then under your deliberation, which positively forbid all trade in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, nor does it by any means obviate the objections arising from the distress of the poor, and the injury to his revenues; for if you pay only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the country people 20, or perhaps 40 per cent. it is as much a monopoly as ever.

16. For other licensed trade we think it necessary to establish, that all trade to be carried on within the provinces where factories are established, shall be carried on by our servants at such factories, and their agents only who shall transact the business of our other servants on receiving the established commission; and on any refusal to accept such commission, or any tendency to monopolize, the servants of Calcutta, or other parts, are at liberty to send their own black Gomastahs, who are nevertheless to be accountable for their conduct to the Company's servants within whose jurisdiction they reside.—All districts not comprehended within the jurisdiction of each subordinate shall be considered as within the jurisdiction of the board of Calcutta.—That no disticks shall be given but for articles of import and export, as was formerly practised; and you are to send us a list of whatever falls under this denomination.

No. 51.

At a Select Consultation, the 15th August 1766;

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Clive, President,
William B. Sumner Esq.
B. G. Carnac,
Harry Verelst, Esq.

THE President acquaints the Committee, that he has certain intelligence of the exorbitant prices at which the merchants who had purchased from the Society were now selling salt in the Bazar, contrary to the terms of their contract, and regardless of the following regulations established by the Committee of Trade,

Committee, June the 12th 1766.

That, in order to prevent the purchasers, by having engrossed the whole salt to be disposed of in the different districts, raising the price in the Bazars so high as to be an oppression to the inhabitants, we reserve to ourselves to regulate, in case of complaint, the price salt shall be sold at in the Bazars by retail, which shall be settled in such a manner that the purchasers of the Committee may be enabled to make 13 per profit, if sold on the spot, and 17 1-half, if transported from the place they purchase it at, allowing for risk and charges.

Agreed the purchasers be called before us to assign reasons for their deviating from the express terms of their agreement, and from the positive orders of the Committee of Trade.

Coffinaut being called in, and interrogated, acknowledges that he is appointed an agent by his partners, for disposing of the salt purchased by him and divers others, black merchants from the Society; and that he had disposed of the same at Celbaria and Calcutta, in the manner specified in the following statements.

Coolburia.

A P P E N D I X, No. 52.

Coolburia.

Saphuleram Gose	— —	500	a	210	1,050
Shakebolla	— —	300	a	220	660
Shakehiattee	— —	200	a	220	440
Nazar Mahomed	— —	200	a	220	440
Ozederam Ghose	— —	1,000	a	220	2,200
Ramdulol Paul	— —	450	a	225	1,012. 8
Bulram Cound	— —	500	a	227	1,135
Manie Chund Shaw	— —	10,000	a	220	22,000
Banchiram Mottee	— —	100	a	227	227
Ramdulol Paul	— —	150	a	230	345
Laferam, &c.	— —	5,000	a	225	11,250
Luckicaunt Ghose	— —	5,000	a	225	11,250
Bulram Mozendar	— —	6,000	a	225	13,500
		<u>29,400</u>			<u>65,509. 8</u>

Calcutta,

Kiffenchund Sircar	— —	5,000	a	264	13,200
Juteram Cuno	— —	5,000	a	264	13,200
Binud Seidur	— —	2,000	a	264	5,280
Camdeb Shaw	— —	1,000	a	264	2,640
Roy Chund Beenga	— —	700	a	275	1,925
Naran Metah	— —	5,000	a	276	13,800
Sapheelram Paul	— —	45,000	a	266	119,700
Gopaul Soure	— —	25,000	a	265	66,250
Kiffenmohone Ghose	— —	15,000	a	265	39,750
Kiffenchund Sercar	— —	10,000	a	273	27,300
		<u>113,700</u>			<u>303,045</u>
113,700 Maunds, a 230 Rs. per Maund, is	— —				<u>261,510</u>
					<u>41,535</u>

It now appearing to the Committee, from the confession of Coffinaut and the particulars of the above Statements, that the merchants who had contracted with the Society have sold to the amount of 113,700 Maunds of salt, for the sum of 303,045 Rupees, whereas their agreement stipulates they should sell for 261,510 Rupees, whence arises a surplus profit to the merchants of 41,535 Rupees, levied upon the necessities of the poor industrious.

Agreed, That to prevent in future all such oppressive and iniquitous practices, as may reflect dishonour upon this government, we require of the above merchants to refund the surplus profit of 41,535 Rupees, the same to be appropriated to such good and charitable purposes as the governor and council shall direct; or, in case of refusal, withdraw from them the Company's protection: And that Coffinaut and his partners be called upon to pay into the Treasury their several shares of surplus profit by the first day of September next.

Ordered, that the Secretary shall give public notice of this our resolution. And

Also, that the remainder now on hand will be sold at the rate stipulated with the Committee of Trade, otherwise the merchants shall forfeit the Company's protection.

CLIVE,
JOHN CARNAC,
H. VERELST.

No. 52.

At a Select Consultation, 3d September 1765;

P R E S E N T,

The right Honourable Lord Clive, President,
Brigadier General Carnac,
Harry Verelst, Esq.

THE Right Honourable the President lays before the Committee, the following Minute.

Gentlemen,

Some time before my departure from England, the Court of Directors debated upon the propriety of suffering their servants in Bengal to trade in the articles of salt, beetle and tobacco; and it could not be expected, they would continue to them the enjoyment of those profitable branches, unless means were devised, by which the natives would no longer be oppressed, and by which the nabob and the Company would largely partake of the advantages. Upon a firm

persuasion, that such means would be devised, they were pleased to defer their final determination of this matter, till the sentiments of the Select Committee should be transmitted to them. By all their letters of the last year, and by several of this, they still seem inclined to wait for our representation; but by their letter of the 10th February last, per Lord Camden, they positively forbid their servants to have any concern whatsoever in this trade. At that time, indeed, they could not have had the least idea of the favourable change in the affairs of these provinces, whereby the interest of the Nabob, with regard to salt, is no longer immediately concerned.

When we first took this important matter into consideration, I joined in opinion with the rest of the Committee, that if the trade could be put upon such a footing, that the Nabob should receive more than had been received by any of his predecessors, the Company be amply considered, and the natives become purchasers upon terms full as reasonable as in former times, the servants might be indulged in the privilege under such certain rules and restrictions as would make the trade carry with it, as little as possible, the odious form of a monopoly. These points having been settled, I consented to the plan laid down last year. My absence from the presidency, the multiplicity of affairs then in agitation, wherein the peace and tranquillity of the provinces, the interest of the Company, and the honour of the nation were more immediately concerned, prevented my paying that attention I could have wished to that important object. Although by the acquisition of the Dewannee, the whole of the duties belong to the Company, and by the diligence and zeal of the members of the Committee of trade, many useful reformations had taken place, yet, from my observation when I was last up the country, and from the heavy complaints against Europeans of the monopoly of trade in general, I find that the industrious native is still deprived of that share to which he has an undoubted and a more natural right; nor is it yet upon that equitable footing which justice and humanity would, I am sure, incline this Committee to establish.

A few weeks more must bring us the final resolution of the Court of Directors, in answer to our dispatches by the Admiral Stevens; and if, notwithstanding the present situation of their affairs, they should think proper to repeat their orders per Lord Camden, it will be our duty to obey them, and am persuaded they will be obeyed by this committee. But if, on the contrary, upon receipt of our representations, they should change their sentiments, and approve of the regulations we have already made, no time should be lost on our part in establishing the mode for carrying on the trade in future. The confidence which the Court of Directors have been pleased particularly to express in my endeavours to settle upon an equitable plan that trade which has been the source of so many evils, cannot but promote my zeal for the cause, and make me anxiously wish to see every regulation that you may join with me in thinking necessary to take place.

The Company's duties, I beg leave to propose, shall be increased; the servants shall receive a reasonable share of emolument; and the terms, upon which the natives are finally to be concerned, advantageously fixed.

I propose,

1st, That all salt provided by the society of trade shall be sold at Calcutta, and at other places where it is made, and no where else.

2d, That the price of salt shall not exceed two rupees per maund, or 200 rupees per 100 maunds.

3dly, That the salt shall be sold to the natives only, who are to transport it to every part of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixia, and to have the whole profits arising from the sale thereof; and that no Company's servant, free merchant, or European, shall be concerned in that article, directly or indirectly, after the sale of it, at the above places.

4thly, That the Calcutta black merchants shall be limited to a certain proportion of purchase; but that no Banyans or servant whatever, belonging to any European, shall be included, or have any concern therein.

5thly, That every endeavour be made use of to encourage the substantial merchants of the country either to come down in person to the place where the salt is provided, or to send their agents, in order to purchase and transport the salt to the different places of sale.

6thly, That a certain price be fixed for the sale of every maund of salt, at every town, market, or village, where it is sold, according to the distance and former custom.

7thly, That if salt be sold at any of the buzars, or markets, for one couroy above the stipulated price, the vender shall not only forfeit all the salt there found in his possession, but be liable to a forfeit of 1000 rupees for every hundred maunds of salt so sold; and the salt and money forfeited shall go one half to the informer, and one half to the government.

8thly, That the ministers at Muxadabad and Patna have copies sent them of these new regulations; and that they be desired to apply to the Nabob to make the same known throughout the three provinces; and that every Phouzdar, &c. see they be put in execution, upon pain of being dismissed from his employment.

9thly, This business being entirely commercial, I propose, that in the instrument of agreement for the next year, it shall be provided, that the Society of Trade be accountable to the board for their conduct; that the board may either make new regulations, or amend those made by the Society of Trade, as they see fit; and that, in case of necessity, the Select Committee shall have power to controul the conduct of the whole.

A P P E N D I X, No. 52.

rothly, That a duty of 50 per cent be paid to the company upon all the falt provided in their own lands; and 50 per cent. to the government upon all the falt provided upon the lands of the Government; and 15 per cent. upon beetle; which duties will, in fact, be brought to the company's credit; which, according to the present state of the falt trade, will produce the company from 12 to 13 laaks of rupees per annum.

The prohibition of a free inland trade, however disagreeable to individuals, must now take place, and be confined to imports and exports, and to their immediate returns, which returns shall be made only to the presidency, or to one or other of the established factories. The Company are Sovereigns in India; and they have declared that the trade carried on for these four years past is an usurpation, not only of their prerogative, but of the privileges of the natives, and repugnant to the exprefs and repeated orders of the Court of Directors. The indulgence, however, in the trade of falt, upon the footing I hope it will now be established, should, in my opinion, obviate all complaints, since it seems to be the most equitable modus between the company and their servants, and, at the same Time, a distribution of natural right to the people of the country. Considering that the late great advantages of unlimited trade are cut off, I cannot imagine that the Court of Directors will deny their servants this share of benefit as a recompence for their attention and assistance in the management of the important concerns of these provinces. On the other hand, I would have the servants look upon these emoluments as a gift from the hands of their employers, offered to them annually in reward of their fidelity, and which will certainly be with-held from them, if ever their authority should be resisted, and discontent and rapacity take place of gratitude and moderation.

CLIVE.

His Lordship's minute having been read and maturely considered, the regulations therein specified are unanimously approved.

Agreed therefore, that the president's regulations for the inland trade be laid before the council with all convenient speed, for their approbation, in order that the necessary instructions for prosecuting the joint concern, for the ensuing season, may be immediately issued to the committee of trade.

Resolved, that the above concern shall consist of 60 Shares; and that the proprietors shall stand inrolled, with the several proportions affixed to their names, in the manner ascertained in the following statement.

S T A T E M E N T of the JOINT SALT CONCERN, For the Year 1766.

W. B. Sumner	—	—	3
John Carnac	—	—	3
Charles Stafford Playdell	—	—	2
Harry Verelst	—	—	2
John Cartier	—	—	2
Francis Sykes	—	—	2
Randolph Marriott	—	—	2
Hugh Watts	—	—	2
Samuel Middleton	—	—	2
Claud Russell	—	—	2
William Alderfey	—	—	2
Thomas Kelfall	—	—	2
Charles Floyer	—	—	2
Colonel Richard Smith	—	—	2
Sir Robert Barker	—	—	2
			32

SECOND CLASS.

Reverend W. Parry and Bloner, jointly			
Charlton	—	—	} 2
French	—	—	
Reed	—	—	} 2
Hare	—	—	
Jekyll	—	—	
Wood	—	—	} 2
Rogers	—	—	
Shewin	—	—	
Williamson	—	—	} 2
Dacres	—	—	
Lane	—	—	
Barwell	—	—	} 2
Woodward	—	—	
Harris	—	—	

A P P E N D I X, No. 53.

Skinner	—	—	—	} 2
Lawrell	—	—	—	
Goodwin	—	—	—	
Campbell	—	—	—	} 2
Sir Robert Fletcher	—	—	—	
Peach	—	—	—	
Chapman	—	—	—	} $\frac{3}{4}$
			—	14 $\frac{3}{4}$

THIRD CLASS.

Wilkins	—	—	—	} 2
Forbes	—	—	—	
Graham	—	—	—	
Hewitt	—	—	—	
Lambert	—	—	—	
Vanfittart	—	—	—	} 2
Cafe	—	—	—	} 2
Grueber	—	—	—	
Plaited	—	—	—	
Taylor	—	—	—	
Ellis	—	—	—	
Hunter	—	—	—	} 2
Davidson	—	—	—	} 2
Stibbert	—	—	—	
Champion	—	—	—	
Grant	—	—	—	
Winwood	—	—	—	
Pemble	—	—	—	} 2
Smith	—	—	—	} 2
Galliez	—	—	—	
Anderfon	—	—	—	
Robert Hunter	—	—	—	
Williams	—	—	—	
Bathoe	—	—	—	} 1
Witts	—	—	—	} 1
Barber	—	—	—	
Watson	—	—	—	
Shares unappropriated			—	9 $\frac{1}{4}$

Total 60 Shares.

It appearing from the above division of capital stock, that four shares and $\frac{1}{4}$ remain unappropriated;

Agreed the same be accounted for at a proper time.

No. 53.

Fert William General Consultation, the 8th September 1766.

THE Proceedings of the Select Committee, from the 12th August to the 22d of September, are laid before the board; and the regulations for the salt concern therein proposed being approved;

Ordered, They be entered after this consultation, and that the same be communicated to the following gentlemen, who are now appointed to constitute the Committee of Trade, with directions for carrying the plan into execution as soon as possible.

WILLIAM BRIGHTWELL SUMNER,
HARRY VERELST,
RANDOLPH MARRIOTT,
HUGH WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL, and
CHARLES FLOYER, Esquires.

No. 54.

Extract of Lord Clive's Letter to the honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

Gentlemen,

Calcutta, 6th September 1766.

1. **I**N May last I had the honour to receive your letter of the 26th April 1765, per Harcourt; and it gives me particular satisfaction to remark, That I have not only fulfilled, but in great measure anticipated, your expectations in the several important points therein recommended to my attention: a peace firm and lasting is established; the trade in salt and beetle nut is now regulated, upon a plan which will still perhaps admit of improvements for the advantage of the company; your military expences, though encreased by means of the additional number of battalions of seapoys, are much less in proportion than heretofore; the double battalion is struck off; discipline is restored to your army; and subordination, good order, and harmony, have once more taken place among the civil servants at this settlement.

2. As the new covenants, and a strict obedience to your orders, more particularly in confining the trade of individuals to imports and exports only, have abridged the servants of many of their accustomed emoluments; and as the company are in fact the sole proprietors of the immense revenues of the three provinces, not to mention the 12 or 13 laak of rupees per annum, now arising from the duty upon salt and beetle nut; permit me to wish that the gentlemen in your service, as an encouragement to industry and good behaviour, may be suffered to enjoy the moderate proportion which is now settled, of those great advantages that have accrued to their employers; besides these, I have other reasons, of great importance to the service, to wish this indulgence may be continued: I therefore flatter myself, that the present distribution will receive your approbation. In your answer to our dispatches, per Admiral Stevens, my minute in committee, dated the 2d March instant, to which I beg leave to refer, will fully convey to you my ideas upon the subject, as also the several alterations that I propose shall take place for the improvement of the present plan; but if, after being made acquainted with the flourishing state of your affairs in Bengal, you should persevere in those orders you sent per Camden, be assured they will most punctually be complied with.

No. 55.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Clive, and others, to the Court of Directors, dated Fort William, 8th September 1766.

25. **B**EFORE this time, probably, you have determined the fate of the inland trade in salt, beetle and tobacco, whether it may be continued, under the regulations we have established, or is totally to be relinquished by your servants.—We shall therefore only observe on this occasion, that certain amendments are now proposed by the president, and adopted by the Select Committee, which we think will remove every inconvenience observed in the present establishment of that trade, and secure to the company the power of rewarding or punishing their servants, according to the degree of their merit or misconduct.

No. 56.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Clive, and others, to the Court of Directors, dated 5th December 1766.

4. **A**S soon as we had closed the inquiry into restitution and donations, the Committee took into consideration the several other orders issued by your Honourable Board, during the course of the last season: your remarks on the inland trade were so peculiarly striking, and so perfectly agreeable to our own sentiments, respecting that perpetual source of oppression and complaint, that we determined immediately to apply the most efficacious remedies to a disease which must in time have subverted the constitution, and endangered the being of the East India Company. By the Admiral Stevens you were informed of the plan we had concerted for carrying on the trade in salt, tobacco, and beetle nut, for the benefit of the Company and their servants, without injury to the Nabob, and without molestation or oppression of the natives; it was the best and most equitable system we could then devise; yet experience hath shewn the necessity of laying the trade under farther restrictions, the reasons for which, together with the particular mode of conducting this valuable branch of commerce in future, are fully explained in Lord Clive's minute, entered on our proceedings, in those emendations of the plan in which the Society of Trade was founded, all due regard has been paid to the sovereign prerogative of the Company, acting as collectors for the King, and more especially to the scrupulous distribution of natural right to the native inhabitants; whence we flatter ourselves, that the inland trade will henceforward prove to you a commodious fund for rewarding the different degrees of merit amongst your servants; and a fruitful source for encouragement to the industry of the country people, who are now, without distinction, admitted to a participation of its benefit, upon the most reasonable and moderate terms.

5. To the regulations formed for conducting the business of the Society of Trade, we have added a total prohibition of another species of inland traffic, in a variety of articles usually transported from one district to the interior country to another, whereby an extensive field was open for the abuse of power and the most notorious acts of fraud and injustice; all Europeans
in

in your service, or under your protection, are now indiscriminately confined to trade in certain stated articles of import and export; the returns are to be made from the places where the goods were sold directly to the Presidency, or to the subordinate factory from whence they were dispatched; and no circular traffic, by way of barter or otherwise, is in future to be allowed from one Aurung to another, on pain of confiscation of the goods, and loss of your service and protection.

No. 57.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Clive to the Select Committee, 16th January, 1767.

WE have received orders from the Court of Directors to abolish the salt trade: these orders must be punctually obeyed; but as I am of opinion that the trade, upon its present footing, is rather beneficial than injurious to the inhabitants of the country, and that a continuation of this indulgence, or some other equivalent, is become absolutely necessary, and would be an honourable incitement to diligence and zeal in the Company's service, I flatter myself the Court of Directors may be induced to settle some plan that will prove agreeable to your wishes.

No. 58.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Clive, and others, to the Court of Directors; dated Fort William, 24th January, 1767.

20. WE come now to speak of your instructions relative to the inland trade, which you very justly consider as the foundation of all the bloodshed, massacres, and confusion, which have happened of late years in Bengal; your orders are positive, and therefore our obedience shall be implicit: accordingly you will observe in our proceedings, that the Society for conducting this branch of traffic stands absolutely abolished on the first day of September next; the contracts for the present year being formed, and large advances made, it was impossible, without ruin to individuals and confusion to the Public, to fix an earlier date for the execution of your orders.

21. But although our duty obliges us to pay the strictest obedience to your peremptory orders for abolishing a trade to which you express so strong an aversion, the same duty requires we should freely offer our sentiments upon a subject in which we think your immediate interest, the good of the service, and the public welfare, are deeply concerned. The Honourable Court of Directors, and indeed the whole body of Proprietors, found it necessary to restrain by covenants their civil and military servants from receiving those advantages, to which they had for many years been accustomed; it is likewise proposed, in order you may enjoy the real fruits of your late acquisitions, to make such an increase of investment, particularly in silk, as will effectually deprive your servants of the usual benefits arising from private trade; farther, that the revenues may not be injured in any degree, they are prohibited from lending money at a higher rate of interest than 12 per cent. per annum; and a trade by sea, in the manufactures of the country, being the only remaining channel for the exertion of industry, that likewise is choaked up by those shoals of free merchants annually imported; who being incumbered with no public business, nor confined to residence in Bengal, can carry on a free trade with every port in India to much greater advantage than your servants.

22. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, reflecting also upon the great increase of luxury of late years, in consequence of the sudden influx of wealth, and that it will not be practicable, for a time, to reduce the charges of living to the present means of supporting those charges, we adopted, in consequence of your permission, the plan of a regulated and restricted inland trade, as the best method of rewarding faithful services, and the surest means to excite zeal, and the fairest mode of carrying on a beneficial trade, without relinquishing all the advantages we have hitherto received, or subjecting the natives to those encroachments on their natural rights, of which they have with too much reason complained.

23. Our letter by the Camden, and proceedings by the Cruttenden, will explain to you the regulations in the original plan of the Society, which took place in the month of September last. Under these regulations the trade can scarce be considered in the odious light of a monopoly, since we are rather the agents for manufacturing the salt, than the Proprietors of the trade; it is sold in Calcutta to the natives only, and to the utter exclusion of all Europeans, at an easier rate than it could ever be procured when under management of the Government; before we were admitted to any participation the natives transport it to all the different parts of the country, under such limitations, that it must reach the hands of the consumer at a stated and moderate price; hereby the people sensibly feel the justice and lenity of our government; and your servants, who have attained the highest stations, after a course of many years spent in this unfavourable climate, reap the reward of their services, and enjoy the means of securing that independence to which they have so equitable a claim.

24. We are now directed totally to renounce all share in and benefit arising from this trade; it must be made over to the natives; the Government must of course come into possession; nor can it be carried on otherwise than upon the ancient footing of farming it out to ministers officers, favourites, and dependants on the Government: who will rear immense fortunes upon the op-

pression and ruin of the Public, in despite of our utmost influence and endeavours. These are at present our suspicions; time alone can verify our conjectures: you no doubt will maturely consider, how far it is probable men will continue honest against all the seductions of interest, and whether it may not be necessary to strengthen the ties of that duty expected from your servants, by the tighter bonds of gratitude, for the affluence which they enjoy during the time of their servitude, and the independency they ought to secure before the close of their labours.

No. 59.

*Letter from Lord Clive to the Honourable Committees of Treasury and Correspondence, &c. &c. &c.
Dated 28th August, 1767.*

16. **T**HE necessity of rewarding the superior servants, both civil and military, is obvious; since the large investment required by the Company makes it impossible for individuals, who perform their duty, to acquire any thing considerable by private trade. The means of regulating this reward has frequently engaged my attention; and after the most mature deliberation, I have found none so convenient, proper, or equitable, as the trade in salt. If you grant a commission upon the revenues, the sum will not only be large, but known to the world; the allowance being publicly ascertained, every man's proportion will at times be the occasion of much discourse, envy, and jealousy; the great will interfere in your appointments, and noblemen will perpetually solicit you to provide for the younger branches of their families; a commission upon your investments, whether upon the provision in Bengal, or upon the sales in Europe, is liable to the same objections; but if you allow your servants the liberty of benefiting themselves by the trade in salt, the following conveniencies will result:

17. 1st. An advance of four or five hundred thousand pounds is required for the carrying on this trade: if it be carried on by your servants, the advance and the risk will be theirs; if it be carried on by you, the money must be advanced out of the treasury at your risk, and you will consequently have the less specie to send home.

18. 2d. It is very easy to proportion it in such a manner as that your servants shall not gain to a larger amount than they are in justice or equity entitled to.

19. 3d. By the bringing it to Calcutta and Dacca, by the loss of boats, by the failure of contractors, and by many other accidents, the profits must always be precarious and uncertain, and consequently unknown, except to the few who may take the trouble to investigate the matter.

20. 4th. It will be looked upon as a profit arising from trade, and not from the pockets of the Company; which might be urged, if rewards were given out of the revenues; but here you can assert, that this indulgence, the only equitable one you have to grant, is in consideration of the large investments ordered, which, if complied with, must swallow up the trade of individuals; and indeed, if this indulgence be properly proportioned, all those servants, who by their age and standing are entitled to emoluments, would have no reason to complain, even were they altogether excluded from every article of trade which can interfere with the Company's investment.

21. 5th. Should the salt trade be carried on by the Company, the great unavoidable advance made for that purpose out of their treasury in Bengal, would lower the interest of money to considerably, as to be of infinite prejudice to those individuals, who, having no trade to depend upon, subsist chiefly upon the interest of their capitals there; and it is to be observed, that the high interest has kept a great quantity of private treasure in India, which would otherwise have been sent home in bulk long ago.

22. It is an erroneous opinion, that salt was formerly an open trade. It ever was and ever must be a monopoly: some great favourite or favourites always had the whole in their own hands; for which they not only paid an annual peiscash, or acknowledgment in money, to the Subah, but likewise gave considerable presents, both in money and in curiosities, to him and to his minister: but the natives can have no just cause of complaint, provided they be furnished, with this article, upon more reasonable terms than formerly, which will certainly be the case, if the plan sent home by the Cruttenden be adopted, with a few amendments.

23. The salt trade should, in my opinion, be confirmed to the Select Committee, the Council, the field officers, and the senior and junior merchants; the writers should be considered merely as apprentices for five years, and not allowed any mercantile indulgence whatsoever, neither by duffuck nor by any other means, directly or indirectly; but then their pay, or allowances from the Company, should be so far increased as to admit of a comfortable subsistence; when they become factors they should be permitted the liberty to trade, and duffucks should be granted to them, as an indulgence; when they arrive at the rank of junior merchants, they will then be entitled to shares in the salt trade.

24. Tobacco, which was usually included in the idea of the salt and the beetle nut trade, was given up to the Committee, and left as an article in common: the beetle nut, in my opinion, should likewise be given up; and though, by these means, the advantages of those, who are allowed the exclusive trade in salt, will be much lessened, yet there will remain a sufficiency. It is however to be remembered, that both these articles ought to pay considerable duties to the Government, more especially the beetle nut, as has always been customary.

25. If the salt plan be adopted, I think the Governor's commission should continue upon its present footing.

26. The supervisor of the revenues should attend to that business only, and therefore should be entirely excluded from trade, in like manner with the Governor; but, as a compensation, he ought to be allowed a proportion, equal to the second, in salt.

27. The second should be allowed three shares; the supervisor of the revenues three shares; the commanding officer, and the other members of the Select Committee, two shares; the council, and each of the colonels, one share and an half; the senior merchants, and the lieutenant colonels, two thirds of a share; the junior merchants and majors, one third of a share.

28. As you will find it absolutely necessary to send out able and experienced men to superintend several of the departments in Bengal, the best of every profession, engineers, a surgeon general and surgeon, secretaries and sub-secretaries, accountants and sub-accountants, chaplains, &c. will rejoice to go abroad, upon being admitted to share in the salt trade: many conveniences will hereby arise to the Company, and this one in particular, that you can engage men of real merit to accept of your service, without appearing to reward them immediately with the Company's money.

29. Your servants in general, will, I hope, entertain a just sense of your indulgence on this head; and I would have it ever considered as an indulgence due only to merit in station: when the conduct of those entitled to share, by their rank or standing, shall happen to fall under your censure, an abridgement of, or suspension from, these emoluments, will be the ready means of inflicting punishment; and a temporary increase will at the same time be a no less obvious method of regulating rewards, to those who shall deserve well upon any particular occasion, or approve themselves to be of distinguished merit in the service.

30. I doubt much whether Sujah Dowla's country can furnish any thing of consequence for your investments; Bettea and Napaul produce gold, cassia, and elephant's teeth; but I believe not in great quantity. The increase of your investments in Bengal must be the result of the enquiry and diligent search of able disinterested servants; inspired with a true sense of honour and zeal for your service, they may effect great things; and I think that the indulgence of the salt trade will probably answer those desirable purposes.

No. 60.

Bath, 14th November 1767.

Gentlemen,

THE duty which I owe to the Company will not suffer me to be silent, on a subject wherein their interest seems so deeply concerned.

I learn, and with surprize, that you intend to lay open the salt trade, receiving only a duty of ten rupees upon every hundred maund at the Collaries or places where the salt is made.

Permit me to repeat to you, that the trade in salt was always a monopoly; Coja Wazced, and other merchants long before him, giving to the nabob and his ministers, near (£. 200,000) two hundred thousand pounds, per annum, in money and presents, for the exclusive privilege. The natives never had the advantages you now propose to give them, and will be greatly astonished at so unexpected and extraordinary an indulgence.

Honourable the Committee of Correspondence, &c.

Although you may think proper to deprive your servants of those advantages, which I so strongly recommended in my minute in Committee, upon the subject of new modelling the salt trade, yet I cannot help taking the liberty to request you will most maturely deliberate upon your present plan, before you issue an order which will deprive the Company of three hundred thousand pounds (£. 300,000) per annum, a sum which, I am of opinion, they are justly intitled to, if they receive the benefits lately received by their servants, and the duties which the Select Committee had allotted to them upon this trade; whereas the Company, by your laying the trade open, and taking only ten rupees per hundred maund, will receive only (£. 31,500) thirty one thousand five hundred pounds.

I must farther presume to observe to you, that even upon the plan you now propose, the trade will, as it ever must, continue in some degree a monopoly; and that the servants, from the power and influence they have throughout the country, may be concerned in it to what extent they will, under their Banyans, and the black merchants.

It was only by accident that I became acquainted with your intentions. I am entirely a stranger to the contents of the letters, which are now upon the point of being dispatched, by the Admiral Watson, to the governor and council, and to the Select Committee, of Bengal; but I hope this representation will reach you in good time, that you may reconsider an object so very important to the Company's interest. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and
most humble Servant,

CLIVE,
No. 61.

Extract of a Letter from the Directors to the President and Council at Fort William, Bengal; dated 20th November 1767.

88. **W**E have taken your plan for conducting the salt trade, as contained in your proceedings of the 8th September 1766, into our most serious consideration; and having revised all that we and you have wrote, on the subject of the inland trade in general, and of salt in particular, we are the more convinced of the absolute necessity of excluding all persons whatsoever, excepting the natives only, from being concerned therein; and we accordingly hereby ratify and confirm the orders we gave in our letters, of the 19th February, and 17th May 1766, that no Company's servant, free merchant, or any European, shall, in any mode or shape whatsoever, either by themselves or agents, directly or indirectly, trade in or be concerned in carrying on an inland trade, in salt, beetle-nut, tobacco, or in any other articles produced and consumed in the country; and such trade is hereby absolutely abolished, and put a final end to, agreeable to our before mentioned orders; and further, if any of the before described persons shall, directly or indirectly, carry on or be concerned in such inland trade, or in farming the Callaries, or making salt; if a Company's servant, he is to be immediately dismissed the Company's Service; and from all others the Company's protection is to be forthwith withdrawn.

89. Having thus prohibited our servants from being concerned in the inland trade, the allowance of $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. commission on the dewanny revenues, settled by you on the governor, for relinquishing all share in the salt trade, is absolutely to determine and cease upon the first day of September 1767.

90. Past experience has so impressed us with the idea of the necessity of confining our servants, and Europeans residing under our protection, within the ancient limits of our export and import trade, that we look on every innovation in the inland trade as an intrusion on the natural right of the natives of the country, who now more particularly claim our protection; and we esteem it as much our duty to maintain this barrier between the two commercial rights, as to defend the provinces from foreign invasions.

91. Our principal object being the ease and convenience of the natives, we have considered in what manner the important trade in salt can be carried on, so as to supply the whole country with this material necessary of life on the easiest terms, and the least liable to oppression.

92. For this purpose we direct, that the salt trade be laid open to the natives in general, under the following regulations; viz. That all the Callaries or salt pans, within the Company's jurisdiction, in the Calcutta purgannahs and Company's lands, and the provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, be put up to public sale at their respective capitals, and sold to the best bidder, five Callaries in each Lot; and that no one person be allowed to take more than 30 Lots, which we judge will enable him to make about 45 or 50 thousand Buzar Maunds of salt in the year; and that two months notice be given all over the country before the sale begins; and all Europeans are hereby expressly prohibited from being bidders at such sales, or holding any of the salt works in their hands, either directly or indirectly.

93. If there are any Callaries under the jurisdiction of the nabob's government, the same method is to be recommended to the administration at Moorshedabad.

94. It is represented to us, that the salt made in every part of the country, except what is necessary for the consumption of the districts where it is produced, should be carried to and landed at Rajah Bary, and a Creek or small river opposite to Barnagore; and the people of the country to make their purchases there, and pay a duty on all salt carried from thence, at such rate as will, upon the nearest estimation you can possibly make, produce to the revenue £. 100,000 at least, and not exceeding £. 120,000 per annum; the amount being in this manner ascertained, it will be easy to settle how many Sicca rupees per one hundred Buza Maunds it will amount to, and the duty is to be rated accordingly. Could we from any of your registers have learned what Quantity of salt is made and consumed in the country, we might then have had sufficient grounds to have proceeded on to settle, in this letter, with precision, the duty; but not having such informations we must leave it to you to cause it to be adjusted in the before mentioned manner.

95. If, besides the above, there are any other places by which salt may pass up the country, in any of the provinces, you are to conform to the intention of this order, with respect to such places.

96. That on payment of the above duty to the country collectors, the purchaser is to receive a duffuck, to carry his salt to any part of the country he chuses, free from all other duties.— The like duty is to be levied on all salt carried by land through the patchet passes, from the countries of Burdwan, Midnapore and other places,

97. The collecting the said duty, we conceive, will fall under the orders of the government of Moorshedabad, and will be accounted for in the revenues of the dewanny.

98. That all makers of salt be obliged to deliver in every year an account of the quantity of Salt they have made, and at what places the same has been landed, which must appear upon the face of your proceedings.

99. If any boats are found smuggling of salt, the same to be confiscated to the government, boat and salt; which will prevent the owners of the boats from receiving any salt that has not

paid

paid the duty; and that notice of the same be published all over the country.

100. That all foreign salt landed in Bengal pay the beforementioned duty, or more, if it shall be found necessary, for the encouragement of the manufactures of salt in Bengal.

101. To prevent all abuse of the English influence, we think proper to enjoin, and the same is accordingly to be made known in the most public manner; that any boat having salt on board, hoisting English colours, or pretending to an English duff, shall be liable to confiscation, together with the cargo; and the nabob's ministers will seize the same, as forfeited to the government.

102. Having established these regulations for the salt trade, we now confirm our orders for the prohibition of our servants engaging in all other inland trade, in articles produced and consumed in the country, save only such articles as are for exportation, by shipping to a foreign market; which will be intitled to an English duff, as part of the export trade, within the intention of the phirmaund; and here we remark with some surprize, in the Committee's proceedings of the 22d October, that beetle nut and tobacco are among those articles, which is contrary to the spirit of the Phirmaund and the tenor of our orders.

103. The duties to be collected on the other inland trade will fall under the direction of the administration at Moorshedabad, in which you will recommend the same attention to the good of the Natives, as we have in these regulations for the salt trade.

104. We hope this freedom of trade will be the means of keeping salt at a low price; but if ever it should be sold, at the places we have limited, at or above one hundred and forty Sicca Rupees, for 100 Buzar Maunds, including the duty, we shall esteem it too high a price for the natives to pay; and we do expect that, under your influence, and that of the Moorshedabad administration, the price never exceeds the said 140 Sicca Rupees, unless in the case of some general calamity, for we had rather the duty should be diminished than salt should exceed that price.

105. As the trade of our servants is to be confined to the articles of import and export only, in which they will be considerably affected by the great demands for extending the Company's investments; and considering the great increase of business, in which our principal servants are necessarily engaged, and which demand their utmost care and attention; we are come to a resolution to give them a reasonable encouragement to exert themselves with zeal and alacrity in their several departments, but which they are to look upon as a free gift from the hand of their employers, offered to them annually, so long as the present revenues shall remain with the Company, and their behaviour shall continue to merit such a reward: We therefore hereby order and direct,

106. That you draw out an annual account of the sums received from the Dewanny, deducting thereout the stipulated payments to the King and the Nabob, and the allowance to the Nabob's ministers—also of the revenues of the Provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore, Chittagong, and the Calcutta Purgunnahs; from which are to be deducted Lord Clive's Jaghire, and the ordinary charges of collection.

107. Upon the amount of the said net revenues you are hereby indulged to draw a commission of two and an half per cent.

108. The Sum which shall be the produce of the said 2½ per cent. is to be divided into 100 parts or shares; which parts or shares are to be appropriated in the following manner, viz.

The governor is to have	— — — — —	31 shares,
The second in council	— — — — —	4½ ditto,
The rest of the Select Committee, not having a Chiefship, each	—	3½ ditto,
The rest of the Council, not having a Chiefship each	—	1½

109. For it is our meaning and directions, that the Chiefs of Cossimbuzar, Patna, Dacca, and Chittagong, are not to have any proportion of the said shares.

110. Being convinced that the employs of resident at the Durbar and Chief Cossimbuzar, cannot, from the importance and extent of the business of each department, be properly executed by one person, we therefore direct that they be from this time forward separated, and that some other member of the council be appointed to the said Chiefship; we do not make this regulation from any failure of attention on the part of Mr. Sykes, with whose conduct we are perfectly satisfied.

111. And in consideration of the extraordinary trouble and attention, which the resident at the Durbar must necessarily have in the due execution of that important post, we direct that he be allowed four shares and an half, but this is to be understood to be in full, and instead of such shares as are assigned, as above mentioned, to his rank in council, or as a member of the Select Committee.

112. The large proportion allotted to the governor in the before mentioned commission of 2½ per cent. is in consideration of his relinquishing, and not being concerned in, any trade whatever, even in articles of import and export, and all presents or other gratifications, as expressed in the deed of renunciation in your proceedings of the 22d September 1766, which we approve and confirm; and direct that all governors do execute the like instrument on their entering into their office: Our inducement for annexing so great an appointment to the station of president and governor, is in full expectation of his giving up his whole time and attention

to the faithful discharge of his duty ; and that, being excluded from all trade himself, he may, and we accordingly depend that he be, vigilant in watching and detecting all abuses committed by others.

113. You are to observe that the shares of the commission here specified for the governor is additional to his present salary of three thousand pounds per annum, and his Mint Duty and Consulate, and the shares to other servants are to be in addition to their present appointments of salary, diet money, and the posts they may respectively hold, excepting the Chiefship, as before excepted.

114. Being satisfied how much our trade and possessions may be affected by the good services to the Company's Military Officers ; therefore, the better to encourage them to exert themselves in the preservation of these great objects, we have thought proper to allow them also to share in the following manner ; viz.

The commander in chief (as such only, he not being to share as a member of the Select Committee or Council) to have	—	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ shares.
Colonels, each	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lieutenant Colonels, each	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Majors, each	—	$\frac{1}{2}$

115. The ample provision here assigned to the commander in chief assures him of an honourable competency ; and we expect Colonel Smith, and his successors in the command, shall continue to shew an unremitting attention to their duty, and the preventing all frauds and abuses in the expences of the army.

116. The allowance made to the rest of the field officers are such as put our service on a more advantageous footing than any other military service in the world, and gives them the prospect of improving their fortunes by a gradual progression.

117. After all the allowances made to the Company's principal civil and military servants, as before directed, a considerable proportion of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission will remain unappropriated ; in order therefore to encourage the rest of the Company's military officers, and to remove every complaint of reduction of double batta, we have thought proper to make them, over and above their present established pay, the following allowances, by way of donation or gratuity only, and which are to be paid them accordingly ; viz.

- To a Captain—three Shillings a day ;
- To a Lieutenant—two Shillings a day ;
- To an Ensign— one Shilling a day.

But we must here observe to you, and accordingly direct that neither a colonel, lieutenant colonel, or major ; is to be allowed the three shillings a day as captain of a company ; the shares we have allotted them in the produce of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the revenues being in full of our donation or gratuity, as well for their being captains as field officers ; and here it is proper to inform you, that it is our positive order and direction, that the double batta be never restored to any of our officers whatsoever.

118. We have now to add, and we accordingly direct, that the beforementioned commissions of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. do commence from the 1st day of September 1767 ; but as we have before ordered that the allowance made to the governor of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ part per cent. on the dewanny revenues is absolutely to determine and cease on that day ; we further direct, that, from the said 1st day of September last, to the time of the arrival of these advices, an allowance of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the Company's nett territorial revenues be made to the governor, and that then the sum arising from the remaining 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. which completes the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission, be proportioned among our principal servants, civil and military, pro rata, according to the respective shares allotted them by our present appointment ; and you are to take notice that from and after your receiving these dispatches, the amount of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission is to be appropriated in the manner before directed.

No. 62.

15th September 1769.

Extract from Instructions to Commissioners.

27. **WE** enjoin you to enquire into such abuses as have been committed or practised in carrying on and continuing an exclusive trade in the articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, contrary to the express directions and orders transmitted by the Court of Directors. We direct you to enquire into the reasons why such orders have been disobeyed or neglected ; and it is our intention, that those trades be laid open to all persons, as well natives as Europeans ; and that English subjects be permitted to trade therein only upon the same footing, and under the same duties and restrictions, as natives or other subjects do. You will take particular care that these duties or regulations be not evaded, under pretence of any respect due unto, or the influence of the English Flag.

No. 65.

THIS indenture, made the eleventh day of September, in the 5th year of the reign of, &c. and in the year of our Lord 1765, between the Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, baron of Plassey, in the Kingdom of Ireland, knight companion of the most noble order of the Bath, and president and governor of Fort William, at Bengal, in the East Indies; Wm. B. Sumner, brigadier general John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, Harry Verelst, Francis Sykes, John Cartier, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, Aseanius Wm. Senior, R. Leycester, and George Gray, being the Council of Fort William aforesaid, Esquires, for and on behalf of the Court of Directors of the Honourable the United East India Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, on the one part, and the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, being a committee, nominated, constituted, and appointed, by the proprietors, entitled to the exclusive joint trade of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, produced, and to be produced, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orisa, for the better conducting, managing, and carrying on the said trade, on the other part: whereas in and by a certain deed, or instrument in writing, bearing date the 18th day of September, 1765, and made, or mentioned to be made, between the said proprietors to the said joint trade, on the one part, and the above named William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, on the other part; it is witnessed, amongst other things, that, in order for the better carrying on and managing the said joint trade in a beneficial manner, and most for the benefit and advantage of the said proprietors, it was and is agreed by and between the parties in the said deed mentioned, that the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize should, from and after the 18th day of September, 1765, be conducted, managed, transacted, and carried on, by them the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, constituting a committee for the management thereof, but with the proper monies, and at the joint risk and hazard, and for the joint account, use, and benefit of all the said proprietors, their several and respective executors and administrators, in the several proportions therein set forth. And it was and is also further agreed, by and between the said parties, that the form and signature under which the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize should be conducted and carried on, should be the sign manual of them the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and their successors for the time being, constituting a committee as aforesaid, together with the seal of the society of trade, with full power and authority to the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and their successors, to use the same, from the said 8th day of September, 1765, until the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize should cease, and be no longer carried on for the use of the said proprietors, as in and by the said deed, reference being thereunto had, will more fully and at large appear. Now this indenture witnesseth, that, in consideration of the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray's taking upon themselves the sole management and conduction of the said joint trade, on behalf of the said proprietors, and having laid out and expended large sums of money to carry on the same, and in order to enforce the execution of all and every the covenants, clauses, grants, articles, and agreements, in the before recited deed mentioned and contained, as the same are therein respectively expressed; and also in consideration of the duties and customs that shall or may arise, or accrue, by reason of the carrying on the said exclusive joint trade of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, according to the true intent and meaning of the said herein before recited deed, to be paid to them the said Robert Lord Clive, W. B. Sumner, J. C. C. S. P. H. V. J. S. J. C. R. M. H. W. A. W. S. S. M. R. L. and G. G. as president and council of Fort William aforesaid, for and on account of the said honourable the United East India Company, by them the said W. B. S. H. V. R. L. and G. G. and their successors, constituting a Committee as aforesaid, for and on account of the proprietors entitled to the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize, in the proportions herein after mentioned; that is to say, 35 per cent. on salt, each 100 maunds to be valued and reckoned at 90 Rs. the sum of 10 per cent. on beetle nut, to be valued and reckoned at the prime cost, and the sum of 25 per cent. on tobacco, to be valued and reckoned at the prime cost, and also, that the said joint trade and merchandize, may not cease or be dissolved before the expiration of the term in the said recited deed mentioned, or any hindrance or stoppage be put to the same, the said Robert Lord Clive as President, and the said W. B. S. John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, H. Verelst, Francis Sykes, John Carter, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, Aseanius William Senior, Samuel Middleton, R. L. and G. G. as council of Fort William aforesaid, for and on behalf of the said court of Directors of the Honourable the United East India Company aforesaid, do hereby, for themselves and their successors, their executors and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and their successors, their heirs, executors, and administrators, that, provided any order or direction should issue, or be made, by the said Court of Directors in England, thereby ordering and directing the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize to be dissolved, or put to an end, or that may hinder and stop the carrying on the same, or any part thereof, or contain any thing contrary to the covenants, clauses, grants, articles, or agreements, in the said before recited deed mentioned and contained, or any

any of them, so that the same may thereby become void and of no effect, then and in that case, they the said Robert Lord Clive as president, W. B. S. John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, Harry Verelst, Francis Sykes, John Cartier, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, Ascanius William Senior, Samuel Middleton, R. L. and G. G. as council of Fort William aforesaid, shall and will well and truly save harmless and keep indemnified, them the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and all the proprietors entitled, or to be entitled, to the said joint trade, and their successors, their executors and administrators; and also shall and will, notwithstanding any order or direction to be issued to the contrary as aforesaid, keep up, continue, and enforce, or cause to be kept up, continued, and enforced, the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize, for the term of one year, to commence from the 18th day of September, 1765, and expire on the 18th day of September, 1766, according to the true intent and meaning of the said before recited deed, and of all the parties thereto, as if the said order and direction had never been made or issued; and further, that the said Robert Lord Clive, W. B. S. John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, H. V. Francis Sykes, John Cartier, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, Ascanius William Senior, Samuel Middleton, R. L. and G. G. and their successors, as President and Council aforesaid, shall and will allow unto them, the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and their successors, constituting a committee as aforesaid, full and sufficient time, after the expiration of the said term of one year as aforesaid, to sell, vend, and dispose of all such goods and merchandize, belonging to the said joint trade and concern, as shall at that time remain in their hands unsold, and not disposed of, and also to collect and gather in all such sum and sums of money as shall be any ways due or owing unto them the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, or their successors, on account of the said proprietors and joint trade aforesaid, and to settle and adjust all books and accounts belonging to and concerning the same; and the said W. B. S. H. V. R. L. and Geo. Gray, do hereby for themselves and the rest of the proprietors entitled to the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, as aforesaid, and their successors, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the R. Ld. Clive, W. B. S. J. C. C. S. P. H. V. L. S. J. C. R. M. H. W. A. W. S. J. M. R. L. and G. G. as president and council of Fort William aforesaid, and their successors, for the time being, that they the said W. B. S. H. V. R. L. and G. G. constituting a Committee as aforesaid, and their successors, from time to time, shall and will well and truly pay and discharge the duties and customs of the said articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, at and after the rates herein before mentioned and expressed, of and concerning the same, to the right honourable the president and council of Fort William aforesaid, and their successors, or to whom they shall from time to time direct and appoint to receive the same; and the said Robert Lord Clive, John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, Francis Sykes, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, Ascanius William Senior, and Samuel Middleton, do hereby bind and oblige themselves and their successors, their executors and administrators, jointly unto them the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, on behalf of themselves and the said proprietors, in the penal sum of _____ for the true and faithful observing, performing, fulfilling, and keeping, all and every the covenants herein contained, and which, on their parts and behalf, are or ought to be performed, observed, fulfilled, and kept as aforesaid. In witness, &c.

R. WHITTALL.
Oct. 1765.

No. 64.

THIS indenture, made the eighteenth day of September, in fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain; France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five; between the Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey, in the kingdom of Ireland; Knight Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and President and Governor of Fort William at Bengal, in the East Indies; William Brightwell Sumner, Brigadier General John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, Harry Verelst, Francis Sykes, John Cartier, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, Ascanius William Senior, Samuel Middleton, Ralph Lycester, and George Gray, being the Council of Fort William aforesaid, Esquires, for, and on behalf of the Court of Directors of the Honourable the United East India Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, on the one part, and the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Lycester, and George Gray, being a Committee nominated, constituted and appointed by the Proprietors, intituled to the exclusive joint trade of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, produced, and to be produced, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, for the better conducting, managing, and carrying on the said trade, on the other part. Whereas, in and by a certain deed or instrument in writing, bearing date the eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five, and made, or mentioned to be made, between the said Proprietors of the said

said joint trade, on the one part, and the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, on the other part: it is witnessed amongst other things, That in order for the better carrying on and managing the said joint trade in a beneficial manner, and most for the benefit and advantage of the said Proprietors, it was and is agreed, by and between the parties in the said deed mentioned, that the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize should, from and after the said eighteenth day of September, be conducted, managed, transacted, and carried on by them, the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, constituting a Committee for the management thereof, but with the proper monies, and at the joint risk and hazard, and on the joint account, use and benefit, of all the said Proprietors, their several and respective executors and administrators, in the several proportions therein set forth; and it was and is also further agreed, by and between the said parties, That the form and signature underneath the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize should be conducted and carried on, should be the sign manual of them, the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and their successors, for the time being, constituting a Committee, as aforesaid, together with the seal of the Society of Trade, with full power and authority to the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and their successors, to use the same, from the said eighteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five, until the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize should cease and be no longer carried on for the use of the said Proprietors, as in and by the said deed, reference being thereunto had, will more fully and at large appear: now this indenture witnesseth, That in consideration of the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, taking upon themselves the sole management and conduction of the said joint trade, for and on behalf of the said Proprietors, and having laid out and expended large sums of money to carry on the same, and in order to enforce the execution of all and every the covenants, clauses, articles, and agreements in the said before recited deed mentioned and contained, as the same are therein respectively expressed, and also in consideration of the duties and customs that shall or may arise or accrue by reason of the carrying on the said exclusive joint trade of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, according to the true intent and meaning of the said herein before recited deed, to be paid to them the said Robert Lord Clive, William Brightwell Sumner, John Carnac, Charles Stafford Playdell, Harry Verelst, Francis Sykes, John Cartier, Randolph Marriott, Hugh Watts, &c. as president and council of Fort William aforesaid, for and on account of the said Honourable the United East India Company, by them the said William Brightwell Sumner, &c. and their successors, constituting a Committee as aforesaid, for and on account of the Proprietors intitled to the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize, in the proportion herein after mentioned; that is to say, the sum of thirty-five *per cent.* on salt, each one hundred maunds to be valued and reckoned at ninety Arcot rupees; the sum of ten *per cent.* on beetle nut, and twenty-five *per cent.* on tobacco, both to be valued and reckoned at the prime cost; and likewise, that the said joint trade and merchandize may not cease or be dissolved before the expiration of the term in the said herein before recited deed mentioned, or any hindrance or stoppage be put to the same, the said Right Honourable Lord Clive as president, and the said William Brightwell Sumner, &c. as council of Fort William aforesaid, for and on behalf of the said Court of Directors of the Honourable the United East India Company aforesaid, do hereby, for themselves and their successors, their executors and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said William Brightwell Sumner, &c. and their successors, their heirs, executors and administrators, that provided any order should issue or be made by the said Court of Directors in England, thereby ordering and directing the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize to be dissolved, or put to an end, or that may hinder and stop the carrying on of the same or any part thereof, or contain any thing contrary to the covenants, clauses, grants, articles, or agreements in the said herein before recited deed mentioned and contained, or any of them, so that the same may thereby become void and of no effect; then, and in that case, they the said Robert Lord Clive, as president, W. B. Sumner, &c. as council of Fort William aforesaid, shall and will well and truly save harmless and keep indemnified them, the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, and all the Proprietors intitled or to be entitled to the said exclusive joint trade, and their successors, their executors and administrators, and also shall and will, notwithstanding any order or direction to be issued to the contrary as aforesaid, keep up, continue and enforce, or cause to be kept up, continued and enforced, the said exclusive joint trade, for the term of one year, to commence from the said eighteenth day of September one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five, and expire on the eighteenth day of September one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six, according to the true intent and meaning of the said before recited deed and of all the parties thereto, as if the said order had never been made or issued: And further, that the said Robert Lord Clive, William Brightwell Sumner, &c. and their successors, as president and council aforesaid, shall and will allow unto them, the said W. B. Sumner, &c. constituting a Committee as aforesaid, full and sufficient time, after the expiration of the said term of one year aforesaid, to sell, vend, and dispose of all such goods and merchandize, belonging to the said joint trade and concern, as shall at that time remain in their hands unfold and not disposed of; and also to collect or gather in all such sum or sums of money as shall be any ways due or owing unto them the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst,

A P P E N D I X, No. 64.

Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, or their successors, on account of the said Proprietors and joint trade aforesaid, and to settle and adjust all books and accounts belonging to and concerning the same; and the said William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, do hereby, for themselves and the rest of the Proprietors intitled to the said exclusive joint trade and merchandize of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, as aforesaid, and their successors, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said Robert Lord Clive, William Brightwell Sumner, John Carnac, &c. as president and council of Fort William aforesaid, and their successors, for the time being, That they the said William Brightwell Sumner, &c. constituting a Committee as aforesaid, and their successors, from time to time, shall and will well and truly pay and discharge the duties and customs of the said articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, at and after the rates herein before mentioned and expressed of and concerning the same, to the right honourable the President and Council of Fort William aforesaid, or their successors, or to whom they shall from time to time appoint to receive the same: And lastly, the said parties to these presents, and every of them, do hereby bind and oblige themselves and their successors, their heirs, executors, and administrators, the one to the other of them, in the penal sum of eight lacks of current rupees, for the true and faithful performance of all and every the covenants herein contained, and which, on their parts and behalfs, are or ought to be performed, fulfilled, and kept as aforesaid. In witness whereof all the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)
RALPH LEYCESTER (L. S.)	A. W. SENIOR (L. S.)	FRANS. SYKES (L. S.)
JOHN CARNAC (L. S.)	CLIVE (L. S.)	GEORGE GRAY (L. S.)
SAM ^L . MIDDLETON (L. S.)	HUGH WATTS (L. S.)	RAND ^H MARRIOTT (L. S.)
H. VERELST (L. S.)	W. B. SUMNER (L. S.)	

(Copy.)

The Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, President, and the Council of Fort William T O William Brightwell Sumner, Harry Verelst, Ralph Leycester, and George Gray, constituting a Committee for managing the exclusive joint trade of salt, &c.	}	Deed of Indemnity, and to protect the said Trade.
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STATE of the DÜANNEE REVENUES of the East India Company's Territorial Acquisitions, from May 1765 to the last Advices, with the Amount of Charges, Collecting, &c. and Civil and Military Charges, with the Nett Annual Balance.

	R E V E N U E S.						C H A R G E S.				Net Annual Balance; or, Revenues more than Charges.		
	Gross Collections.	Charges of Collection, &c.	Tribute to the King paid.	Nabob's Stipend paid.	Salaries to Ministers, &c. paid.	Jaghire paid.	Commission paid on the Revenues.	Nett Revenues.	Civil.	Military.		Buildings and Fortifications.	Total Charges.
	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.	Lft.
May. April.													
1765 to 1766	2,258,227	174,442	26,897	330,125	4,930	40,406	—	1,681,427	214,352	886,909	109,098	1,210,360	471,067
1766—1767	3,805,817	417,014	205,766	534,353	72,745	29,912	18,432	2,527,594	269,855	903,831	100,407	1,274,093	1,253,501
1767—1768	3,608,009	348,965	300,030	371,824	175,696	29,096	23,393	2,359,005	273,308	991,966	222,109	1,487,383	871,622
1768—1769	3,787,207	335,966	356,610	413,330	148,394	29,096	101,620	2,402,191	296,373	1,085,577	258,179	1,573,129	829,062
1769—1770	3,341,976	349,849	282,005	402,928	153,540	29,096	35,190	2,089,368	300,598	1,102,132	349,826	1,752,556	536,812
1770—1771	3,332,343	358,091	382,473	371,249	136,954	29,096	48,204	2,007,176	254,908	1,093,006	384,174	1,732,088	275,088
Lft.	20,133,579	1,984,327	1,553,781	2,423,809	691,359	186,702	225,840	13,066,761	1,609,395	5,996,421	1,423,793	9,029,609	4,037,152

East India House,
26th February, 1773.

Errors excepted,

JOHN HOOLE,

Auditor of Indian Accounts.

No. 66.

STATE of the RECEIPTS of the NORTHERN CIRCARS, from the Time of the Grant of them to the last Advices.

March 1766 to April 1767.	Received of sundry Zemindars and Renters, &c.	Lft.	140,618
May 1767 to April 1768.	Received as above	—	128,556
May 1768 to April 1769.	Received as above	—	185,010
May 1769 to April 1770.	Received as above	—	320,512
May 1770 to April 1771.	Received as above	—	351,719
May 1771 to December 1771.	Received as above	—	106,040
			Lft. 1,235,455

East India House,
26 February, 1773.

Errors excepted.

JOHN HOOLE, Auditor of Indian Accounts.

No. 67.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort William.
My Lord and Gentlemen,

THE address herewith sent to the Right Honourable President and Council, from the shortness of the time since I have had the opportunity of seeing the papers of the Select Committee, and from the hurry of my departure, I have not been able to finish till this moment; it rests with your Lordship and Council to permit it to go home by this ship, that my reply may appear with my accusation, which I submit to your justice.

And am, with respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Oct. 1st, 1765.

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort William.
My Lord and Gentlemen,

I received the minutes of the Right Honourable the President, and the other three members of the committee, forwarded to me from the secretary, under date the 24th June.

The reasons why I declined entering on any defence before the committee, as my judges, I have already, in part, mentioned in my minute: I could not, in justice to myself, submit to be tried and judged by the committee, who acted so much as parties and prosecutors. The methods used by them to get evidence against me, appeared so great a violation of that liberty and freedom, that as a Britan I had a right to, That I could hope for no impartial justice from those who set out in a manner so totally subvertive of the laws and liberty of the subject. Could I hope, that these gentlemen, who would confine, under military guards, in the most rigorous and terrifying manner, the men they thought intrusted with my secrets; and that under these undue influences would oblige them to violate their trust, faith, and gratitude, and to give answers to ensnare themselves, or injure their benefactors, would not esteem such evidence, even so obtained, sufficient handle to pursue their designs against me, and to adjudge me culpable: When I saw Mahomed Reza Cawn and Jugget Seet, men who had a few days before acknowledged the highest obligations to me, and dependance on my friendship to save their honour and posts, and curry favour, led to relate and swear, without being confronted, or even examined in our hearing, to matters known to be false to the rest of the gentlemen as well as to me, I objected, and still object, and deny any evidence so procured: neither could I consider narratives extorted by hope of favour, or fear of disgrace, as complaints lodged against me by the men themselves; for Jugget Seet most avowedly declares, at the conclusion of this narrative That enquiry being made of him by these gentlemen (Undil Estissari i Sahibau) he has wrote the above, in which there is not a word of untruth. How well this declaration agrees with the professions of satisfaction, and offers of service, the Seets had of their own accord made in their letter to me after my return here, and when the expected committee were arrived, I beg the unbiaised to judge from perusing their letter, of which a copy is herewith sent, and whether if Jugget Seet had not been made to perceive how agreeable such a charge would be to the gentlemen of the committee he would of himself made any, or thought he had any good cause to complain of the behaviour of the deputation to him at the city. The terror and apprehension Mahomed Reza Cawn was in, from the advantage he supposed would be taken by his enemies to ruin him, when he was not permitted to come down with the Nabob, was known to every body. The anxiety of his mind was still further increased, when ordered down by a letter from Lord Clive, under his great seal; this, and what he had been made to understand, that all the business of moment was taken from out of the hands of the council, made him decline either

to receive or pay visits to those gentlemen, who but a few days before he had avowed his greatest friends. When views of interest and time-serving can make men so forgetful of all gratitude and honour, what credit can, or ought to be paid to what they say? Mahomed Reza Cawn found himself obnoxious to the nabob, and accused by him to the Committee; that the former council, to whom he owed his station, were no longer in power to support him; that Nundcomar, whom he considered as his mortal enemy, was released, untried, and admitted to the highest confidence and tenor with the nabob; nay, as he sent me word, that he had ventured even to sign again as Duan to the nabob; that the Committee set themselves up as the judge of the council, in such situation, where he had every thing to fear from their displeasure, every thing to expect from their favour. What man would admit himself to be judged by narratives obtained under such circumstances, as by lawful evidence upon oath, where the witness swears, He is neither actuated by hope or fear? As proofs of his terrible apprehensions from the schemes of his enemies, and his dependence on my assistance, and the sentiment and tenor of my former obligations, and of the little faith ought to be given to representations obtained of the same man, who can in so short a space accommodate to the times, I beg leave to refer to three letters he wrote me after my arrival in Calcutta, and to one from Mootyram, to which he refers. his referring back to presents he had made months before this of himself to Mr. Spencer, and inserting the name of Mr. Cartier to what that gentleman was ignorant of, and in which, whatever had been done was done by himself after I came away, shews how much he studied to gain an interest with the committee by relating those particulars, though so strong marks of his servility and black ingratitude, when such increase of honour and power was heaped, without any additional merit in this man but what his narratives could claim, and the whole torrent of persecution was let loose against the receivers of the Nabob's presents, instead of giving him any redress against Mahomed Reza Cawn, the man he complained against, as the giver away of his money, without his knowledge or consent. Whether these proceedings have been carried on to the length they are for other motives, or from the desire of rendering satisfaction to the Nabob, whose inclinations or interest appear to be so little attended to in the subsequent regulations and transactions of the committee, the world, on a knowledge of facts, will judge; in my minute I mentioned in my objecting to the evidence of Mootyram, when the president had desired he might be brought before the board, and questioned to the truth of what had been wrote down as his answer on oath, for the same reasons as before mentioned, that while under the pains and terrors of an unjust confinement by an unlawful power exerted towards him, no such evidence can be esteemed free and voluntary; and because he must have that apprehension of still harder punishment, should he deviate any thing from what had been put down as his evidence in the confusion he represents himself to have been in when first carried prisoner and examined before them the 8th; nevertheless this examination, the most unprecedented perhaps has been heard of in any English colony, enjoying his majesty's most gracious charter of liberties, was gone through before an assembly of his majesty's justices of peace, that had been wrote down as the questions and answers of his examination of the 8th, was read to the prisoner, and he again sworn to make true answer, though this was plainly putting the answer into the evidence's mouth that he should give: and though his deviating in this respect in any court, intirely invalidates his former evidence, and made him liable to perjury; yet even under this dilemma did Mootyram, as I understand, differ in his evidence, in what had been laid the greatest stress on: First, he is made to deny the first question he had sworn point blank before that he went to Juggut Seet to demand money: by this he contradicts himself in his first evidence, and contradicts Juggut Seet's narrative, which he is made to acknowledge, as being every word true: afterwards in the examination, he says, he spoke nothing, but that Ismael Aly Khan spoke and demanded three laaks of rupees. Juggut Seet in his narrative makes Mootyram come and demand five laaks, but takes no notice of Ismael Aly Khan; and Mootyram in his evidence is made to answer, that he demanded this money of the Seets, and that he demanded it on account of the gentlemen, and those that sent him. It is plain, this relation of the same conversation no ways agrees: let it be here remarked, that Mootyram never has ventured to assert, he was sent by me, or any of the gentlemen, to ask money of the Seets; yet he is made to reply, that he demanded the money (viz. the sum mentioned in Juggut Seet's narrative, five laaks) on account of the gentlemen, and those that sent him: Ismael Aly Khan, by Mootyram's answer in the examination of the 8th, is made to demand three laaks; the first visit in Mootyram's presence and Mootyram in Juggut Seet's narrative, is made to hint a present in general, but nothing in particular the first visit, yet under a threat of displeasure, and of no assistance to his business if he did not comply: Mootyram nevertheless denies, that he said a word, or carried any message to Juggut Seet the first visit. Mootyram here contradicts the narrative of the Seet, which he is made in another place to acknowledge as every word true: and in the next visit, instead of three laaks that was said to have been asked in his presence by Ismael Aly Khan, he (Mootyram) is made to increase the demand, and to ask for five laaks. How consistent or probable this story is, I leave it to every man to judge. The second question proposed to Mootyram is in these words in the examination the 8th, What did you say to Mahomed Reza Cawn about stopping the business of the Seets, unless they complied with the demand? In what words this was put, and how far such a question to a prisoner answering on his own defence, or to fix his answer as evidence against his absent

benefactor, I appeal to the whole world. But what must every man feel within himself when he compares the answer set down in these proceedings in these words, "I did tell him (Mahomed Reza Cawn) that the gentlemen would protect their business if they would make a present; " if not, the business of the Seets should meet with no protection or countenance," as being my orders; when he understands that terms of expression made use of by Mootyram, as conveying the threat, were merely Cooch-booligani: the plain translation of which is, he will say nothing, or he will rest silent, or say not a word; which is wrested to express a meaning so entirely contrary to it, viz. that the Seets business shall meet with no countenance or protection.—It is hard to imagine, that any body who has been for years in this country could be so much unacquainted with the languages as not to know this common expression; how it has been tortured to make me appear guilty of raising threats to extort money from the Seets must evidently convince every enquirer with what little candour I have been used during the course of these examinations. Here the Committee themselves render testimony of Mootyram's falsifying in this part of his evidence: but allowing that he had really used Cooch Sei Kurregani and Cooch-booligani, the Expressions will never come up to the sense given it, That the business of the Seets shall meet with no countenance or Protection: Cooch Sei harrageni joined with Couch-booligani, signifies he will not exert any endeavours, and will say nothing; also it may be understood he will not stir in their affairs, or say any thing: it is impossible for me to say from my own knowledge, as not being present, what other errors, omission, questions not understood by the prisoner, or answers mistaken in the translation, have been made; but I have good grounds to believe that had the answers and questions been put down on paper in the language Mootyram understood, the examination would have contained meanings and sentences very different from what now appear put down in English; as in his evidence on the third question, giving account of what passed between the Seets and Ismael Aly Kawn, Mootyram contradicts what he had before said: it must be allowed, that either what he said was not perfectly understood, or misconstrued, or that Mootyram's evidence on oath was falsified the second time, by his evidence on oath: after these contradictions in Mootyram's evidence, which I have pointed out in so many glaring instances, that any degree of credit should be given to the rest will scarce, I presume, be urged before judges unbiassed and impartial. The proceedings of the committee wherein I was any way mentioned, after my resigning the service, were never communicated to me; the oath binding all those in the Select Committee Office to the strictest secrecy, put it out of my power to learn what had been transacted there against me, and none of the proceedings or papers of the Committee were allowed to be perused by the members of the council, and only particular parts read over to them, and the papers again pocketted, and carried away. I have never been able to learn any thing certain as to the proceedings and papers that so deeply concerned me to have been acquainted with, and which in common regard to justice, one would think I was intitled to expect should have been communicated to me. It was not however till the 25th instant, and thro' the means of General Carnac, that I had the least knowledge or access to the papers of the Committee that concerned me so particularly, just at the eve of my departure, and in the hurry of settling my concerns, on quitting the country in so short a space; the disadvantage I am subjected to in replying to and refuting the many things falsely laid to my charge, and the unjust conclusions thence drawn to my prejudice, in the acts of the Committee, must be evident to every one.

I have given reasons for not allowing the truth of any Mahomed Reza Cawn has advanced. It must appear evident, that the same methods to which he owed his confirmation and safety before, by sacrificing his honour and gratitude to save himself from the resentment of the Committee, still operating, in dictating the reply to Lord Clive's letter, in his first narrative, he says, Not that any sum whatever was demanded either from the Nabob or himself by Mootyram, nor by the Gentlemen of the Deputation. In this last representation he thinks it may be more satisfactory to aver this falsehood, That Mr. Johnstone had at first demanded a very large sum by Mootyram, and that his representations to the Nabob were in consequence of my desire; though he before represented that the message he carried was from the Deputation, and for no particular sum; and that the first application he made was in consequence of what had passed between him and all the gentlemen together, which consisted only in their desiring him to intimate their hope to the Nabob, without pressing any sum; and which for fear of displeasing them he consented to do. He then sets forth, That the Nabob desired him to make out a list, and that he referred it entirely to the Nabob's own pleasure to determine it; according to which, it was made out before his face; however, now he thinks it will serve his purpose better to allege, that the sum and the distribution was settled by the Nabob, not by his own pleasure, but according to my dictating. The Nabob then must have done so, either of his own pleasure, or out of awe or fear of me; and if the latter, it is most evident he could not have desired a better opportunity of gratifying his resentment, than by complaining of me to the other gentlemen, if what he had entered for them had been by me perverted to my private use. Now it is very true that the Nabob did, through Mahomed Reza Cawn, make an offer of a laak to me, besides what I received in common with the rest; and it is most certain that I declined accepting this separate teep, and never did receive it from Mahomed Reza Cawn, but on the contrary, ordered it to be returned to the Nabob, with my thanks for his distinguishing offer; and I call upon Messrs. Senior and Middleton to declare, whether, in consequence of my having refused the accepting of this teep, they were not witnesses to the Nabob's introducing the

subject

subject himself in the Durbar, and pressing me in the most urgent manner to receive it as a mark of his favour, and whether it was not with their knowledge and approbation, that after repeated instances from the Nabob himself, made before them and several others then in the Durbar, I consented to take it. Whether the money had been then paid, or whether this sum was not paid to me at the same time with that paid to the rest a long while afterwards; and with their knowledge; and whether the said Nabob, Mahomed Reza Cawn, at that time ever gave any reason to think this was contrived by me, or not proceeding merely from the Nabob's own determination. The present the Nabob made to my brother, he himself in his own Durbar bestowed upon him, the day he went to take his leave to join the army, and referred him to Mahomed Reza Cawn for payment of it; and for the payment of which the Nabob gave the repeated sanction of his will and authority, in signing the furd sual many days after, when presented to him by Mahomed Reza Cawn, who took these precautions before he would issue any money. I never mentioned to the Nabob one single word, regarding a present for my brother. If I had, or that this was disagreeable to him, it lay in his own will whether to have given it, and in his power to have withheld the payment of the teep afterwards, and to have taken notice of it to the rest of the gentlemen, had any undue influence, or contrary to his own inclination at that time, had not he a fair opportunity of representing this to the other gentlemen with whom I was joined in commission, and with whose knowledge and consent he saw that all affairs were conducted? He had complained but a few days before against me in particular to the governor, in regard to the examining the Cutchery papers, though the deputies had first obtained his consent and order for the book-keepers to attend with the books, in order to regulate the partition of the charge of the collections agreeable to the treaty: the Nabob, indeed, when afterwards convinced that he had been imposed upon by people who had their own views to serve in the complaint, publicly apologized for it, and signified his being perfectly satisfied on this point, in a letter he wrote to the governor, both which appear in the book of country correspondence; as the explaining the orders of the board, and the sentiments of the deputation fell upon me, being more versed in the country language than the other gentlemen, this exposed me more than any of the rest to the Nabob's displeasure; and though throughout the whole of the negotiations there was no difference in our opinions, yet the whole resentment of whatever was said or done not agreeable to the Nabob, has been directed against me in particular. This it is necessary to observe, in order to shew that had his highness had such cause of complaint against me, as is now endeavoured to be made believed, he wanted not instigators enough about him to have taken the occasion of laying such a charge against me, either to the gentlemen of the Deputation, or to the Board below. As to Mahomed Reza Cawn's own presents, which he would now pretend were solicited from him, I flatly deny; and assert, intimation was first given to us by Mootyram of his being desirous of making us a present; and that such were his intentions is known to others; that himself verbally mentioned the sums for each; and that no note was, to my knowledge, ever offered by him rupees 4,75,000. That I appropriated a rupee, of what Mahomed Reza Cawn designed, or intended, or proposed to me, or with my knowledge, for the other gentlemen, as the Committee have alledged, I declare is false: I never had a note from him in my possession, nor remember ever to have seen one in his hands, or in those of Mootyram; and that the agreeing to accept at the last of his present, long before tendered, of a laack each, was with the joint concurrence of Messieurs Middleton and Senior, Mahomed Reza Cawn being then present; and in consequence of which; the bills were forwarded from Muxadabad, and the payments in ready money promised at the city for Messieurs Senior and Middleton, tho' Mr. Middleton, Mr. Leicester, and myself, did afterwards, for the reasons we have before assigned, decline accepting of this when we had it in our power, that we might be under no restraint from such consideration in supporting our opinions; that Juggut Seet wanted to make his present to me alone, both Messieurs Senior and Middleton, to whom the circumstances was then mentioned, may remember, and that I refused accepting any but in common and equal with the other gentlemen; that so great endeavours have been used, by imprisoning some, over-awing, and terrifying others, and by hopes and rewards bestowed upon others in order to search out and collect whatever concerned me, while no notice or scrutiny that appears has been made into the presents received by many others lately and heretofore, tho' not less talked of, nor less considerable; whether it proceeds from those motives of honour and firm attachment to the interest of their employers, or to gratify particular ends and resentments, we leave to the impartial to judge.

How ready the black fellows are to curry favour, by joining in what they suppose must be agreeable to the will of the Committee; the stopping my joint trade for weeks in Burdwan, and in Suja Moeta, where our property has been twice arrested, and is still unreleased, to our great loss, and their refusing to pay me my just debts in other places, since my resigning the service, must evince; the merchants, even at Calcutta, after having bargained for goods at the market price, when they have learnt they were mine, have flown off their agreement.

I shall now make some remarks on the proceedings of the Committee of the 21st, with the other papers of the 26th instant.

It is very true, I have, and ever shall refuse to reply to the Committee as my judges, as I esteem the power they have taken to themselves as usurped and unlawful, and contrary to the sense of their appointment; to themselves I object, as having acted as parties, and trampled on every

every liberty and right, that as a Briton I had a right to expect in my trial; yet, though I reject replying at their tribunal, whose laws and bounds seem only what their will and caprice dictate, I do not decline to justify my character, where I can expect a fair and impartial hearing. In order to shew how candid are the opinions of those who would be my judges; let it be remarked that they assert, I have actually received the several sums in money and bills, specified in the general accounts of Mahomed Reza Cawn and Juggut Seet; and immediately after that, Mr. Lycester neither did nor intended to receive the bills lodged with Mootyram; now they must have known that the bills never were in my hands, or received by me more than by Mr. Lycester, and the resolution of never receiving their amount and the orders for giving them back, were taken by me jointly with that gentleman; for which I appeal to his honour, and that it was no more known to me than to him, that they had not been delivered back as Mootyram had repeatedly assured me they were; but no question that could serve to clear me in this or any other point was ever put to the prisoner or others. As to the menaces that the Committee would endeavour to make such a handle of, I do again deny ever all such, and my having authorized any such messages by Mootyram, to Mahomed Reza Cawn or Juggut Seet; yet this menace when fairly rendered in English amounts at the utmost to, I will say nothing (Cooch Booliganie). In order to lay greater load on me by a comparison with others, the Committee gave it as their opinion, that Mr. Middleton always intended to refuse the present intended him by Mahomed Reza Cawn; this Mr. Middleton is a man of too much regard to truth to pretend to, and only says, That he avoided receiving any part of this, and afterward determined refusing it, and which was much about the time Mr. Lycester and I took the same resolution; as to the reflection of our being guilty of disobedience to the Company's positive orders relative to the covenants, both in delaying the execution of them, and in receiving presents; I reply, that I was called down to council in February without desiring it, an occasional member; that it afterwards depended on the determination of others, whether I should be of the deputation or not; and that the covenants were never tendered to me; that Messieurs Sumner and Sykes have not scrupled to declare publicly, that they would not have come out, had they previously known these covenants were to have been executed, which if they chose to make use of as an argument would acquit us at least from the censure they vouchsafe now to pass upon us; covenants are free for men to bind themselves by or not, and till the party concerned agrees to enter into them of choice, are no more obligatory on him from their arrival in Bengal, than from the day they were drawn up in England, and can retrospect to the one period as little as to the other; I never refused to execute them nor opposed it being proposed in council when he proposed the question, Whether the receiving of presents were improper? Mr. Sykes by his answer condemns, as well as us, the noble lord, and all those benefitted then and since by them; the minutes of the other members of the Committee, are not direct answers to this plain general question, Whether the acceptance of all presents be improper? a question that those who had ever benefitted in that way chose rather to leave unanswered; however, we differ here in opinion from the Committee, of having thereby done any thing to the injury of our employers, or covenanted for any services dishonourable to ourselves, or hurtful to their affairs. We must submit to the common sense of mankind our proceedings in this, and the Decency, Candour, Moderation, &c. in this and other points transacted by them since they undertook their restoring of peace, order, and tranquillity; the presents received from the Nabob we still consider as received with as great propriety as any others received since the custom was introduced and setting up Meer Jaffier, and we imagine there will few be brought to believe, that the large sums received at that time by the commander in chief and his friends, while the public engagements were left undischarged, were received in that spirit of disinterestedness and concern against the sudden growth of wealth that is now preached up; the merit in receiving solely from the Nabob Jaffier Aly Khan, the easy fortune then acquired, after the representations made at that very time of the state of the treasury, I shall not endeavour to detract from, but it will be something difficult to make people believe, that the sums given by this Nabob to the gentlemen in the month of April, with 26 lacks said to be lying in his house at Calcutta, besides the daily receipts after the Pania, so impoverished his treasury, and hurt the collections, that such great balances are accumulated since that time, of the money due for the army restitution or donation; and that to supply the cash under these difficulties, the honourable board should be obliged to recur to the assistance of the seats for a Loan of Rs. 150,000 at interest in the month of August; whether the government is better administered on the new System than before, facts must vouch. It no doubt rests with Lord Clive to explain his sentiments regarding the establishment of the Committee so soon after its being abolished at home, more particularly as his sentiments were thought to coincide in the salutariness of that resolution, and have been commented on in the remonstrance preferred to the Court of Directors by certain proprietors. How conformable to the intent of those powers has been the exertion and continuance of them, we shall leave every man to judge, without acknowledging that the fate or safety of Bengal, in the least depended thereon. That Lord Clive seconded the motion when it was last made, for my reinstatement, I will readily allow, if his lordship thinks, that by this concurrence, he conferred an obligation, to which in honour and gratitude he was not bound to my friends, the more my acknowledgements are due. However, I have some reason to believe this might have been brought

brought about, though Lord Clive had never moved in the matter; and that had it depended solely on his Lordship's endeavours, it would never have been effected. In reply to his Lordship's last paragraph in his minutes, I do maintain, that I continued in the office of Persian translator, and was employed in writing and translating the public letters, to the day the expedition embarked against the nabob; that from the time Mr. Scrafton commenced the correspondence in cypher, and wrote to Mr. Walsh, that he might have again the post I held, and that politics and power were his game, I never was entrusted in any of the secret negotiations then carrying on; that during that period, and long before the time when I was ordered to return and do my duty in the artillery, Mr. Lushington, my assistant, was sworn in, as he told me, and was employed in the affairs then transacting; whether Mr. Scrafton settled the affairs of the money or Mr. Watts with Meer Jaffer Aly Cawn, is what I shall not argue about. That he was acquainted with all these negotiations and articles, is what I suppose will not be denied by any who reads his letter, dated 31st May, and that from Mr. Watts; whether the presents for the Committee was settled at that time, and before the army marched, I appealed in my former minute to the gentlemen of the Committee themselves to declare; such was the common opinion then prevalent; and as the truth will be best known to those who were concerned and bound to secrecy, to them I appealed. I believe, however, it will appear, from the consultations of the Select Committee, that the 30 lacs, stipulated for Omichund, was agreed to be left out in that treaty, by which Jaffer Aly Cawn was to be told it was intended we should abide.—How this sum was afterwards received from the Nabob, whether by virtue of his first stipulation in behalf of Omichund, or of a subsequent agreement, I shall leave it for those better acquainted to set forth; the Committee having taken no notice of it, that I can discover, in the proceedings: and though they gave repeated cautions against making any new demands on the Nabob, besides those agreed to by his treaty; that this sum was received, and 23 lacs divided among the Committee and others, is what I have heard; how this was divided, and whether any more was received or divided, it rests with those concerned to say.

His Lordship is pleased to aver, that the occasion of his ordering me to return to my station in the artillery, was a letter he received from Governor Drake, affirming he had seen a letter from me to Mrs. Warwick, disclosing to her many of the transactions of my office, at a very critical juncture. Now I do aver, that I had been excluded from any share in the negotiations, wherein secrecy was required, long before I was ordered to my station in the artillery, and I should be extremely glad, that Governor Drake's letter was produced, that it might appear where I had divulged any secrets entrusted to me in my office: in regard to this letter of Governor Drake's, I think it was shewn to me by Colonel Clive, in the garden house of Mydepore; when I no longer belonged to the office, I wrote such an answer, as so unjust an accusation of Governor Drake's merited, which he may, if he chooses, produce; the transaction I had disclosed, was, to the best of my recollection, no other than the public news in the Camp, while the army lay in suspense, and meditated staying the rains at Outwa, and for which it behoved me to make provision, as not having been informed by Colonel Clive that I was to attend the artillery, till the very morning I embarked; I took the field entirely unprovided of every thing necessary in such situation; if I appeared so little worthy of confidence on this account, it will seem odd that I should be requested through Major Kilpatrick, to go up with the detachment sent in pursuit of Mr. Law, in the same character which I declined, and was ordered up in my proper station as the artillery officer; still more so that it should be recommended by the Board for his lordship to treat with me a few months after to go as resident to Curtach, for secret negotiations; and further that the same indiscreet person should be approved by his lordship to be dispatched, intrusted with the conducting the negotiations in the Duan, till the army should arrive, the success of which might be of so great consequence to the expedition. The shortness of my time here allows me not an opportunity of replying at large to the representations Mr. Verelst has made in his memorial; as many injurious, unjust, and ungentle reflections are there dispersed, I shall remark upon a few of them; reserving myself to reply more at large hereafter. The method Mr. Verelst has taken to diminish the balance due from the Rajah, if there be any merit in it, he may boast himself of it; rupees 41,000 advanced out of the cash for Coolbundy, he transfers to the Company's credit, as a remittance, and which, whether it be a loan from the Company, or a balance due to them, is much the same, saving that the Company, instead of the Rajah, will receive the interest on the dudney as in 1763. This method to increase the remittances in appearance, we did not take the advantage of in my time; the sum, 162:32 rupees, paid in from the 30th June to the 6th July, has, I believe, been most part borrowed by the Rajah at interest; and very little of it arises from the collection of the province. If the Rajah meant to reflect on my management as the cause of the losses and deficiencies, I shall produce a thousand testimonies of his own, as well as the repeated approbation of the Board, to refute this information; and appeal to the collections and remittances during my time to shew how far it falls upon me. The balance of 1654134, for 1169 and 1170, will be found to be a mistaken, and not a just statement; it is not incumbent upon me to enter into debate with Mr. Verelst, as to the wisdom of the Board who adopted the method of putting the lands up to outcry before my time, and continued it since. As to the people who were admitted to purchase in 1169, none that were excepted to by the Rajah's officers, who were supposed to know them, were admitted, and as the same mentioned the charge of taking security from them,

it must rest with them, not me, to vouch for their characters and their circumstances. As to the settling the lands last year, as it was done after I was dismissed the service, it rests not with me to answer for it; if better could have been done, I presume it would not have been omitted. It is a pleasure to me to observe, that the farm of Johnstone, Hay, and Bolts, has had a great advance bid on it, at this outcry. It is a proof the Riots there have been protected and not vexed; indeed several Bigas have been improved by new Riots that have settled there. Those who have taken these farms, if allowed for only half the loss by overflowings this season, as we have been this last, will no doubt not be undeceived as to their expectations; we are ready to satisfy any gentleman with a sight of our accounts, and leave them to declare, whether we have gained. The representations made regarding the Bazee Zemun, seems dictated by the same spirit of finding fault, and to raise an opinion of Mr. Verelst's own superior discernment and ability, justly or unjustly, that seems out of the question. The levying nine annas is charged on Mr. Johnstone, though the sentiment of the council at Burdwan, and the order of the board at Calcutta, to whom it was referred, the consultation of the 4th of February, and the orders repeatedly issued, touching the Bazee Zemun, and statements from time to time to the board, and the public registers kept for all the sunnuds, brought in, &c. and those confirmed, will evince how fair a representation has been here given in regard to this article. It is further alledged, that it was agreed to receive two lacks less than the Rajah had before settled, for the board have assigned reasons for agreeing to accept only 32 lacks in consultation 11th February. But I should be glad to know when, and with whom, such settlement of 31 laaks was made; for I am unacquainted with any, but that for the year 1169, which was executed for 34 laaks at that time. In regard to what is said about the Muttasuddies, and their keeping us in ignorance, I think I can know the source from whence Mr. Verelst has imbibed his ideas in this, as well as in many other matters, on which he was determined so positively on the insight of a little more than a month's residence. If the Muttasuddies be so little to be depended on, one would think the leaving every thing at their discretion, as must now be the case, by the recalling the factory, both in respect to the collections and administration of justice, must be from his having found men of a better cast than has yet appeared in these districts; who are meant by the Muttasuddies, I wish to see pointed out, for in my years it is a cant word without any idea. I will venture to say, I never followed their advice but so far as it appeared on the whole the best, nor would acknowledge their superiority so much, as to offer as an excuse for any salutary regulations not taking place, that they opposed it. The Karkoon, Gocul Mozimdar, and Ramdave Nague, did use all their endeavours when I went first up, against making any outcry, and delivered in statements of the revenues of the province, by which they computed there would be a laak deficient of the revenues collected the year before by Mr. Graham. In regard to the remarks Mr. Verelst has made, touching the Rajah's not being acquainted with the transactions and affairs of his country, and without the respect due to his office, I cannot help admiring at it. The respect due to Rajah, among his own people, I aver has been ever properly kept up, and to his satisfaction, as I can testify by numberless letters from him, and by facts indisputable: he was consulted in every point of consequence conformable to the first instructions and subsequent orders I received from the board. The alterations that took place on the appointment of a chief and council, were planned and prescribed by the same authority, and which we did not think it our right and business to discuss or dispute; however, I will venture to contradict Mr. Verelst, and to affirm, that he has never been kept in ignorance of any of his affairs; for the public books, and officers of his cutchuries, have ever been at his call to examine at will, and the monthly cash accounts free to his inspection; the state of the treasury and collections being laid before him on the signing of every invoice; what influence Mr. Verelst means, other than that of a chief, I really am at a loss to conceive, unless he means the Rajah should be only under the influence of a writer or factor, and a member of the committee residing in Calcutta. As Mr. Verelst has not scrupled here to misrepresent things, the truth of which is known to many members then of the board, still in the service, who were at the time present in Calcutta, and particularly General Carnac, who was at that time here, and acquainted with every circumstance that passed, I appeal to him, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Watts, Mr. Marriott, and Mr. Graham, then secretary to the board, how conformable to truth is the information of that gentleman; and to Mr. Vansittart, then president; and to Mr. Batson, who at that time composed the board; as Mr. Graham, in particular, was then deputed from the board with a message to the Rajah, to inform him, that if he had any grievances to represent, that he should lay them before the board through the channel of the chief; I beg that gentleman, and General Carnac, may be desired to declare what they know of this matter; and I appeal to Mr. Vansittart, to whom the Rajah addressed himself, whether before I returned, I did not wait upon him at the gardens, and require of him to demand of the Rajah, then present, to set forth, face to face, any cause or complaint he then had against me. The President replied, that had he had any, he would, without doubt, have committed it to paper, and laid it before the board. That the Rajah's servants were seized coming into Calcutta, is more than ever I heard; and if it were true, as I am persuaded it is not, the greater opening did it afford the Rajah to have set forth his complaints when encouraged thereto by the message from the board; the Rajah wanted not opportunity when my influence was at end by my dismission

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mission last year, had he cause but to be satisfied with my behaviour to him in every respect, but of his thankfulness and dependance on me, as his benefactor, I have so many proofs to shew, that I am persuaded nothing of this kind ever fairly could proceed from himself. The merit of the Rajah's ready compliance to whatever Mr. Verelst asks of him, is, no doubt, very great. Has he, or any black man in the country, now either resolution or power left to dispute any thing said or done under such authority? For to whom can he appeal after the repeated examples given them? What have they now to expect but guards and imprisonment to work them to compliance to every thing desired by the Committee. The lateness of my receiving the papers has prevented me from laying this representation before the board; I hope it will nevertheless be thought but just it should be allowed to go home by this packet, that my reply, so far as yet prepared, may be heard by the Honourable Court, at the same time they read the proceedings sent home against me.

I am, with respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN JOHNSTONE.

Oct. 1st, 1765.

Fort William, the 7th October 1765.

Translation of a Copy of a Letter from the Seats to Mr. Johnstone, after his Return to Calcutta, May 1765.

At this happy time, the welcome news of your safe arrival in Calcutta, which I was impatiently expecting, gave me the greatest joy, and all manner of comfort. May the Almighty prosper to all your well-wishers the joy of your arrival; and may he always keep you under his shadow, and preserve you, the Accomplisher of the wishes of your dependants. I regard you as my true benefactor and master, and always hope for prosperity through your favour. I request that you will look upon me as one united to the Company, and ever regard me with an eye of friendship till I have the happiness to see you; which, if God willing, I shall speedily obtain. Constantly remember me with your friendly letters and commands.

A true translation.

GEORGE VAN SITTART,

Persian Translator.

Translation of a Letter from Mahomed Reza Cawn, to Mr. Johnstone, in Calcutta, May 1765.

Mizra Mahomed Cauzim, who is a man of understanding, and a relation, and a faithful friend of mine, I have sent along with his excellency; he will have the happiness of waiting on you. I hope from your friendship, that whatsoever he represents to you concerning my affairs, you will consider, and heartily favour me in,

A true translation.

GEORGE VAN SITTART,

Persian translator.

Translation of a Copy of a Letter from Mahomed Reza Cawn, to Mr. Johnstone, after his Arrival in Calcutta, May 1765.

I have already had the honour of writing to you; you must have received my letter. On the 17th of Zecada, his excellency set out for Calcutta. The state of affairs here I have before written you. I hope from your friendship that you will interest yourself in my behalf. I have been raised by you and the gentlemen of council, and have no other protector.

A true translation.

GEORGE VAN SITTART,

Persian Translator.

Translation of a Copy of a Letter from Rajah Mootyram, accompanying that from Mahomed Reza Cawn.

From the time of my taking my leave of you, upon your departure for Calcutta, I have attended the Nabob Maen ul Dowlah Behadre, agreeably to your commands; accordingly I have

have been favoured with a Sunnud for Hoogly, and orders have been issued, for the confirmation of the title of Rajah, which was bestowed upon me by Asuf jau Nizam ul Dowla Behadre, and a new feat has been granted to me; my Nayb is arrived at Hoogly, and is put in possession of the business; but I have not yet received a Kellaat, and taken my leave. The Nabob told me, I will get his excellency to honour you with a Kellaat, and give you your dismission to day, or tomorrow; in the interim, we received news of the arrival of the Nabob Sabut Jung Bahadre, in Calcutta; his excellency immediately determined to go to Calcutta. Mr. Middleton advised him against it, in the strongest manner, and told him it was not proper he should go without the gentlemen of council's pleasure; but he would not listen to him, he has fixed his departure on Tuesday.—The Nabob Maund ul Dowla wanted to accompany his excellency, but his excellency has declined taking him, under pretence that if he was to go, the business of the Nizamut would be interrupted; I also, as I have not yet received my Kellaat, nor taken my leave, attend upon the Nabob, who calling me to him, said to me, “I am writing to Istacar ul Doula, do you also send an Arzee to him, and represent to them, that without any desiring the gentlemen favoured me and honoured me, with the post of Naib.” Now I remain here, and his excellency is going to Calcutta, and all my enemies are with him. I have no protector but Afticar ul Dowla, my honour depends upon him as he is in Calcutta; it is a matter of indifference, whether I go or not; let him shew me such favour that my enemies may not find occasion against me; it is he that has honoured me with the appointment to this office, let him be kind enough to support me in it; if I should be now disgraced, I will put an end to my life; if permission is granted me, I will come for a couple of days to Calcutta, and be introduced by the gentlemen to Sabut Jung Bahadre, and then return with all speed to Moorshedabad, and employ myself with diligence in carrying on the business to which the gentlemen of council have been kind enough to appoint me. The Nabob has written you a letter and waits your answer—whatsoever you may be pleased to order, he will act accordingly.—He wants to send me to you, be pleased to acquaint me with your pleasure on this subject—Mr. Middleton also will set out from hence on Wednesday, and so will Mr. Senior in two or three days; the friends of Nundcomar rejoice at Sabut Jung's arrival, and say, that the Mharaja will obtain a Kellaat, and return to Moorshedabad in four or five days; his excellency's inclination also is not unknown to you. I am at your command, and will act agreeably to whatsoever you may be pleased to order.

A true Translation.

GEORGE VAN SITTART,
Persian Translator.

Translation of a Copy of a Letter from Mahomed Reza Cawn to Mr. Johnstone in Calcutta, received May 1765.

His excellency, upon hearing of the arrival of the Nabob Sabut Jung Bahadre, has determined to go to Calcutta. The 15th of Zecada, at night, Mr. Middleton came to the Kella, and represented to his excellency in the strongest terms, that he should not go to Calcutta without the approbation of the gentlemen of council; but it was all to no purpose; his excellency himself goes there, and I remain here: all the world knows that the gentlemen of council appointed me to this business entirely of their own favour, without my desiring.—The Preservation of my honour depends upon the gentlemen; on this subject I have written a Letter to Mr. Spencer. I hope, that from your matchless friendship, that you will shew me your favour in whatsoever may be advisable.

P. S. Whereas his excellency is going to Calcutta; all my enemies are with him, and they will, doubtless, not be dilatory in doing me all the prejudice they can: I have no protector but you. Although when absent you shew me your favour, yet, as I am impatient to see you, and it is very necessary I should wait upon the Nabob, Sabut Jung Bahadre, it is my desire to leave a trust worthy man, who is acquainted with business, to carry on the affairs here, and repair myself immediately to Calcutta, to have the happiness of waiting on the Nabob, Sabut Jung Bahadre, and then I will return hither; I expect your orders on this subject, and wait your answer with impatience.

P. S. Other matters you will be informed of by the Letter of Rajah Mootyram.

A true Translation.

GEORGE VAN SITTART,
Persian Translator.